

Approved by HUC Council

Humbercrest United Church
Approved Minutes of Church Council Meeting
October 4th 2022
Via Video Conference
(commenced 7:00 pm.)

Attendance: Fern Steggles, Dianna Seth, Marg Garrie, Aileen McGregor,
Linda Steggles, Rev. Lena Medeiros, Dorothy Lothian, Howard Gaskin
Brian Packham, Charlie Evans

Gathering, Land Acknowledgement, Welcome

1. Welcome by Linda

Prayer : Charlie

2. *Administrative Ministry of the Church*

Approval of the Agenda

Motion: Dianna/Aileen

CARRIED

That council approved the agenda for the October 4th 2022 meeting.

Motion: Howard/Dorothy

That Council Approve the Minutes of June 28th Council Meeting

CARRIED

Chair Report – Linda

Welcome Rev. Lena! We are very grateful that you have agreed to work with us as we work on transforming ourselves and as the search for a called minister continues. Many thanks to the Search Committee, Howard, Marlene, Catherine, Fred and Joanne for their ongoing work.

September 25th, we conducted a very meaningful de-covenanting service where we released Rev. Mary Jo and the Transition Team from the agreement we have had between them and the congregation. Thanks again to Dorothy, Catherine, Colin, Fred and Natalie for their time thoughtful leadership on this essential work. Now to continue moving forward, working on our goals!

Thanks Brian for your dedication as Pulpit Supply in the summer when Mary Jo was on holidays. We're thankful for your commitment to HUC in this and many other capacities.

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We welcomed back the tech team - Sean, Marlene and our three student volunteers September 11th after a well-deserved summer pause to live-streaming. We so appreciate their huge commitment of learning, effort and time to carry out these broadcasts.

Thanks to all gardeners, and to Helene, the Pres. Of Keys to Inclusion, who dug in and helped us out a lot this season.

Thanks also to Marg and Dianna for cleaning the vestry, to be ready for Lena this past week.

Thank you Libbie in advance, for taking the time to review the “Posting to YouTube” policy.

Lastly, many thanks to our staff Chris Higgins, Acting Church Administrator, Felix Kelon, Cleaner, who worked hard keeping the church in good shape for Toronto Kidz daily every week this summer and to Besnik Gjunksi, who helped out in the yard and with many unusual hour rentals this summer.

Follow-up / New Business

1. Transition Team

The Transition Team was disbanded at a Decovenanting Service on Sunday, September 25th. This service was followed by a wonderful lunch and good-bye cake for Rev Mary Jo, for which many thanks are due to the Community Team. The congregation responded extremely generously to the call for contributions for a good-bye gift for Mary Jo. Flowers and gifts were presented to her and Lydia Pedersen, who was not able to be present. Rev Mary Jo had gifts for the members of the Transition Team. Thanks to Mel and Jason for the music.

I am including my notes of appreciation prepared for this celebration:

Appreciation for Mary Jo

- Delighted to find her in my search for an Intentional Interim Minister. I remember Mary Jo expressing concerns about the distance from her home to HUC and discussing various options. Ironically Covid made it possible to work as well as it did.

- The experience of working with Mary Jo and the Transition Team has been a blessing and a privilege for me. We didn't always know where we were going, but exploring our past and our present and our goals with the congregation

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through our Zoom meetings and the one in-person workshop we were able to hold, was a wonderful, unforgettable journey.

- Thank you, Mary Jo for being with us in these two challenging years: for your artistic talents, for your thought-provoking sermons and your insight into what makes us human and what brings us closer to God.

- We wish you all the best as you transition back to retirement. We will imagine you creating wonderful art in your new studio.

Appreciation for Lydia

- I think we were incredibly lucky to have Lydia be with us on this journey. First of all, I knew her from her stints covering Mel on the organ and with the choir.

- She has a mound of experience with the issues facing us with her home church and was always will to share her insights in the most tactful way. Her support and contributions to our work were invaluable. Thank you!

Appreciation for the Transition Team

- Thank you to Fred, Catherine, Natalie and Colin, stalwart contributors and support for this work. It has been good to get to know you better. I am proud that two of you stepped forward to carry on the next step of finding a new minister.

Our Final Report and our Evaluation of the Intentional Interim Minister were submitted to the Region last week. This is the final report from the Chair of the Transition Team to Council.

2 . Posting to You Tube policy review by Privacy Officer Libby Grant

Libby reported

The Policy is sound and consistent with good practice. The implication is that minors are precluded from participating in services that will be posted to You Tube.

