

9. NEW BUSINESS OR MATTERS NEEDING DIRECTION

- **AED update:** Neil has updated the system. Recommends the AED be relocated downstairs where it is accessible by the whole church building. Bob has a Naloxone kit available to be put alongside the AED. Potential
- **Sound System - sanctuary Laurie spoke to the need for a new sound system.**
- **Impact Group** Bob read out letter from Tyler Kabbes. The letter outlined that the excess funds will go to the Wolverine Closet a program that provides things for students in need.
- **Office Manager:** Juliann E. has accepted the offer from M&P to work as our new Office Manager. Next steps will be looking into hiring a part time assistant. Annette has been with the church for 20 years. The LT would like to make a presentation to Annette in September with a celebration in fellowship hall after the church service.
- **WOW question from Norm.** Bob read Norm's letter to the church. Norm is asking for some reimbursement for travel expenses. The last meeting was 90km each way. And he paid for his own \$40 registration. Question asked, what is WOW's responsibility in this. Norm's response indicated that the WOW is subsidizing meals. Question asked how many meetings does this pertain to? Norm's response said spring and fall.
- **Sue:** says most congregations pay for registration and travel expenses as well as some pay for accommodation while away. UCC has a set rate of 55cents/km for 2023. Discussion would indicate that the LT is in support of reimbursing Norm.
Motion made by Gerry, seconded by Al that the church should cover past WOW related expenses for our WOW representative(a) and going forward cover registration fees and mileage for WOW representative in the future. Carried.
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- **Search Team** Lene is the Chair. The committee is frustrated because the process is incredibly slow. The 2 questions the committee have put out to our congregation have received back a small number of responses. The committee is filling the appropriate paperwork in to the HUB and are waiting to receive word back about a liaison from the HUB. Sue has volunteered to review what the search committee has already done. Norm Eygenraam has asked why the committee hasn't turned to him for help. Lene has used any assistance Norm has offered and is now asking him what more he can do to further help as our WOW representative. Going forward, the search committee will upload all the material that they have done so far. Sue will review the paperwork thus far. And Norm and Lene will exchange email info.
- Future Meetings: Sue on holidays July 17th to August 20th.
- Next LT meeting on **August 22nd @7pm.**
- **Also Scheduled for 7pm are; Tuesday, September 19th, October 17th & November 21st**

10. ADJOURNMENT Lene moves for adjournment

Financial Report to Leadership Team Meeting- June 20, 2023

1. May statements have been received.

- General fund balance to end of May was approx. \$35,080.
- Total income (operating & non-operating) is on target with YTD (year to date) target.
- Total Operating Expenses are up approx. \$4,600 over YTD target which has an impact on the excess revenue over expense picture.
- Excess Income/Expenses is lower than YTD target by approx. \$5,300.
- A year end surplus of \$13,000 is projected, currently it is at approx. +\$26,500.
- After 5 months, the Church is in a positive financial position.

➤ COMMITTEES EXPENDITURE PICTURE:

- M&P on target
- Worship- slightly exceeds YTD target mainly due to worship supply expenses.
- Choral – exceeds YTD target due to supply & equipment costs.
- Pastoral Care – below YTD target.
- CE – below TYD target.
- M&S – cost is approx. over by double YTD projected target attributed to dinner expenses.
- Benevolent – slightly over YTD target.
- M&F – below target.
- Media – slightly below YTD target
- Church Property - exceeds YTD target due to heating system repairs & hydro costs are 6,000 over YTD target.
- Church House- exceeds YTD target due to hydro costs & repairs.
- Grounds – below target.
- Admin –on target.
- WOW - on target.
- Fundraising – below YTD target.

Respectfully submitted;

Al Leach
Finance & Stewardship Committee Chair

Report from the spring W.O.W. meeting

Friday May 26

This was a hybrid meeting which means it was in person at the Unifor Centre in PortElgin and also on line for those who could not make it. The tech department handled things very well with few glitches.

The meeting started at 1:30 pm on Friday afternoon with the theme " Dreaming Dreams". The opening segment included an official welcome, land acknowledgment, procedural motions, BRAVE/affirming statement and opening worship. It was good to see so many familiar faces again in person.

