

Online Church Council Meeting of Quispamsis United Church – May 10, 2023

In attendance via ZOOM: Chris Young, Diane Tonge, Barb McBean, Brion Crossman, Una Wilson, Sue King, Bill Whittaker, John Hill, Rev. Richard Bowley, Leslie Reid, Rowena Anderson, Bruce Amey, Don and Marilyn Robertson. Regrets from Bob Crowley, Stu Baker and Cindy Millican.

Chris Young opened the meeting at 7:32 PM. Rev Bowley offered a prayer.

Bill Whittaker moved approval of the agenda. Barb McBean 2nd. Carried.

Chris acknowledged the statement of unceded territory.

Approval of Minutes – Brion Crossman moved approval of the minutes from Apr 12, 2023. Bruce Amey 2nd. Carried.

Treasurer's Report - Brion presented the April 2023 treasurer's report. General and special offering were highest of the year. No unusual expenses. YTD deficit is about \$4,000. **Brion Crossman moved acceptance of the treasurer's report. Diane Tonge 2nd. Carried.**

Business Arising from the Minutes:

Safe Church Committee update – *see attached report*

Reality Check on Governance – no report.

Where to from here discussion – Change in pastoral relations – A congregational meeting was held April 30, 2023. Congregation members volunteered to join Profile Committee: Tom Wilson, Bob Crowley, Carolyn Kimball, Kim Brown, Heather McDonald, Adele McDonald. Thanks to those volunteers! A box will be in the sanctuary to receive ideas, anonymous or not.

Region Pastoral Relations Committee is met on May 9, 2023. A liaison was not appointed due to a shortage of workers.

Church Directory – Barb McBean drafted “Our Story” to be added to the directory

AED Training – *see property maintenance report*

Correspondence: Remit from Region will be discussed at the June Council meeting

New Business:

Summer Service Discussion – The tech team is looking for a summer break. See Worship Committee report. Discussion ensued about including consideration to staff and volunteers when deciding when to close the church, as it affects vacation plans for them. Bill Whittaker moved that we close the church for worship services from Jul 23 to Aug 13, Brion 2nd. Carried.

Committee Reports:

1. *Christian Life & Growth* – *see attached report.*
2. *Worship* – *see attached report* - Sue King commented on the wonderful things happening at the church in May. Sue suggested we have a goodbye lunch for Rev Richard's last Sunday, July 16
3. *Property Maintenance* – *see attached report* - Bill Whittaker commented that the battery and pads on the AED are due to be replaced. Lisa Kilpatrick offered to train on the use of the AED.
4. *Social Committee* – no report
5. *UCW* – no report
6. *Outreach* – *see attached report*
7. *Pastoral Care* – no report
8. *Ministry & Personnel Committee* – *see attached report* -exit interview is scheduled for May 22, 2023.
9. *Finance & Trustee* – Brion reported the mulch delivery is May 12, beginning at 10:00 am.
10. *Youth Representative* – no report
11. *Affirming Committee* – Sue King reviewed the (*attached*) report.

12. *Region* – no report

13. *Minister's report* – Rev. Richard referred to the (*attached*) report

Next council meeting will be in person at the church on Wednesday June 14, 2023, at 7:00 PM

Rev. Bowley closed with a prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John Hill

Rev. Richard Bowley

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Safe Church Committee

- World Health Organization has declared COVID-19 is no longer a worldwide pandemic threat.
- Horizon Health has announced that masking is no longer required in hospitals (*with some exceptions*). That being said, it is still here and mutating:
- last week there were 84 deaths across Canada, 2 in New Brunswick from COVID-19
- to date 833 people in New Brunswick have died of COVID-19
- there is a new sub variant, XBB.1.16, nicknamed Arcturus that is dominant in India and has spread to 31 countries including Canada (*2 cases in NB*)

