

**BEDFORD UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**Wednesday, November 22, 2023- 7 pm**  
**on Zoom**

**DRAFT**

The regular meeting of the Bedford United Church Council was held on Wednesday, November 22, 2023 at 7 pm on Zoom with Tim Rorabeck in the Chair.

**Present:** Tim Rorabeck (Chair), Jill Wilson, Matt Murphy, Tammy Humphreys, Maurice Tugwell, Sarah McLean, Jocelyn Tingley, Andrea McQuillin, Staff: Rev. Katie Aven, Carolyn Crowell, Secretary and guest, Bob Hodgson.

**Regrets:** Janice Reid, Carol McKnight

**Opening Worship:** Rev. Katie Aven opened with prayer and lit a candle.

1. **We assemble as Stewards of Spiritual Vision and Temporal Gifts:**

**It was moved** (Jocelyn Tingley/Andrea McQuillin) and **CARRIED**

1. that Council empower all present to discuss all matters, in accordance with BUC bylaws. In accordance with the BUC constitution, only Council members are eligible to vote on matters brought before Council,
2. that Council approves the November 22, 2023 Agenda, and
3. that Council adopt the minutes of the October 25 2023 meeting of Council as printed and circulated by email.

**Correspondence:** A request from AST for a donation toward their current appeal was received for information & will be posted in the foyer.

**2. WE SEEK AN INSPIRED PATH FORWARD RELATIVE TO:**

- a) **Financial Update:** (Appendix A) In the absence of key financial leaders, the report was received for information. The December presider will be asked to tell people that Christmas gifts are needed. Janice Reid expects to have current financial information in the weekly email bulletin soon.

**b) Sustainable Future Committee:** (Appendix B) A recommendation has been received from 2 members of this committee asking permission to do some fact-finding about the value of the BUC land, etc. and have conversations with other congregations re amalgamation.

Andrea McQuillin explained that the Sustainable Committee was organizing two sections: Short Term projects and Long Term dreaming. The committee is being assisted in this by Laurie Cook, our consultant.

The discussion following included information we needed: Val Welsh noted that we need to **consult the UCC Manual**. Changes have been made re ownership & sale of property and the process of amalgamation of congregations. Information needs to be shared carefully to avoid 'messiness' among those who have not been aware of the process of the Committee.

**It was moved** (Andrea McQuillin/Matt Murphy) and **CARRIED** that Council authorize the Sustainable Future Committee to form a small group of between 3-6 individuals to investigate alternatives, as outlined in Appendix B, to enhance the BUC community, provided targets and schedules are coordinated with Council, reporting to Council before June 1, 2024, and that any discussion of amalgamation remain internal only.

**c) Profile Writing Committee:** Tim Rorabeck reported that this committee has almost finished their work. The report will then be sent to our Region 15 representative and then to BUC Council for review. Given the season, this can be done via email vote. We are asked not to be 'picky' about typos, etc. Tammy offered to 'edit' the profile for errors, if the committee would like that.

**d) Moderator's Visit:** Rev. Katie Aven reported that the UCC Moderator, Carmen Lansdowne is making a 2 year tour of churches in Canada. Her only visit to the Maritimes is at BUC on April 13, 2023.

Michael Blair, the UCC Executive Secretary, will also be coming to preach at some point.

**e) Community Connection:** Rev. Katie Aven also reported that the 'Godly Play' group filled the room on Sunday morning and BUC's 'hot spot' hosted 300+ people at the Parade.

f) **Pastoral Concern:** The Council also spent time considering an issue around the resignation of Rev. Matt Filler. UCC rules require retiring clergy to be absent from their previous charge for at least 12 months. Tim Rorabeck will meet with Rev. Matt Filler to continue contact around this matter.

g) **Communication re Honoraria Policy:** Val Welsh asked how this updated policy will be communicated to the congregation in general. Sarah McLean responded that she will be putting information in the weekly email bulletin.

**3) WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD TO SERVE WITH JOY & COMPASSION:**

**It was moved** (Andrea McQuillin/Sarah McLean) and **CARRIED** that the Council delegate to its Executive the power to deal with any urgent matters arising and that this Council meeting be adjourned

**Closing:** Matt Murphy closed the meeting with prayer.

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Tim Rorabeck, Chair

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Carolyn Crowell, Secretary

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**

**Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 7 pm on Zoom.**