

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH COMMUNITY OF FAITH BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020
7:00 P.M. CONFERENCE CALL
DUE TO VIRUS OUTBREAK RESTRICTIONS

Chairperson

Secretary

PRESENT – Jim Pollock, Jane Ross, Doris Coulter, Barb Brockway, Dave Lelievre, Janis Peters, Alain Beaudin, Bob Thomas, Laurie White, Tom Allin, Diane Cowley, Maria Hill, Donna Dunlop, Cindy Juriga, Paul Holder, Ken MacDonald, Ian Waltenbery

REGRETS – Marilyn Atanas, Joan Cooke, Rich Cooke, Leon Mitchell

GATHERING

Welcome – Alain Beaudin welcomed everyone and Bob Thomas lit the Christ Candle. Alain read a poem relating people to a box of crayons. We are the tools and our work is from his strength. Like crayons we start out fresh and sharp but can end up broken; however, still useful and bringing joy. God treasures all of us – re-sharpening us with his power, strength and reflections.

AGENDA REVIEW

The agenda focused on the COVID-19 RAMIFICATIONS to St. Andrew's closure and the staff safety issues.

M&P – Tom Allin – The committee met on Sunday and Monday of this week by e-mail and all agreed on the following four recommendations to the Board. Tom put forth the following motions to the Board for discussion and vote.

MOTION #1 made by Tom Allin that, "St. Andrew's United Church temporarily suspend Sunday worship for an indefinite period of time to be monitored and re-evaluated on a weekly basis by a small ad hoc group formed by the Board." Seconded by Donna Dunlop. Following discussion Carried.

DISCUSSION:

Jim Pollock – the Government has declared a state of emergency until at least the end of March which would include closing of churches for this period.

Tom Allin – The United Church of Canada is a conciliar church; therefore, each church has the responsibility of making this type of decision.

Alain Beaudin – Is there anyone present opposed to this closure recommendation? Response - None.

Small Group Participants: Worship – Paul Holder, M&P – Tom Allin, Secretary – Janis Peters, Board Chair – Alain Beaudin, Ministry Team – Ken MacDonald, Laurie White and Cindy Juriga. **This small group will assess and make necessary decisions on the closure on a weekly basis.**

Ken MacDonald – The Medical Officer of Health's guidelines will be followed in all decision making.

Motion #1 was unanimously passed.

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MOTION # 2 made by Tom Allin that, “St. Andrew’s temporarily close the Church office to all visitors. People are asked to contact the office by phone and e-mail only, not in person. Staff work from home to the extent that they are able. Staff only work in the office to the extent that they are comfortable doing.” Seconded by Bob Thomas.” Following discussion Carried.

DISCUSSION:

Donna Dunlop – there should be “direct contact” e-mail addresses on the website.

Cindy Juriga – is not comfortable having her personal e-mail on the website. Cindy suggested there be a General Contact form on the website, which would be closely monitored.

Alain Beaudin – A Contact Form is already on the website, with an URGENT BOX to be clicked that will go directly to Laurie White’s e-mail.

Ken MacDonald – Requested that his personal contact information placed on the website.

Bob Thomas – During the closure, B&G’s members need to have access to the building on a regular basis. This was agreed on by those present. As Dave Lelievre lost phone connection during this meeting, Alain will e-mail the pertinent B&G information to Dave following the meeting.

Motion #2 was unanimously passed.

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MOTION #3 made by Tom Allin that, “In person visiting be temporarily suspended. Pastoral care be conducted by phone. Emergency pastoral care continue to be provided by the Ministry Team, with appropriate safeguards for their health.” Seconded by Donna Dunlop. Following discussion Carried.

DISCUSSION:

Ken MacDonald – the Ministry Team will determine their own necessary safeguards. This was agreed on by those present.

Motion #3 was unanimously passed.

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MOTION #4 made by Tom Allin that, “weekly updates be made by e-mail and on the website. Weekly worship, consisting of music, prayers, scripture and message be accessed on website. Laurie maintains weekly contact with the children and youth by phone, e-mail and social media.” Seconded by Donna Dunlop. Following discussion Carried.

DISCUSSION:

Donna Dunlop - Would like to be able to go on the website and hear each person’s component of the service at any time.

Cindy Juriga –

- If it is a Podcast it can be seen at any time. If it is a screening, it is a one-time viewing, but can be seen on You Tube any time after the screening takes place.
- Can we as individuals apply our own component/reflection to the service rather than try to provide a usual weekly service program?
- Music copyrights – Copyrights were not been “waived”. We were granted a free podcast/streaming license until April 15, then we will have to decide whether to purchase additional coverage if the government health restrictions continue . Licenses are not a blanket; they cover music by specific title and are reported weekly.

Bob Thomas and others – If the service is posted as being screened from the Sanctuary at the usual 10:30 a.m. time people will come to the church. How do we address this issue? Agreement – Church sign to reflect closure procedures and contact information.

Ken MacDonald – is comfortable with live screening at the regular Sunday morning time, but doors must be locked and monitored.

Closure Updates – will be posted on Facebook, by e-mails, and on webpage

Signage: - The church sign will indicate that

- the Church is closed for an indefinite period of time
- an invitation to join in the live screening and on the church You Tube site
- Contact information

As well, connections need to be advertised on the website.

Motion #4 was unanimously passed.

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NEW BUSINESS

CLOSE TO PUBLIC? – Yes - see four motions above...

DONATIONS? –

- There is a Donate Securely online button on the website.
- Add the option for other ways to donate: Donate Securely Online Button, Par form, mail
- Alain will send out an e-mail to the congregation updating members on decisions made at this meeting, link on You Tube channel, etc.

EXTRA CLEANING OF CHURCH? – If building is closed, no need to clean at this time. Once reopened, a thorough cleanup will take place – probably Spring Cleanup. Additional disinfectant materials will be available to staff during closure.

SOLOS OR FULL CHOIR? – Cindy reemphasized that she would not ask anyone to come into the church during the closure to sing a solo. She will personally take care of the music component of the weekly service.

SECURITY? – Concern with the community announcements that churches are being closed and the need for additional security during the time.

Bob Thomas read the Trustees' Report regarding the break-in updates, as previously distributed to the Board members.

B&G will be requested to delegate necessary security checks.

ANGELA BEST'S SUGGESTIONS REGARDING COMMUNITY RESOURCE NEEDS – Laurie indicated that Angela is working with community agencies to address the needs of shut-in residents and children who previously took advantage of school breakfast programs, etc. Laurie will work with Angela and her contacts in the community and request support from St. Andrew's members as needed. Jen Bonner will put a form on the St. Andrew's website for volunteers to sign-up.

N-to-N – Foodbank is open and needs monetary and/or food donations in order to continue supplying food to those in need. They have stopped personal shopping and are now boxing food items for individual families according to their eligibility.

Conference Call Meeting Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Benediction – Laurie closed in prayer.

NEXT MEETING: April 21, 2020, 7:00 p.m. Meeting format TBD