My recommendation is that in circumstances when you anticipate or wish to have the participation of minors (e.g Scouts and Guide Service or Family Christmas Eve) you either: i) hold an in-person service only or

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ii) pre-record the service in advance to an external drive, and then broadcast it through Zoom for people to view at home and in the sanctuary.

3. Child and Youth Leader/Sunday School teacher (no children attending regularly now)

After discussion Rev. Lena suggested that we look into GO project to assist us. We have some children attending periodically. There is a “pray time” corner for children and toddlers in the narthex. This enables parents, supported by the greeter, to supervise and also see and hear our Service.

4. Motion : Howard/Fern **CARRIED**

That approval be given to hiring a Supply Minister full time as a Permanent is sought.

5. Motion : Howard/Brian **CARRIED**

That Council approve the Short -Term Supply appointment of Rev. Helena (Lena) Medeiros based on terms previously circulated

Stewardship of our Resources Charlie

Motion : Charlie/Dianna **CARRIED**

That the financial reports and cheque register for the months of June, July and August be approved as previously circulated.

Our Shared Ministries

Community Team Fern

The Beacon was mailed to those without devices who cannot attend services throughout the summer. Bulletins, ice water and a snack were available to church-goers.

On Sept. 25th, we celebrated Mary Jo’s time with us by a lunch and presentation and gifts in Heritage Hall after the Worship service.

On Oct. 16th, we will have a tea time to informally welcome Rev. Lena.

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Devotions Team Brian

ITEMS FROM THE LAST MEETING:

- Sunday School Teacher: Brian to see assistance from Shining Waters Region through Jeffrey Dale to see how they can help us out
- Monthly Theological Reflections & Healing Circles: Mary Jo to send an outline to the Beacon to see if anyone will lead these Reflections. Donna & Catherine have agreed to leading the first Healing Circle.

RESIGNATION OF JENNY – PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY:

- The committee accepted Jenny's resignation knowing the challenges that she has.
- We need to have someone to lead this ministry and recognize those who knit or crochet.
- Put ad into the Beacon to see if anyone can assist.

WORSHIP

Summer Services

- Thanks to Mel for arranging the summer soloists and Marg for playing
- An idea for next summer to have special speakers such as past HUC ministers and others

New Short Term Supply Minister

- Lena Mendieros starts with us on October 3, 2022. Her first Sunday is Thanksgiving.

Sundays September – December

- See attached Worship Spreadsheet

Choir

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- Mel reported that the number of choir members is down. We need section leads. We are struggling to rebuild the choir. Might be able to get some assistance from the Choral Scholars.

- The idea was raised for the choir to process only during high Sundays such as Easter and other times to assemble in the choir loft through the side doors like many years ago. It was decided to leave this and speak to Lena about this matter.

Livestream Supervisors Needed

- Sean, Marlene and Brian are willing to supervise one Sunday a month. We need to find other supervisors. If there are no supervisors, then there will not be any livestreaming.

Anniversary Service

- We are to consult with Rev Lena to see if it would be okay with her for us to invite Rev Suzanne to preach on October 23 for our 110th Anniversary Sunday.

Christmas and New Year's Sunday

- This year Christmas and New Year's are both on Sunday. Do we want to have services or not?

- To be discussed with Rev Lena at our next meeting

Scout & Guide Church Parade

- Will be held on Sunday February 19, 2023

- The Scouts are already on board for this date. We need to communicate with the Guiding sections before Christmas.

- We need to check with Linda about permissions for youth to be recorded.

Carolling out on the Lawn

- Mel suggested that we do the Carolling out on the Lawn that wasn't done last year due to Covid regulations. Everything is set he just needs to speak with The Meeting House.

FAITH FORMATION

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- Nothing more need to be discussed

OUTREACH

World Day of Prayer

- World Day of Prayer is set for Saturday March 4 and we are hosting.
- Barb is going to talk to The Meeting House about World Day of Prayer
- World Day of Prayer is focusing on Taiwan this year

Dining with Dignity

- Barb to mention Dining with Dignity as part of Minute for Mission

Moccasin Template

- Madelaine is going to see about doing a Walking Meditation. More details to come.

AFFIRM

- An affirm meeting needs to be held to talk about future steps.

OTHER ITEMS

- Donna said she would like to see a budget report showing Devotion expenses to date and the budget.
- Brian said he would bring the numbers to the next meeting.

