

Minutes of the Kitimat United Church Council Meeting

Held in the Church Lounge

November 17, 2011

CALL TO ORDER:

Ken Maitland, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Reverend Scott opened the meeting with prayer.

PRESENT:

Ruth Brady, Darlene Gleig, Dennis Horwood, Brian Lennox, FayEllen McFarlane, Ken Maitland, Zo Mulder, Ethel Robinson, Reverend Larry Scott

ABSENT:

Diana Griffiths, Joe Jackson, Barb Knapton, Jim Moore

MINUTES:

Moved/Seconded by Ethel Robinson and Darlene Gleig
THAT the minutes of October 20, 2011 be accepted.

Motion Carried

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence.

BUSINESS ARISING & ACTION LIST

- Development of a Policy and Procedure Manual is ongoing.
- Reverend Scott gave an update of his conversation with Denise Pedro regarding the website. The Host requires a \$5.00 additional monthly fee for use of updated software. Denise said that we could use the new webpage created by Shawna Mann.

REPORTS:

Congregational Life and Work:

- A reception was held for the funeral of Evelyn Harris.
- There is a memorial for Norah Forester on November 20/11.

Christian Development:

- Sunday School teachers are required.

Fund Raising:

- The November coffee order of 35 pounds raised a profit of \$155.00. There were 2 pounds ordered for the church. The cost per pound of coffee has increased \$1.00; regular coffee is \$15/lb and dessert or decaffeinated coffee is \$16/lb.
- The Purdy's chocolate order raised a profit of \$485.55. This is \$140.05 larger than the Easter order.
- Church calendars are available for \$8.00. The price increase is due to shipping and handling.
- The Committee is preparing for the Cookie Walk and Luncheon to be held in the church on Saturday December 10/11 from 12 pm to 2 pm.

November 17, 2011

Worship:

- Communion will be held December 4/11. It will be intinction style.
- There will be a White Gift Service on December 11/11.
- First Advent is November 27/11; Second Advent is December 4/11; Third Advent is December 11/11; Fourth Advent is December 18/11.
- Installation of silhouettes, banners, memorial wreaths and decorating of the sanctuary have been scheduled.
- Christmas services will be held December 24/11 at 7 pm and 11 pm; there is no service on December 25/11.
- There will be a Longest Night (Blue Christmas) on December 22/11.
- First United Church is scheduled to attend Mountain View Lodge on January 8/2012.

Outreach:

- The Food Bank cash balance is approximately \$25,000. Christmas hampers will be delivered December 17/11.

Membership/Memorial:

- A page will be prepared in the Memorial Book for Evelyn Harris, a long-time member of First United Church who passed away November 4, 2011.

Stewardship/Finance:

Financial information was provided as follows:

- October 31/11 Operating Cash Balance \$24,448.64 [Twenty-four Thousand Four Hundred Forty-eight dollars 64 cents].
Owed to Designated Holding Accounts is \$9,988.12 [Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty-eight dollars and 12 cents].
True Operating Cash Balance is \$14,460.52 [Fourteen Thousand Four Hundred Sixty dollars 52 cents].
- Year To Date October 31/11:

Revenues	\$(73,421.62)	[Seventy-three Thousand Four Hundred Twenty-one dollars 62 cents]
Expenses	72,929.70	[Seventy-two Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty-nine dollars 70 cents]
(Over)/Short	(491.92)	[Four Hundred Ninety-one dollars 92 cents]
- Ruth Brady will prepare information for the congregation regarding our deficit.

Manse:

No report

We will discontinue use of natural gas at the manse. Zo Mulder to advise Elaine Holmberg to cancel with PNG.

Maintenance Report:

- Committee met November 7/11.
- They are researching flags for driveway delineation in snow season.
- The back stairs hand railings need to be brought up to Building Code.
- A card will be sent to the Baptist Church thanking them for setting up the Youth work program; it will be e-mailed to the Youth group that performed the work. Changes to the entrance windows are being planned.
- Two of 6 beams on the south side of the building have been reinforced. The Committee is assessing how to upgrade the remaining beams.
- The Committee is researching the pros and cons of acquiring radiant heaters from the United Church in Creston. They will prepare a report of their findings.

