

**Executive:**

Chair Barb Baxter ✓  
 Vice-Chair Kirk Wilson ✓  
 Past Chair Brad Mackey  
 Secretary Diana Fisher ✓  
 Treasurer Paul Cooper ✓  
 Ministry Pat Morrison ✓

**Committee Representatives:**

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

✓ = present

The Meeting was held at Grace United Church as per adjournment and began at 7:00pm. There was a quorum. Kirk Wilson chaired the meeting; Barb Baxter had schedule conflict, but arrived mid-meeting.

**1. Devotion**

Congregational Care and Growth. Iris Murtha shared her personal story about coming to Grace UC.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION to approve the agenda.**

Paul Cooper / Bryce McGarvey. Carried

**3. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION to approve the JUNE 5, 2019 council meeting minutes AND AUG 19, 2019 special Electronic Executive Vote.**

John Cooke / Christopher Cooke. Carried

**4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

none

**5. Correspondence**

Email recv'd June 13, 2019 from Diane Blanchard, Pastoral Relations, Region 7

Yesterday the Human Resources Commission approved the request from Grace United, Sarnia to move into a period of supply ministry, beginning with a 6 month appointment that can potentially be renewed twice.

For support with profile work, I will refer you to Lynne Allin, minister, congregational mission and support.

You will be able to offer the supply appointment position on the ChurchHub. Ministers who apply need to also be on ChurchHub which is how we know that they are eligible for calls or appointments.

God's blessings,

Diane

Diane Blanchard  
Minister, Pastoral Relations  
Antler River Watershed, Western Ontario Waterways and Horseshoe Falls Regional Councils  
Box 100, Carlisle, ON L0R 1H0  
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#### Letter from Central United Church

Central UC is closing November 2020 and is looking for a new church family that would welcome 25-30 members as a group. Pat Morrison has drafted a response, which outlines our ministry, outreach, community partnership, vision, etc.

#### **MOTION to empower Barb Baxter to respond to Central UC request for a conversation.**

Christopher Cooke / Bill Palmer. Carried

#### 2018 Year in Review from UC of Canada

Received publication from UC of Canada '2018 Year in Review'. Highlights include:

- Simplification of the structure of the church – biggest restructuring in the United Church's history since 1925.
- Calls to the Church, which spells out a way to build relationships of mutuality, equity and respect between indigenous peoples and the church was received with approval at General Council.
- Launch of Faithful Footprints, a program to reduce 80% of the United Church's carbon emissions by 2050.
- Financial snapshot of our M&S in 2018.

This publication is available from the office for anyone to read.

## **6. New Business**

#### Project Proposal – floor cleaner

New floor cleaner machine is required to facilitate easier and faster hard floor cleaning throughout the church, including the new gym floor. Estimated cost \$6,100. + \$200. for pads.

#### **MOTION to approve the purchase of the floor cleaner machine and ask Finance/Growth & Givings/Planning to secure the funding.**

Christopher Cooke / Bill Palmer. Carried

#### Supply Ministry update

Marilyn Townsend-Smith's contract has been extended to Dec 9, 2019. (see Council approval below) Regional Council has appointed a Liaison who will work with our Search Team. One application has been received so far.

#### Short-term Contracts

We don't expect to secure a Supply Minister for several weeks, so we are continuing with short term coverage as follows:

- Sunday Worship – The Worship Committee is coordinating plans for Sunday morning leadership and preaching.
- Pastoral Care – We propose to extend Rev. Marilyn Townsend-Smith's contract for 3 months (Sep 9 to Dec 9/2019).

- Youth Leadership – We propose to hire Dan Leaver to provide Temporary, Part-Time Youth Leadership. This support will permit Pat to take on broader responsibilities in the interim period. Dan is currently a part time, Student Minister at Dunlop UC. He will work 10 hours per week for 3 months to plan, participate in and/or lead a selection of youth programs and activities. He will be compensated as part time Ministry Staff.

**MOTION to extend Rev. Marilyn Townsend-Smith’s contract for 3 months (June 9 to Dec 9/2019).**

John Cooke / Christopher Cooke. Carried

**MOTION to hire Dan Leaver for part-time youth leadership Sept 1, 2019 for 3 months.**

John Cooke / Bryce McGarvey. Carried

#### Refugee Committee

Grace UC has received a request from Lambton Presbytery Refugee Committee to assume a leadership role for sponsorship of second Syrian family.

This Refugee Committee is a group of volunteers that remain committed and passionate about the Syrian plight. They are a stand-alone group, since Lambton Presbytery does not exist any longer. In 2015, Grace UC, along with LPRC, sponsored a Syrian family to relocate to Canada. Along with government assistance, we have helped with housing, education, food, etc.

The second Syrian family for possible relocation to Sarnia are related to the family we have sponsored.

Grace Council endorses, in principle, continued work by Grace Outreach Committee to provide additional details, including a clear definition of roles and responsibilities of designated stakeholders. Communication and congregation approval to accept this leadership role will be scheduled over the next 3-4 weeks.