Worship Planning Schedule for 2022 Calendar Liturgical Scripture Date Date Celebrating
Preaching Music Reader 04-Sep 13th aft Pentecost Mary Jo Mel Wendy Hurst 11-Sep
14th aft Pentecost Bless the Pets Brian Mel Donna Magee 18-Sep 15th aft Pentecost
Decov. Trans. Team Mary Jo Mel Madelaine McDowell 25-Sep 16th aft Pentecost Rev
Mary Jo Sunday Mary Jo Mel Charlie Evans 02-Oct 17th aft Pentecost Worldwide
Communion Don Gibson Mel Donna Magee 09-Oct 18th aft Pentecost Thanksgiving
Lena Mel Mel Hurst 16-Oct 19th aft Pentecost Lena Mel Brian Packham 23-Oct 20th aft
Pentecost 110th Anniversary Lena Mel Madelaine McDowell 30-Oct 21st aft Pentecost
Lena Mel Marg Parsons 06-Nov 22nd aft Pentecost Remembrance Lena Mel Fred
Atkinson 13-Nov 23rd aft Pentecost Lena Mel Charlie Evans 20-Nov 24th aft Pentecost
Reign of Christ Lena Mel Marg Garrie 27-Nov Advent 1 Lena Mel Dorothy Lothian 04-
Dec Advent 2 Lena Mel Barb Gilmour 11-Dec Advent 3 Lena Mel Dianna Seth 18-Dec

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Advent 4 Lena Mel 21-Dec ??Winter Solstice?? 24-Dec Christmas Eve Early Lena Mel
24-Dec Christmas Eve Candlelight Comm Lena Mel 25-Dec Christmas ??Sunday?? 01-
Jan New Years Day ??Sunday??

Facilities Team Linda

Beautiful coloured rainbow banners:

The committee has a couple of ideas:

- sanctuary flanking the faux window on the east side, or in Heritage Hall
- are you agreeable that B and G come up with some ideas, run them by the Affirm Group, then seek the input of the whole congregation?

Will we receive a white Affirm flag or do we purchase this?

An outdoor mat 8' by 4' for main sanctuary doorstep has been ordered.

Julian Drake will be responsible for snow removal again. Thank you Julian!

We will begin heating the building Monday the 3rd. BISS our heating company will oversee this. Rm. 9 rad work was completed this summer and the small leak in the rad in the Narthex, just W of centre has been fixed as an fyi.

FYI - I really appreciate not having to worry about setting out and taking in the garbage and recycling, now that Besnik has taken this on.

Resources

Rental Committee Report Marg

The following groups met all summer: Toronto Kidz camp, Keys to Inclusion, Rainbow Songs (Thursday mornings, BCOT (A.A. group) Tuesday evening, Yoga Grove on the lawn.

July: CBC Recording, Tai Chi Tuesday evening. Stag and Doe night, Piano Recital.

August: Two weddings

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September: Capoeira Workshop & dinner 3 days, Recording, Ballet Etobicoke (Thursday evenings), Tai Chi.

Possible future rentals

There is a piano teacher interested in renting Room 19 in the Heritage Hall balcony. Currently she travels to children's homes giving lessons and will be canvassing her clients to see if they will come to the church. Since she lives within walking distance so it would be ideal for her.

Young Voices (formerly High Park Children's Choir) is looking for rehearsal space. They are a contact of Mel's and are in urgent need of space especially one with an elevator. To be confirmed. This would be Tuesdays from 5 to 7 pm. It is a large choir.

Pandemic Response Team Aileen and Linda

There will be no further reports from the Pandemic Response Team at this time.

Trustees Howard

No report

Ministry and Personnel Aileen

Shining Waters Regional Council has approved the Record of Appointment for Humbercrest United Church Pastoral Charge. SWRC has approved the negotiated terms for Rev. Helena (Lena) Medeiros (details were previously circulated by Howard on behalf of the Search Committee). The official appointment term is for 3 months, starting October 2022, with an option to extend. Rev. Lena has committed to stay with Humbercrest until we find a called minister. We are delighted to welcome Rev. Lena to Humbercrest.

After two years with us as our Interim Minister, a farewell party and celebration of gratitude for Rev. Mary Jo Patterson was held after the service on Sunday, September 25, 2022.

Minister's Report

Rev Lena said she is happy to support us as we move forward on our journey as well as providing pastoral care.

The meeting adjourned at 9.03 pm

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The next meeting of Council will be held on October 25th 2022 at 7 pm

L. Steggle – *Council Chair*

D Seth – *Secretary*