

HARROWSMITH-VERONA PASTORAL CHARGE OFFICIAL BOARD MEETING

March 07, 2016 at Trinity United Church

Members present: Linda Brown, Glenda Turner, Carl Turner, Bonnie Brown, Jean Claire, Ralph McInnes, John McDougall, Ann McDougall, Gayle Robertson, Barbara Stewart, Millie Cuthill, Bill Cuthill, Jane Adamson, Darlene Nicol, Don Coleman, Dorothy McCulloch, Joan Steele, Alice Kennedy, Norm Kennedy, Elaine Lazier, Marilyn Lawlor, Erma Bracken, Ardith Wolsey, Don Wolsey, Carl Pritchard, Jean Pritchard, Carolyn Brown, Dan Bell, Andy Adamson, Diane Revill, Beatrice Moffitt, Barb Joyce, Doug McIntyre, Suzanne Clarke, Muriel York, Nancy Moore-Carr.

Also Present: Wayne Harris, Sharon MacDonald. Co-chairs Presbytery Pastoral Relations.
Ted Wright, JoAnn Fletcher. Presbytery Resources and Communications

Opening Prayer: Glenda Turner, Board Chair

Introduction of Presbytery Guests: Joann Fletcher presided as Chair of the meeting on behalf of Presbytery.

Opening Comments from the Chair: An amalgamation, or merger has as its objective the creation of a new pastoral charge with one building and one congregation. The question is to find the best way to make this happen and move forward.

Other Presbytery Guests outlined important considerations such as a common vision statement, finances, accessibility of site, state of the building chosen.

Verona must hold a Congregational Meeting (April 3rd) to agree to an amalgamation with St. Paul's United Church Harrowsmith under one roof. St. Paul's stated intention is to come to Trinity. We are voting on PROCESS, not a final product

Andy Adamson made the suggestion that a committee of perhaps three members from each church, should be struck to investigate, and give some recommendations as to how amalgamation might happen. Ted Wright said it would be appropriate for Trinity, if they should agree to the amalgamation at the Congregational Meeting, to appoint Trinity members at the same meeting. St. Paul's could do the same at their Congregational meeting, which they would hold when they have received news of Trinity's agreement to amalgamate. Three people from Presbytery would also be present at each meeting of the joint committee.

It was strongly suggested that only ONE person be appointed spokesperson to talk with the press and at this time, it would be prudent to say no comment.

Ralph McInnes reminded us that a church is only a building. Early Christians likely did not have a roof over their heads. We need to be prayerful throughout the process, reminding ourselves that Jesus Christ is in the head of the Christian Church.

Board Chair: Glenda Turner

Secretary: Linda Brown