

MOUNT FOREST UNITED CHURCH

LEADERSHIP TEAM

TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2023

Zoom link to follow

Present: Co-Chairs Bob McFarlane and Laurie Aitken, Patty Sinnamon, Rick Sinnamon, Al Leach, Gerry Wilkinson, Betty Seminowicz, Rev. Sue Campbell, Norm Eygenraam, Lene MacLean

1. **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

Bob Welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Laurie Aitken to lead us in devotion and opening prayer

2. **OPENING PRAYER AND DEVOTIONAL TIME – Laurie Aitken**

3. **AROUND THE TABLE DISCUSSION**

There were no discussions or items of concern.

Gerry mentioned that the Woodland Anniversary is this coming Sunday and Rev. Gavin Williams is the guest speaker. The service will begin at 11:00 am and there is no service at Mount Forest.

4. **Finance Committee Report – Bob requested that this be dealt with early in the meeting and Finance Chair Al Leach had another meeting to attend.**

Al reviewed his report as circulated with the agenda. Revenues are currently higher than expenses and we should end the year in a positive position. Concerns were raised about the increased hydro costs.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Rick Sinnamon

Seconded: Betty Seminowicz

That the Finance Committee report be approved as circulated.

Carried

Al also provided an update on Item 11.ii) of the agenda – Juliann's new contract and hours. A new contract has been prepared for Juliann in her new role. She will be working 3 days per week – Tuesday, Thursday and Friday with some flexibility. She will be paid hourly. Juliann has requested that we wait until December before considering an assistant position.

5. **ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

i) Minutes of June 20, 2023 Motion:

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Al Leach

Seconded: Gerry Wilkinson

That the minutes of the June 20, 2023 meeting be hereby approved as circulated.

Carried

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Update on Wi-Fi for Church building – now installed with thanks to Dan MacArthur and Rick Sinnamon for coordinating this. The password has been provided to Derek, Juliann, Lene, Bob and Laurie will be given the password and will decide who it is to be given to. There needs to be a valid reason for having it. It was suggested that chairs of committees could also be given the password as they hold meetings in the Church building. It may also be provided to pulpit supply who sometimes have music on their devices. Rev. Sue indicated that some churches have a “technology policy”, that also deals with social media. This could be visited at a later date.

Rick also asked that it be given to the funeral home as they live stream services that are being held in our facility. The Leadership Team had no issues with this request.

Finance Chair Al Leach left the meeting at this point in time.

Follow up to Category 3 Remit– First Nations autonomy from United Church of Canada

Bob suggested that since the information has been circulated and previously discussed at the last meeting, that the Leadership Team could vote on the question now.

RESOLUTION:

Motion: Patty Sinnamon

Seconded: Lene MacLean

That Mount Forest United Church hereby supports the Question on Category 3 Remit, that is specifically:

Does the regional council/pastoral charge agree to amend the Basis of Union to reflect:

1. That The United Church of Canada will be organized as follows: (1) a three-council structure, consisting of communities of faith, regional councils and a Denominational Council*; and (2) an autonomous National Indigenous Organization; and
2. That once the new autonomous National Indigenous Organization is established within The United Church of Canada, it will have its own mechanisms to make any future changes to its structure and processes, and, therefore will not be subject to the remit process under section 7.4.1 of the Basis of Union**; and
3. The changes required for the establishment of the autonomous National Indigenous Organization. **Carried**

It was noted that the Mount Forest Leadership Team voted unanimously to support the Remit question.

7. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Betty Seminiowicz

Seconded: Gerry Wilkinson

That the following reports be received for information: Christian Education and Ministry and Personnel. **Carried**

8. REPORTS FOR DIRECTION: None received

9. UPDATE ON HIRING MINISTER

Search committee chair Lene provided an update on the hiring process. Lene stated that the committee met with their Liaison, Gary Clark. This was a very positive meeting and he helped the committee to look critically at what we were searching for. He also suggested that the survey feedback from the two congregations be prioritized and shared with the congregation. This way, the congregation will have assurance that their input is important and that they feel part of the process. We could also use this format as a poll to decide about the steps as this is still coming up.

She indicated that the committee would like the Leadership Team to approve the job description. The description was circulated prior to the meeting. The committee would like to remove “designated lay minister” as one of the qualifications at this time. Dependent on our search results, we may revisit this.

RESOLUTION:

MOVED: Lene MacLean

Seconded: Laurie Aitken

That the Leadership Team approve and accept the revised Position Description for the position of Minister.

Carried

We can now move forward with next steps and have it uploaded to the Hub. Rev. Sue suggested that we have them confirm that it is live.

10. NEW BUSINESS OR MATTERS NEEDING DIRECTION

i) Annette’s Retirement and Appreciation

The Leadership Team would like to recognize Annette for her many years of service at a service in September. September 17th seems to be the best date. Lene will look after fellowship time. Bob will follow up with Dan as Chair of Ministry and Personnel. Gerry indicated that Woodland would close that Sunday as they would like to participate as well.

ii) Scott VandePas

Rick mentioned that Scott has been cutting the grass at the church and has asked for nothing. He suggested that he also be recognized in the fall. A token of appreciation was discussed and will be donated by Lene. Rick will coordinate with Dan.

iii) Pulpit Supply

On behalf of Worship Committee, Bob mentioned that the committee has arranged for pulpit supply to the end of the year. This has been a lot of work and frustration for the committee chair.

iv) Speaking Request

The Worship Committee received a request from Christina Ward to speak on an outreach program in Tennessee regarding homelessness. She would also be looking for financial support to the program. The Leadership Team felt that more information was needed. Lene suggested that she be invited to a UCW general meeting and if it was felt that it could be presented to a wider audience, consideration could be given at that time.

v) Use of Building

A request was submitted to Juliann to use the Church facility on September 8th as part of the Hope Committee's Lighthouse Festival which is being held from Sept. 8 – 10th. The event would be from 7-8:00 p.m. with approximately 20 people attending. Both Laurie and Lene will also be part of this and would like to use the church space during the day.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Rick Sinnamon

Seconded: Lene MacLean

That the Leadership Team approves the request for the use of the Church Building for events associated with the Lighthouse Festival from September 8th – 10th at no charge.

Carried

vi) Pastoral Care Guest Speaker

Betty indicated that the Pastoral Care committee has invited the new Cancer Care Coordinator with the Medical Clinic and a representative from Hospice Wellington to attend their next meeting.

11. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, September 19th at 7:00 p.m.

12. ADJOURNMENT

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Betty Seminowicz

That the Leadership Team meeting be hereby adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Carried