Therese Samuel, the minister for social justice did an update/overview of the remit which is before us. This will clarify the relationship of the indigenous people within the United Church and the church's desire to allow them to self-governance. This would allow them to be autonomous rather than the rest

of us continuing to impose on them how they should worship. This is a category 3 remit which means that any community of faith which does not vote, it is counted as a "no" vote. The deadline is March 31

All of the churches in W.O.W. that are fully affirming were recognized and each was presented with a special United Church affirming flag. This only makes up of 11 out of 140 churches in the region.

Our breakout groups allowed us time to get more acquainted with our table mates. After that we had a presentation called "A story of Bold Discipleship" by Jacob Shaw. He gave us an update on some of the cluster work and other unique arrangements or alliances that are being worked on. One of the boldest ones was the seven church cluster in the Hensell area with has one full-time minister and one student. A real bright spot of this alliance is what it allows the youth to do.

Heather Lefler is in charge of volunteer recruitment and she did a presentation on the challenges they are faced with and some of the ideas.

After the supper break, there was an opportunity of meeting with the commission chairs and the president elect Jennifer Irving who is from the Collingwood are. Jennifer was a more active participant in the meeting then usual since she leads most of the musical component of the meeting. She is very talented that way.

Saturday May 27

After the welcome back there was a land acknowledgement that focused on what we can do together when we think boldly and bravely. This was followed by the moderator's message.

Adam Creswell did a story on daring justice. He listed the many things this could and should include. Following the Spirit's lead of living into a whole new way of diversity. Jesus's justice and how that is so inclusionary as we build networks around our home churches. All the things that can be included in our digital ministry, all the things that are needed toward housing justice. All of the things that can be included with new innovative Christian partners. It was a thought provoking and challenging presentation.

We also heard a presentation from Sarah Charters and Tim Raeburn on the UCC Foundation's growth and work. It is an option for churches with money to invest and it allows them the opportunity of dictating where the money would be used. It allows churches to invest in indigenous projects, environmental projects, anti-racism projects.

The new slate of executive and commission members was approved

The morning breakout groups allowed time for the table to brainstorm local church work and opportunities. A common theme that many are still struggling with is where to get information.

The three new candidates for ministry addressed the court. Two of these are through admissions and the third is a newly ordained minister.

All of the ministry anniversaries were highlighted including Sheryl Spenser and John Neff with 10 years of service. As always, there is a lot of service to celebrate but it highlights that there are more retirees than incoming personnel. In my informal chats with retirees, there is a willingness to stay involved.

Judy Zarubik did a presentation from the board of vocation. There were 57 ministers approved for ministry in the United Church. This number included 8 white persons whom all received a church very quickly. Two more that found placements are black and as of now, there were 47 that could not find a placement. It really smacks of racism. Through my involvement and contact with other churches, I feel there is also an element of lack of awareness and education. I had the opportunity of chatting with Sarah Bruer who is the chair of admissions on the national level and who would be a good person for the search committee to connect with.

One of the key takeaways from the stewardship report was surrounding the importance of asking from a position of abundance rather than scarcity. Even though our financial positions are often challenging, we have a lot to be thankful for and there are a lot of places that have less. The stewardship department is very intentional about their data gathering which they share at webinars.

There was discussion on the difference of Designated Lay Ministers (DLM) and Voluntary Associate Ministers (VAM). DLMs are more formally trained but at a shorter time frame than full ministry personnel and VAMs are often retired ministers. Availability to both would be accessible to search teams through the liaison and Human Resource Commission.

Usually, I leave these meetings with a good and positive feeling but this time, I felt like things went off the rails. There is always a spot at the end for unfinished business at the end and most things are quickly handled. In this occasion, there was a time constraint because we were required to clear the Unifor Centre by a specified time. Sue Campbell brought forward a motion geared to be more welcoming to late comers to the meeting. There were clearly two sides to the discussion and the opinions. Due to a perceived lack of time, things were shut down and power was given to the executive to make a decision later. By going with expediency over what was right, the ball was really dropped as to the intention of being welcoming. (in my opinion)

It was still a good meeting with lots of connections and lots to learn. Rev. Sheryl made a special point to ask me to pass along greetings. I already did this verbally when I lead worship on Pentecost but will note it here for the benefit of those who were not present then.

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Lay Representative Mount Forest United



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