Worship Committee

- May 14th Mothers Day and Valley Woodwinds are guests.
- May 21st Affirming Service. Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship and Daring Justice. Reverend Richard is absent.
- May 28th Rev Audrey Louder in pulpit for Pentecost Sunday and Jammers are guests. Rev Richard at Regional Annual meeting.
- June 4th Trinity Communion Bob and Faye Sherrard have offered to be Communion team.
- June 11th Worship and Lunch at Hammond River Angling Association. Celebration of Sunday School and Affirming 1 one year anniversary. CLG sent worship committee a letter regarding this, and Sue and Una are meeting this week to discuss with Rev Richard.
- Discussion re July/August services.
- July 16th will be Rev Richards final in sanctuary service -ending of covenantal relationship.
- July 23rd Reverend Richard will do a final zoom service.
- There will be no in sanctuary worship 23rd -13 August. Tech team have requested a break for a month. 30th July, August 6th an 13th congregation encouraged to worship elsewhere. In future need to be inclusive of staff needs.
- August 20th Stephen Alexander will be in the pulpit to welcome us back and Angela Murphy has offered to play piano.
- August 28th rev Audrey Louder has offered pulpit ministry.

Property Maintenance Committee

Kid Zone (*Janie*) contact re AED

- Lisa Kilpatrick does her staff recertification, supplied our AED and gave us group instruction on it's use.
- after checking out our AED found the battery, adult and infant/child pad should be replaced.
- Lisa can: - supply these parts at her cost
 - give us a link to an instructional video using our AED model
 - do a free group instructional session (*not for certification*)
- our fire extinguishers need to be inspected or serviced.

Outreach Committee

The Romero group had a successful parking lot collection for water/juice, canned meat etc in April.

- Our Newcomer arrivals for April were 17 people, and thus far in May, we've prepped Welcome Bags for 10.
- Barb will be presenting a short info talk on Affordable Housing in NB May 14/23.
- Outreach will meet soon to consider plans for upcoming months.

Ministry & Personnel Committee

Rev Richard exit interview is planned for May 22

Christian Life & Growth -

The Art Retreat that CLG hosted on April 29 was very successful. The 12 participants and one guest enjoyed the event. It raised \$120 for church funds.

We are now busy planning the Sunday School Closing, Graduation, and the Affirming celebration that will be held on June 11 at the Hammond River Angling Association. During the service, Heather MacDonald will teach the youth how to make Affirming bracelets. After the service there will be lunch and games for all ages. CLG is working with Worship and the Affirming committees to plan this event.

Affirming Committee

-Recent meeting May 2nd of five churches to discuss affirming process was excellent networking and support. QUC hosted this evening to build relationship with other churches.

-International Day of Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia May 17th at 12.30 pm QUC congregation invited to attend Flag Raising at City of Saint John outside Town Hall. Hope to have our new banner for this event.

-May 21st Affirming committee leading the service.

-May 28th Education evening MacDonald Hall Rev Tori Mullin What the Heck are pronouns? Other churches are invited.

-June 11th Affirming 1 year anniversary! Service and CAKE at Hammond River Angling Association. Calling

for rainbow crispies and rainbow fudge makers!

Minister's Report – April 2023

-the Lent/Easter Bible study has ended with the last session being on May 9th, 2023.

-regular visits have continued with home communion being offered to several since Easter.

-the baptism of Benjamin James Tiberius Haché took place on May 7th.

-work with the Regional Meeting Planning Committee has intensified as the meeting date (May 26th-28th) approaches.

-I attended a Young Clergy event (*under 50*) which was facilitated by the Moderator of The United Church of Canada. In connection to this I am participating in a book study "Imaginable". I would recommend this book to the council (*even the congregation*) as a future project as it guides readers to imagine a future (*especially in light of the recent pandemic*) and their part in what might be.

-I was supposed to lead a worship service at Shannex on April 18th, but I was ill at the time

-I also continue to meet and communicate regularly with other clergy in the area

Plans for the coming weeks and months:

-from May 15-21 I will be on Continuing Education Leave attending (*virtually*) the Festival of Homiletics

-on May 26-28 I will be attending the regional meeting for Funday St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region taking place in PEI

-plans are underway for a summer kickoff/Sunday school closing celebration/Affirming Anniversary taking place off-site on June 11

-an exit interview is being scheduled with the M&P committee, ideally before the end of May

-I will begin working with the Worship committee early in June to plan for a special liturgy to mark the "End of Covenant" scheduled to take place across the July 16 and July 23rd services

Prayerfully submitted,

Rev. Richard Bowley (he/him)

Quispamsis United Church