

September 22, 2020 Minutes of the Board Meeting, Pinegrove United Church

The "Zoom" Meeting commenced at 6:30 with Claire Belluz, Christina Stricker (Pastoral Charge Supervisor), Donna McNally, Dayle Lankinen, Sharon Loghrin, Deb Paris, Jill Schutte, Heather Holland, Marion Wilson, Joan Bailey and Brenda Cheetham joining the meeting.

Regrets: Sandy Vibert and Cathi Siemieniuk,

Christina Stricker was asked to start the meeting with a prayer.

The group was asked to share moments of experiencing God's presence over the summer months.

### **Minutes of Previous Meetings**

**MOTION #1 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF AUGUST 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2020 MEETING.**

**1. DONNA McNALLY, 2. DAYLE LANKINEN  
CARRIED**

### **Old Business**

- The Church Profile has been completed and submitted to Jan Venton.
- The video, completed by Jill Schutte, has been put on the Church Hub and the Church's website by Wendy O'Connor.
- Wendy will monitor the receipt of e-mails received on the website.
- At present the confirmed Search Committee members are:
  - Donna McNally
  - Dayle Lankinen
  - Michelle Kolobutin
  - Claire Belluz
  - Wendy O'Connor (Tech Assistant only)

Heather Holland agreed to be a member as well and Claire will speak to John Venasky to ask him to sit on the committee. The Board members were in favour of the committee. The committee will have a "Zoom" meeting or meet in the church basement, where it is safe to social distance.

- The Social Events held outside in the church yard were successful and appreciated by all who attended. Two lunches and a corn roast were held.

### **Financial Report (Marion Wilson)**

The Treasurer's report was distributed via e-mail on September 6<sup>th</sup> (see attached)

Marion advised that we are still maintaining a healthy bank balance.

\$305.00 has been raised towards the gift for Rev. Rob.

\$791.65 has been received from the government as the 10% wage rebate for wages to the end of August.

The region has sent a cheque to be used towards Rev. Rob's wages.

### **Ministry and Personnel Committee (Dayle Lankinen)**

The M & P Committee, consisting of Cathi Siemieniuk and Dayle Lankinen, held an "Exit Interview" with Rev. Rob. The meeting went very well and a full report has been prepared (see attached).

Rev. Rob will be hosting a weekly "Zoom" bible study group.

### **Worship (Claire Belluz)**

The schedule for the joint worship services has been set to January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Our cost to Trinity will be \$125.00 per service. Each church will host the service every five weeks and will be responsible for the pulpit supply costs for that week. Pinegrove will be hosting the service on October 4<sup>th</sup> with Rev. Rob. Sharon is the contact person for Readings and Prayers.

The music leaders have formed another committee to coordinate the music for the services each week.

Donna McNally made the following suggestion:

"That Jill Schutte's salary be amended to \$60.00 per week, starting September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, for organist duties in view of the hours that Jill spends working on the music and organizing for our participation in the weekly services." The suggestion was seconded by Sharon Loghrin. Dayle will bring this suggestion to the M&P Committee for discussion. Any recommendation would have to be made by the M&P Committee to the Board.

### **Thunder Bay Cluster**

At a meeting of the Thunder Bay Cluster all United Churches gave an update report on their status with opening or preparing to open their church. For some they reported on where they are at with their search for a new minister and what options may be available.

### **New Business**

Claire asked the meeting for their views on continuing to work towards opening the church for worship services starting October 4<sup>th</sup>. A draft COVID Policy Statement has been prepared and distributed to the board members, outlining the protocol that will be required when the church reopens. After a lengthy discussion it was felt that it would be best to try a service with only the board members present as a trial run to insure that all precautions have been put in place. The safety of our congregation is first and foremost in any decision that is made. The phone tree and an e-mail from Joan will inform the congregation that the October 4<sup>th</sup> date has been bumped and that a further communication in writing will come from the church when a firm date has been established.

A cleaning bee for the church is in the works.

The entranceway is being worked on.

### **Other Business**

The gift for Rev. Rob is being looked after and will be given to him on October 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **Community Outreach**

The café people will have a meeting to discuss what, if anything, can be planned.

Arrangements were made for anyone wishing to make a donation to the Regional Food Bank can be dropped off at the church on:

Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 to 12:00

Wednesday, September 30 – 9:00 to 11:00

Saturday, October 3 – 10:00 to 12:00

Wednesday, October 7 – 9:00 to 11:00

This information will be provided to everyone by the Phone Tree.

