

**Executive:**

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

**Committee Representatives:**

AOTS Al Grimwood ✓  
 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 via Zoom with 13 participants, as per adjournment and began at 7:01pm. There was a quorum.

**1. Devotion**

Worship – Val Adamson shared a story from a book of small writings focused on being a friend during this pandemic of 2020, followed by a reading from Corinthians 2.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION to approve the agenda as distributed.**

Pete Melanson/Marion Staples. Carried

**3. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION to approve the APRIL 1 AND 6, 2020 council meeting minutes.**

April 1 – Iris Murtha/Val Adamson. Carried

April 6 – Barb Baxter/Regan Pfaff-MacDonald. Carried

**4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

None

**5. Correspondence**

LETTER FROM CENTRAL UC

Received April 10, 2020

Since it is our desire to only consider amalgamation exclusively with Grace UC only, Central UC has decided to proceed with amalgamation discussions with Dunlop UC, St. Luke’s UC and St. Paul’s UC. Council will draft a response letter with best wishes and open intention of shared ministry in the future to Sarnia community.

LETTER FROM LINDA HUTCHINSON, COORDINATOR OF AFFIRMING MINISTRY PROGRAMS, KINGSTON, ONTARIO

Asking permission to use our Affirming Vision Statement for their revised document *Open Hearts*, as an example of Affirming Ministry vision and will form part of their Affirming Ministry process.

Council agreed to share our Affirming Vision Statement.

## **6. New Business**

### SARNIA UNITED CHURCHES

- a) 'Spring Fling' event on March 06 was attended by about 275 people. About \$3800 was raised. Grace received a share of this money with the request to use funds to support the purchase of equipment to live-stream Church services. Thank-you to Bill Yates and Glenn Parsons for helping to organize and others from Grace for their participation.
- b) Future meetings will be limited to the amalgamation discussions with Central, Dunlop, St. Luke's and St. Paul's participating.

### PASTORAL SEARCH UPDATE

ChurchHub profiles and position description are posted and ready to receive applicants. The Region has appointed Dave Hewitson as our Regional Liaison to train our Search Team and guide them through the search process. It is likely we will be interviewing potential candidates by the end of May. Once the Search Team finds a suitable and excellent candidate, they will make a recommendation to Grace Council, and Council will call for a congregational meeting.

We have 5 volunteers that have come forward to serve as the Search Team – Karen Siklosi, Bruce Davies, Leslie Veldman, Vern Chiles, Paige Ferguson.

#### **MOTION to accept the proposed list of names to serve on the Search Team.**

John Cooke/Kirk Wilson. Carried

## **7. Pastoral Report and Teaching**

### PAT MORRISON

Since the building closure in March and Linda's departure I have continued to offer programming, pastoral care, governance support, and worship leadership.

On Good Friday I organized and delivered the Good Friday Swell live online. Leadership included the young people of Grace and Richard Bott, the Moderator of the United Church of Canada.

Sylvia Rose, Iris Mirtha, Lori Armstrong and I have developed a pastoral care net that integrates leadership from many lay people in the delivery of care to our most vulnerable. I continue to do one-on-one pastoral care with parishioners as needed. Marilyn Townsend Smith was approached to cover pastoral care as needed. She graciously offered to cover any needs without a contract or pay.

I continue to liaison with the Region and Grace Council to push forward pastoral relations work toward calling our next minister, including the updating and approving of our ChurchHub profiles and position description, and preparing for the congregational meeting.

In consultation with the worship committee and Grace staff, I have been preparing and delivering weekly online worship services, experimenting with technology and form, and integrating leadership from the congregation.

Grace staff continues to meet weekly for support and to ensure the continuation of ministry.

As a result of Brad's departure, COVID 19 and the church closure, I have deferred my holidays, continuing education, and sabbatical. As of July 1, I will have the following available to me:

- 7 weeks of study leave
- 11 weeks of holidays
- 13 weeks of sabbatical

M&P and I are in conversation to figure out how/when to start using that up.

## **8. Key Ministry Committee Reports**

### **Worship**

The Committee met in April with the primary objective to discuss the first few weeks of on-line services. Pat and Glenn described the process that they use and the challenges that they needed to overcome as they proceeded. The committee approved the purchase of a piece of electronic equipment that was required to facilitate the production process. The committee discussed how it would be made available to support Pat and Glenn, as required, through this time.

There was discussion about the positive feedback that was received through the feedback email, Lori's email and Facebook posts. There was discussion about the excellent use of members of the congregation in various parts of the service, and also the gratitude of the committee for Beth Parsons' contribution to the music ministry.

Pat indicated that he was contemplating a move from the recorded YouTube format to a live service, and following the congregational meeting, he has moved ahead with that format for the past two services.

### **Christian Development**

Nightly "Tuck in Time" has been running for three weeks, allowing young families to connect daily via Zoom. Dan Leaver continues to help with the continuation of programming in creative ways, making use of Zoom and other online resources.

As we have for the past 20 years, CD has applied for funding through Summer Jobs Canada to fund two student programming positions over the summer. In response to the COVID 19 crisis, SJC has loosened parameters for funding and allow for the student positions to be extended to the end of February. We have adjusted our application to request funding until then.

### **Congregational Care & Growth**

We continue to phone members of the congregation and to co-ordinate a weekly meal for Curtis and Tracey.

We were saddened to learn of the death of Jack Lewis who had been a long-time member of Congregational Care and Growth and Adult Fellowship.

### **Outreach**

- a) Grace supported the Easter Sunday meal at the Inn of the Good Shepherd (IOGS). Thanks to those who prepared the mashed potatoes.
- b) 91 clients were served at the April 22 IOGS meal. Thanks to Kirk and Barb for organizing.
- c) Planning for May meal is underway. We did clarify with Antler River Water Shed (ARWS) region that the Church facilities could be used for the meal prep (as long as health guidelines were followed).

**Proclamation and Special Events**

No report

**9. Governance and Support Committee Reports:**

**Planning**

No report.

**Finance**

With the Church being closed and no schedule for re-opening yet issued, we anticipate that achieving a balanced operating budget will be a challenge – although that is the objective we would like to achieve. For now, we have suspended M&S and Regional assessment payments to provide some flexibility. We are also participating, where possible, in the available government financial assistance programs. At this point, the prediction is that we will end the year with a deficit. Finance will provide monthly status updates incorporating the most recent financial information available.

**Communications**

No report.

**Property**

John Scott has been busy inside and outside the church. Many thanks to John for all the work is doing!!

**Trustees**

Building supervision continues to ensure continued heating and insurance compliance. Endowment funds are being forwarded to Grace UC, amount unknown.

**Ministry & Personnel**

No report. Curtis remains at home supporting his wife. Possible use of summer student to backfill the janitor duties to help John and Curtis. Linda Marcotte arrived home to New Brunswick safely. Annual applications are being accepted for the Karen Plumley Bursery.

**AOTS**

No report.

**Regional Council**

Cheryl Ann is recommending the following to congregations to prepare the path forward toward reopening.

- a) Form an adhoc committee to look at ways to reopen safely, what to do about some vulnerable people who will not want to return – rollout plan.
- b) We should be partnering with other communities of faith to help out with technology, vacations, whatever support is needed.
- c) All staff need to meet with their M&P Committee to discuss ways that the church can protect us. For example, I have asthma, so I need to be careful if we reopen in the near future.

**10. Meeting closed at 8:33pm**

**11. Closing Prayer**

Pat Morrison led us in closing prayer.

Next regular meeting: JUNE 3, 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

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Kirk Wilson, Council Chair

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Diana Fisher, Council Secretary