RioTinto Alcan PAC: (continued)

numerous non-compliance mainly related to high rainfall events in Jan 2011 and a bear getting into the landfill. Gaseous fluoride emissions were under the permit limit but exceeded the plant target of 1.9 kg/tonne Al was.

Pandemic Influenza Emergency Plan:

No report

New Business:

Council discussed the Options for Future Workshop which was held November 12, 2011. The summary is attached to the end of the Minutes.

The congregation will be notified by the Worship/Mission & Service Committee that something new is coming to our services. We will be discussing our future.

Brian Lennox closed the meeting with prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

The next meeting is December 15, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Zo Mulder
Recording Secretary

Ken Maitland
Chairperson

OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE WORKSHOP – NOVEMBER 12, 2011

1. Consensus points in discussion:

- a) We are more of a “maintenance/membership” than a “mission/disciple” kind of congregation; our hope has been that people would come to us rather than us go to them. Focus is on satisfying expectation of our members.
- b) In the life cycle of a congregation, there was mixed opinion as to whether we are at a stage where we could
 - i) “revitalize” (change our identity into a mission church where our new identity is congruent with unmet needs identified in community), OR
 - ii) “redevelop” (not change our identity very much but redevelop the physical plant as a legacy for a community need, e.g. Assisted Living Housing, and have a small church presence in the redeveloped facility.)
- c) The present building does not meet the needs of the congregation (accessibility) and it is costly to keep repairing.
- d) Congregational finances are such that we could only continue the status quo for two more years, i.e. full time minister + our own church building + manse.
- e) Whether the route to go is revitalizing or redeveloping, the new path has to be consistent with the real identity of the congregation. Otherwise, people will not own the decision and will not support carrying it out. Identity has to do with core values and the type of congregational culture that we want.

2. Identity Exercise: Who is the person that is First United Church?

- Female whose name is Martha
- 60ish, retired grandmother
- Widowed, empty nest, deciding about staying in family home or moving into something else
- Paces herself while staying on the go
- Guardedly optimistic, resourceful, pragmatic
- Has small saving but budgets carefully
- Strengths that Martha has: perseverance, dependability, practical, good memory, adaptive, capable, traveler, feels a duty to church, experienced at adapting to change, comfortable with self
- Challenges that Martha has: not so diplomatic, set in her ways, still living in the past, not too forward in her thinking, clings to certain rituals, not as broad minded as she thinks, apprehensive about change.

3. Some Options to Consider:

- a) **Status Quo** could last 2-3 years financially
Declining attendance, aging membership
\$6,000 deficit likely at the end of 2011
 - b) **Shared Ministry** as way of creating a larger support for full time ministry.
 - i) **Haisla United Church:** no congregational structure there at present;
Negotiation would likely involved church people and Village Council
 - ii) **Kitimat Presbyterian Church:** discussion with cong and presbytery
Would need to discuss two church times? Shared cost?
 - iii) **Anglican Church:** negotiation is with diocese office, which has unfavourable history
with two existing shared Anglican/United ministries.
 - iv) **Clusters:** Worship would be led by lay teams and a minister would act as a resource
to 4 or 5 congregations in the presbytery. Presbytery is already discussing the model
of lay teams being trained in each congregation.
 - c) **Mission Support** application. There are major cuts being made each year to Mission
Support monies because of diminishing giving to Mission and Service Fund. Even existing
mission applicants are being cut back.
 - d) **Sell existing building** and property and rent in a new space.
 - e) **Redevelopment:** Go into partnership with government funding for Community Living,
Assisted Living, Low Income Housing, etc. Have worship space and an office in the new
facility.
 - f) **Part Time Ministry:** Would congregation accept part time presence of a minister?
Who could come to serve on a part time basis; where would other half of income come from
if the person were called on a half time basis?
4. Process to be used.
- No consensus as to whether revitalizing or redeveloping is preferable
 - Most of the congregation is not aware of details being discussed
 - Church Council should give leadership as to next step: what options get researched and
how is the congregation to be updated and involved in process
 - Update at the Annual Meeting. Perhaps ask for direction there.