

Executive:

Chair	Kirk Wilson ✓
Vice-Chair	Regan Pfaff-MacDonald ✓
Past Chair	Barb Baxter ✓
Secretary	Diana Fisher ✓
Treasurer	Wayne Pease ✓
Ministry	Pat Morrison ✓
	Linda Marcotte ✓
Guest	Natisha Taylor

Committee Representatives:

AOTS	Bill Palmer ✓
Christian Development	x
Communications	Christopher Cooke
Congregational Care & Growth	Iris Murtha ✓
Finance	Paul Cooper
Region Rep	x
Outreach	Paul Cooper
Ministry & Personnel	John Cooke ✓
Planning	x
Property	Marion Staples ✓
Proclamation and Special Events	x
Trustees	Pete Melanson ✓
Worship	Val Adamson ✓

✓ = present

The Meeting was held at Grace United Church as per adjournment and began at 7:01pm. There was a quorum.

1. Devotion

Planning – since this committee does not exist, Kirk shared a story about ‘attitude’. Kirk would like us to focus on a theme of ‘Service’, caring and sharing among your neighbourhood, co-workers, committee members, homeless and senior. Elevate your service and take an extra step.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOTION to approve the agenda ... with added topic of INFECTION CONTROL under New Business.
Marion Staples/Iris Murtha. Carried

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION to approve the Feb 5, 2020 council meeting minutes.
Val Adamson/Bill Palmer. Carried

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

CENTRAL UC UPDATE

Pat Morrison, Kirk Wilson and Paul Cooper met with members of Central UC and have asked Council to consider if it is wise to continue research and conversation around amalgamation. Discussion followed to flush out pros/cons and more details.

MOTION that the ad-hoc Committee of Pat, Kirk and Paul continue conversation and further research with Central UC around amalgamation.

John Cooke/Regan Pfaff-MacDonald. Carried

5. Correspondence

LETTER FROM ST. PAUL’S CHURCH

It appears that a letter was sent to multiple United Church’s from St. Paul’s UC with a message of closing all UC in Sarnia and consolidate into 2 church’s only – one in the north end and one in the south end, that one being St. Paul’s. Council decided to respond without interest in this idea.

"At our St. Pauls Official Board meeting of January 29, 2020 discussion drifted to the ongoing challenges of rising costs and diminishing numbers of congregants. We are sure your Boards and Congregations have done the same, all too often. Discussion also led to the reality of joining forces with other churches.

As always, there are emotional reasons why some think this may not be possible or probable. However, there is a reality. If we stay on the same path of trying to go it alone, we will most likely end up frustrated and closing all of our doors. This does a disservice to our members, families and the community, not to mention our own personal faith journey.

It is believed, that our community can adequately support two United Church's. That being the case, it makes logical sense to have one at each end of the city.

We believe we need to start some serious discussion and dialog on the lines of working together. We know that a good initiative has been started with the visitation Sundays between the different congregations. However, with Central closing later this year, the importance of keeping the HUB functioning at St. Luke's, the large number of community groups using the facilities at St. Paul's and the struggle for congregations to find Ministers, a new level of urgency has arrived. It is time to put petty differences aside and truly talk about being an "United" Church.

What a difference it could be. Imagine going to church and talking about all the things we are achieving in the community, the outreach being provided, the improved fellowship, friends and activities. How things "used to be". In the familiar words of comedian Larry the Cable Guy, "let's get 'er Done".

Please contact us via mail, email (stpaulschurch@cogeco.net) or phone so we can get together to start serious dialog, with some urgency, on the collective efforts of our congregations working together for the future of the United Church here in Sarnia.

With positive anticipation, we look forward to hearing from you this matter and the opportunity of working with you all in the near future."

6. New Business

CENTRAL UC VISIT IN MARCH

Members from Central UC are planning to come for worship March 29.

QUESTIONNAIRE TEAM

Regan Pfaff-MacDonald presented the Pastoral Relations Input Survey. This survey gathered good feedback from the congregation to help us build our ChurchHub profile, define who we are, what we are good at, what we are looking for in a new minister, where are some opportunities for us to grow and develop.

INFECTION CONTROL AT WORSHIP

Let's respect other people's preference regarding hand shaking, hugging, etc. Greeters can acknowledge people but refrain from hand shaking.

7. Pastoral Report and Teaching

PAT MORRISON

Two weekends ago I ran a tri-region confirmation retreat weekend that drew over 50 participants from across southern Ontario and saw leadership from five Grace adults. Concurrently, I ran a 'discovery' weekend for young adults focused on vocational discernment and leadership development which included participation from one of our Grace youth.

Over the past year I've not been able to take continuing education time or holidays. In an attempt to catch up and replenish, I will be taking four weeks of continuing education and three weeks of holidays through May and June.