#### Sarnia United Churches meetings

Group of Sarnia united churches looking to survive, optimize and share ideas, resources, etc. Schedule has been developed for reps to visit area churches and they will develop a list of participating churches, status, contacts and locations.

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

#### PAT MORRISON

- The September issue of Broadview has an article celebrating the 20th anniversary of The Swell.
- I have submitted a formal request for sabbatical starting either the Spring of 2020 or Spring of 2021
- Pastoral transitions are often followed by an atrophy in attendance and leadership. Many at Grace have stepped up to help ease the load for me. This transition offers us an opportunity with our young families, to invite them to connect with other families through program participation, but also to help them in to leadership. There’s not much more to be said on the topic of evangelism; the moment is ripe.

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

#### Worship

No report.

#### Christian Development

No report.

**Congregational Care & Growth**

**Received by Profession of Faith – June 9, 2019**

Amy Schmidt, Paige Fergus, Elijah Watson, Logan McKay, Griffin Brescia

**Transfer In – May 12, 2019**

Jeff & Laura Troiani

**Removed by Death (members only)**

Pauline Levey, died May 8, 2019 – roll #1691

Marvin Bildfell, died May 27, 2019 – roll #1686

Gladys Beggs, died June 9, 2019 – roll #749

**Change to Non-resident/Resident Status**

Sarah Morrison change to NR – roll #2579

**Funerals**

Angela Baxter, died April 19, 2019, funeral April 27, 2019

Kitty Herweyer, died March 6, 2019, funeral May 3, 2019

Tess Maclay-Johnston, died Feb. 5, 2019, funeral May 11, 2019

Pauline Levey, died May 8, 2019, funeral May 13, 2019

Marvin Bildfell, died May 27, 2019, funeral May 31, 2019

**Outreach**

1. First soup luncheon of the fall is scheduled for September 22 and will support PCMH (parents of Children with Mental Health). Jessie White is co-chair of the Sarnia chapter. Other fall soup luncheon dates are October 29 and November 17.
2. On October 5, Houda Alzoubi, the mom of our Syrian family, is planning an authentic Syrian dinner at Grace as a way for the family to give back in appreciation for all the help they received. Only 70 tickets will be sold. Proceeds over and above costs will go to the Grace Outreach Committee.
3. Outreach Committee will review and hopefully endorse the conditions for being a) the 'Constituent Group' and understanding if the relationship to the heritage Lambton Presbytery Refugee Committee.

**Proclamation and Special Events**

No report

9. Governance and Support Committee Reports:

**Planning**

Looking to recruit new volunteers for Planning committee. Council Chair and Vice-Chair are also on this committee and needs to focus on Council duties.

**Finance**

Comparison of the operating budget data for 2019 and 2018 up to the end of August;

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Difference</u>	
Total Revenue	\$251,200	\$250,500	+\$700	(0.3%)
Total Expense	\$272,500	\$272,000	+\$500	(0.2%)
Net Income	-\$21,300	-\$21,500		

Total revenue was essentially the same in 2019 versus 2018. Givings were slightly lower in 2019 but offset by increases in rental income, interest income and miscellaneous donations. Expenses were essentially the same in 2019 versus 2018. Thanks to all committees for maintaining good cost control and to the congregation for your continued support of the operating budget.

**Communications**

Julie Drope has stepped down from the committee. This committee may be disbanded as most of the duties are being handled by Lori Armstrong in the office or by Chris Cooke. Further investigation is ongoing.

**Property**

No report.

**Trustees**

No report

**Ministry & Personnel**

No report

**UCW**

Unable to promote the Mitten Tree this year. Hoping another committee will take on the responsibility for 2019.

**AOTS**

No report

**Growth & Giving**

Project work is essentially complete. Game posts will be delivered in September. We still need to finalize the storage arrangements for the posts. The campaign will finish with a surplus of ~\$4100. I will seek approval in October to transfer the surplus funds to an appropriate fund.

**10. Meeting closed at 8:32pm**

**Next regular meeting: OCT 2, 2019**

**2019 Devotion Responsibility:**

JANUARY – Communications  
 FEBRUARY – Property  
 MARCH – Planning  
 APRIL - Trustees  
 MAY – Worship  
 JUNE – CD

**2019 Sunday Lock-up Responsibility:**

JANUARY – Property  
 FEBRUARY – Planning  
 MARCH – Trustees  
 APRIL – Worship  
 MAY – CD  
 JUNE – CC&G

JULY - na

AUGUST - na

SEPTEMBER – CC&G

OCTOBER – Finance

NOVEMBER – Outreach

DECEMBER – M&P

JULY – AOTS

AUGUST – Communications

SEPTEMBER – Finance

OCTOBER – Outreach

NOVEMBER – M&P

DECEMBER - Property

**11. Closing Prayer**

Pat Morrison led us in closing prayer.

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Kirk Wilson, Vice-Chair

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Diana Fisher, Secretary