

Hope Council Minutes – November 20, 2021

Meeting opened in prayer at 11:10

In attendance:

- From Council

Gerry O, Jan, Peter, Pat, Curt, Linda, Gerry J, Cynthia, Audrey, Shirley

- Invited visitors

Erika Blakeman, Glenn Harvey, Carolyn Iles, Sue Grant, Garth Wedemire

- Pastor Terry was able to join for a while on zoom.

Agenda

- *m/s/c that the agenda be adopted*

Pastor Terry update

- Pastor Terry was unable to attend in person as he was in Alberta following the passing of his father
- Going through the challenges of being executor of the estate
- Having hit a deer and damaging his car on the trip out further complicated his time
- Council expressed their concern and support and granted him freedom to take whatever time is needed.

Minutes

- *m/s/c that the minutes of the October meeting be adopted.*

Discussion on reopening

- Representatives from the COVID task force, the hybrid technical team, user group coordinator, and the Worship committee were invited to participate in the meeting having voice but no vote.

- Linda Harvey has stepped up to purchase cleaning supplies

- User groups have offered to bring product, but we are seeking standardization of the cleaning material. The user groups appear to be in compliance with the cleaning protocols.

- Mention was made of the increased risk of infection during the Christmas holiday period and that masks and proof of vaccination would be needed.

- The question was raised about how to properly activate the existing ventilation system. Audrey will coordinate with Jan to see if they can sort it out. Some concern that the electrical switch may have been affected by the relocation of a wall.

- It was also mentioned that the virus appears to be endemic and that we may never be completely free from it so we should not wait until it is eradicated.

- It was noted that almost all congregations in Nanaimo, and further that Lutheran congregations in BC, Alberta and Saskatchewan have returned to in-person worship without any apparent problems.

- It is estimated that there are 25 – 30 persons from our congregation who are not participating by zoom but would be more open to in-person worship. It was not clear why they choose not to participate by zoom. An option which was suggested was to have a meditative service not unlike the 8:30 service in the past, but not on Sunday morning.

- Another concern was that Pastor Terry not be rushed with this reopening.

- With several hurdles to be crossed before we are ready for our hybrid worship, the tech team indicated that they could be ready by January 9, 2022, with a new Open Broadcast system.

- the Worship committee felt that they could be ready by January 9, 2022.

- The COVID team thought they could be ready provided that we arrange adequate ventilation. This may require keeping some windows open to allow airflow as we are unlikely to have a new ventilation system in place.

- *m/s/c that we set January 9, 2022, as the target date for reopening.*

Committee Reports

Continual Learning – written

Worship – written

Property – no report but noted that cleaning supplies were low so Shirley and Gerry J will keep an eye on those.

Fellowship – no report

Finance/Stewardship – written

Witness and Mission – written

- it was suggested that witness and mission give some consideration budgeting more benevolence spending in the community and perhaps less to synod. Right now, the BC synod has a lot of cash from the sale of properties, and as more congregations fail, additional revenues may become available. It may be good stewardship to consider the balance between local and synod benevolence so that the funding is intentional.

- *m/s/c that the reports be accepted*

Treasurer's report

- noted that while the \$10,000 from the BC Synod could be used to cover the costs of building improvements this past year, we may want to find ways to share this with the community.
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- *m/s/c that the Treasurer's report be accepted.*

Administration and Governance

Yearend recognition of staff.

- m/s/c that a yearend recognition award be granted to Janice and Howard and Pastor Terry. The amount of the award will form part of the total salary and benefits amount presented at the AGM.
- *m/s/c that the meeting adjourns*