

BEDFORD UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL
Wednesday, January 24, 2024- 7 pm
on Zoom

DRAFT

The regular meeting of the Bedford United Church Council was held on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 7 pm on Zoom with Tim Rorabeck in the Chair.

Present: Tim Rorabeck (Chair), Jill Wilson, Matt Murphy, Tammy Humphreys, Maurice Tugwell, Andrea McQuillin, Carol McKnight, Janice Reid,
Staff: Rev. Katie Aven, Carolyn Crowell, Secretary and guests Val Welsh and Jen Johnson.

Regrets: Sarah MacLean, Jocelyn Tingley

Opening Worship: Rev. Katie Aven opened with prayer.

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

It was moved (Andrea McQuillin/Jill Wilson) 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 January 24, 2024 Agenda, and
3. that Council adopt the minutes of the November 22, 2023 meeting of Council as printed and circulated by email.

Correspondence: None

2. WE SEEK AN INSPIRED PATH FORWARD RELATIVE TO:

- a) Financial Update:** (Appendix A) Carol McKnight reviewed the preliminary report of the 2023 year. She noted that we did not get the income we had hoped for - partly because of the fence around the property for 5 months after the 'flood' in July. Expenses were also less but we will still have a loss. Janice Reid noted that they are still working on changes in the sabbatical line because of the resignation of Rev. Matt Fillier. If there are Search Committee expenses, they will be considered in the 2024 budget. (Carol McKnight noted that she will be in New Zealand during February and March and gave her regrets for those meetings.)

- b) Discussion with representatives of the Inclusivity Ministry Team:** Tim Rorabeck welcomed Natalie Moyes and Ruth Robillard to the Council meeting for a presentation and discussion on Anti Racism. That Team is hoping to meet with all the other Ministry Teams throughout 2024. The United Church of Canada has declared that it will work toward becoming Anti Racist. The Inclusivity Ministry Team is suggesting that as many as possible read the book "Wait - Is This Anti Racist" and other materials on the national website. We have much to learn as we move toward this stance. It is a new way of BEING not anything we can DO. Natalie will attempt to circulate the Introduction of this book to members of Council.
- c) Worship and Music Ministry Team:** Val Welsh raised a concern about using recorded music during worship services. After considering the new Policy about Honoraria, etc. they had determined that using recorded music was one way to have music when the Minister of Music was not in attendance. This might be a total of 10 services during a year. Not all people are happy with this suggestion of using recorded music.
It was agreed that up to \$1500. a year could be included in the Worship and Music budget to pay replacement pianists and suggested that there are probably other people in the congregation who would be happy to assist with piano accompaniment on occasion.
- d) "Rendevous" Funding:** Jan Oakey reported on the funding for youth and adults planning to attend this event at Brock University July 3-6. Fund raising is going well and the congregation seems to appreciate bake sales.
- e) Search Committee:** Following the Congregational meeting on January 21, it is the responsibility of the Council to establish a Search Committee which will receive resumes, conduct interviews and finally recommend a person to the congregation to fill the vacant position of Lead Minister. Following discussion, **it was moved** (Tim Rorabeck/Tammy Humphreys) and **CARRIED** that the Council delegate the Executive of Council to identify 6-8 people who could serve on the Search Committee and refer these names to Council for final Approval. It was noted that 2 people from the Profile Writing Committee should be included. A notice to the congregation will be circulated to invite people to apply.
- f) Sustainable Future Committee:** Andrea McQuillin is putting together a summary of the work of this committee during 2023. The Council will discuss it at a future meeting as it was getting late.

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

It was moved (Matt Murphy/Andrea McQuillin) 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, February 28, 2024 at 7 pm on Zoom.