LINDA MARCOTTE

It seems almost impossible that two months have gone by of the six-month Appointment we have here at Grace United. Time flies when you are having a good time. And, I most certainly am having a good ministry experience indeed. The ministry is busy and full of unexpected experiences. I am very thankful for all those who are overseeing this ministry, their input and suggestions to make this a meaningful & spiritual time for all here at Grace. I am grateful for the M&P's continued support through my representative, John; for team ministry with Pat, Dan and especially for all Curtis and Lori's help and patience with me as I stumble about through the holy maze at Grace and, of course my unholy haze at times.

Worship Ministry – Communion Service on the 12th; met with the Worship Committee, the Sanctuary Guild, & Grace Choir.

In-Reach Ministry – Pastoral Care – visited hospital, nursing homes, residences, and private homes – total of 15 people received pastoral care visits or calls this month. I am grateful to Sylvia for doing and helping me do this important ministry.

Pastoral Counselling is on-going.

Community at large - Attended the Community Friendship gathering; Chinese New Year's celebration

Outreach Ministry – visited the Inn of the Good Shepherd on January 22nd for the meal and was amazed what Grace does there; met with the Director and toured the building and got a feeling for what happens at that community agency; visited the Hospice; met with Daphne and learned about the Refugee project; attended L4L supper – skipped the beef!

Teaching Ministry - Holy Conversations on Tuesday afternoon with approximately 10 people; Lenten book study – 16 people signed up; books on order; plans for author forum in place.

Proclamation Ministry – nil

Governance Committee – meet on Tuesday mornings with Pat for planning & collegial support and, occasionally with Lori as the need arises. Prepared a letter for the annual report.

Future Plans – prepare meaningful Lenten worship services; meet with the pastoral care team; offer worship & communion once a month at a nursing home; visit other community agencies as time allows. I am off to collect my partner Ari Snyder (and *HIS* dog – Bono) who will be staying here in Sarnia for the duration of my ministry/appointment at Grace United. Pray for good driving weather! See you on February 16th.

Respectfully submitted,

Reverend Dr. Linda Marcotte – Congregational Minister

8. Key Ministry Committee Reports

Worship

No report.

Christian Development

No report.

Congregational Care & Growth

Annual Reports were given out for 3 Sundays and then delivered by the district visitors.

Membership Report: Marjorie Newton who died April 24, 2018 was removed from the membership roll. We will again deliver Easter flowers to members who have experienced a close bereavement, residing in senior facilities or shut-in at home.

Outreach

February 16 soup luncheon raised \$2640 for Canadian Food Grains Bank and Brigden UC 'Forget-Me-Not' grow project.

March 22 soup luncheon will benefit Lambton Center and their Monarch Breeding Project.

The Outreach committee is upset with the letter from UC of Canada regarding the position of First Nations crisis recently.

Proclamation and Special Events

No report

9. Governance and Support Committee Reports:

Planning

No report.

Finance

From date to the end of February, it appears that Grace is about \$5,200 down from 2019. The major cause is a decrease in givings of about \$8,000

The Finance Committee will wait until the end of March before making a year over year report to the Congregation.

Communications

No report.

Property

Met with Finance in February to review list of projects and 5 yr plan. Painting and flooring is ongoing. Faucets are now working in the old bathrooms. Thanks to Bill Carson for his assistance. Marion will be unavailable for 4-6 weeks for surgery and recovery.

Trustees

No report.

Ministry & Personnel

Thanks to John Scott for filling in for Curtis in his absence. His assistance is greatly appreciated.

AOTS

The annual AOTS Ladies Night was held on Wednesday, February 12th, at 6:00 PM, in Room 1, at Grace United. As usual, master chefs George Vero and John Scott, provided an outstanding meal for the 45 people in attendance. Musical entertainment was provided by the singing duo called D J Squared . All ladies left the evening with a rose. ----- Bill Palmer

Regional Council

No report. Nick Monsour is volunteering to be our representative to Regional Council. Pat will look into requirements from Council.

10. Meeting closed at 8:35pm

Next regular meeting: APRIL 1, 2020

2020 Devotion Responsibility:

JANUARY – Communications
FEBRUARY – Property
MARCH – Planning
APRIL – Trustees
MAY – Worship
JUNE – June
JULY - na
AUGUST - na
SEPTEMBER – na
OCTOBER – Finance
NOVEMBER – Outreach
DECEMBER – M&P

2020 Sunday Lock-up Responsibility:

JANUARY – Planning
FEBRUARY – Trustees
MARCH – Worship
APRIL – CD
MAY – CC&G
JUNE – AOTS
JULY – Communications
AUGUST – Finance
SEPTEMBER – Outreach
OCTOBER – M&P
NOVEMBER – Property
DECEMBER - Planning

11. Closing Prayer

Linda Marcotte led us in closing prayer.

Kirk Wilson, Council Chair

Diana Fisher, Council Secretary