### **Next Meeting: October 20, 2020 at 6:30 (Zoom Meeting)**

The meeting closed with a Prayer.

Chair \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

## FINANCE REPORT

I am sending you this finance report, and ask you if you could forward this to all the board members, (I think you may have all as a group) so hope that is not too much to put you through.

I will be going to camp right after the church service tomorrow, (lots of projects there right now) and won't be at the cuppa after. I won't be back in until Tues. just before the meeting, so hope this would help to show everyone where we sit right now in the finances of the church. It has been quite a while since we reviewed it and it is hard to get a word in during this type of meeting. Thanks Marion

Treasurers report as of Sept 4, 2020

<b>Month</b>	<b>Amount Income</b>	<b>Special additions included that month</b>
May	\$4,789.46	10% rebate for wages 316.66
June	\$4,130.00	10% " " " 316.66
July	\$5,911.29	Rec. from Regional office \$2180.16 to compensate minister's salary
Aug.	\$2,455.00	

Sept 4 Deposited \$1,117.07 (some August offerings in this and HST rebate.)

All together we have received \$791.65 from the 10% rebate from the government for wages of minister.

Our bank balance as of Sept 4 would be \$24,759.06

Regarding past gifts to minister we spent approx. \$300 for the dinner for the Hubert's departure and \$150 for the frame for picture Jill painted. We had received approx. \$170 from donations. (that went through the books, some cash may have been given as well)

So far we have received \$170 towards the Rob's gift.

## Exit Interview with Reverend Rob Smith

September 11, 2020

In attendance: Dayle Lankinen, Cathi Siemieniuk, Reverend Rob Smith

1. Reverend Rob Smith was appointed .6 time equivalent to ministry at Pinegrove in September, 2019. He is leaving because he accepted the full time position of Pastoral Relations Minister with the Canadian Shield Regional Council.
2. Reverend Smith describes the Pinegrove pastoral charge as community church with a heart for the community. As a community of faith Pinegrove has many strengths including:
  - a. a sense of family
  - b. a commitment to community
  - c. a strong social outreach
  - d. an understanding of the importance of hospitality and generosity
  - e. a hardworking group of volunteers
3. Reverend Smith was asked to comment on Pinegrove pastoral charge's areas for growth also described as opportunities. He articulated his belief that there is a need to understand, articulate and act upon our faith formation. As a faith community we should consider questions such as: "Where is God in what we do?" and 'How do we deepen our faith?'
4. When asked about what he thought the congregation's priorities should be for the next few years, Reverend Smith responded that the first priority should be outreach to the community. He added that growth will be necessary for the church to exist. It will be important for the church to define a new mission or think about what the church might look like. Is there a need to think about amalgamating, creating new partnerships or 'worst case' – dismantling? He added that these will be tough and necessary conversations.
5. Reverend Rob Smith indicated that he enjoyed the Sunday morning worships at Pinegrove and the way the churches came together to address the need to move to virtual worship. He commented on the ease of working with the Board at Pinegrove and stated that the Board were a 'good group' and that the Board meetings were enjoyable to attend.
6. When asked to identify what parts he liked least and what business he felt he was leaving unfinished, Reverend Rob Smith indicated that he had hoped to be the one to move the congregation to the next part of the journey of Pinegrove United Church. He would like to have finished the covenant with Pinegrove.
7. Reverend Smith identified that he believed he had the greatest impact in worship leadership and in leadership in providing remote church during most difficult and unusual times. He commented on the early partnership between Trinity and Pinegrove as aiding the smooth transition to providing services online.
8. Reverend Smith was very complementary to all of the staff involved in the running of the church. He felt supported and indicated that the staff went above and beyond expectations. He expressed sincere thanks to Dale Holland and Jill Schutte whom he worked closely with. He acknowledged the many gifts shared and the willingness to adapt to new technologies and practices.
9. In the future, Reverend Rob Smith would be pleased to maintain a relationship with Pinegrove by providing occasional worship until such time as a new minister is called.

10. Reverend Rob Smith discussed his relationship with the Regional Council and applauded the work being undertaken. He felt supported in his transition to Pinegrove and now in his transition to joining the staff of the Canadian Shield Regional Council.

In his concluding statements Reverend Rob Smith added that he was really just getting to know the Pinegrove United Church community when we were thrust into responding to the world health pandemic. He stated that he was truly sad to be leaving Pinegrove United Church at this time. He enjoyed his time at Pinegrove and wanted to sincerely thank the Board and the congregation.