

Session Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, December 1, 2020

Welcome: Marg Smith welcomed everyone and opened the meeting, constituted in the name of Jesus Christ, the only Head of the church, at 7:04 p.m. It was held in the upper portion of our church hall. Masks were worn and everyone kept their social distancing.

Members Present: Sheila Anthony, Marg Smith, Linda Shane, Jane Mackay, Bea Moffitt, Glenda Turner and Catherine Oxenford Grant.

Regrets: Mary-Anne McNutt

Reflections: Led by Catherine who read a delightful advent story dwelling on bells and a donkey. January's reflections will be led by Glenda.

Approval of Agenda:

Moved by: Marg Smith Seconded by: Glenda Turner

Approval of Minutes of Nov. 03, 2020:

Moved by: Jane Mackay Seconded by: Bea Moffitt

Business Arising from the minutes:

Christmas Baskets:

- There was considerable discussion on this topic, the main issue being the list of recipients that comes from the Salvation Army. Sheila proposed that we no longer deal with the Salvation Army for recipients because they are based in Kingston and don't know the Harrowsmith/Verona area at all. She suggested that we meet in September to compile our own list of local families who need help. We would then have our policy in place before the Salvation Army contacts us with their list of names. (Let it be noted that Sheila offered to be in control of this forever!)
- We plan to provide help to 20 families within our area.
- Christmas Hampers from Trinity this year will be in the form of a gift card to be used at Foodland in Verona. The value of the gift card for each family is TBD.
- Families who want turkeys should order them early from Verona's Foodland.
- Deliveries are planned for Dec. 14th or 15th as a rain date.
- The following persons have volunteered to deliver the gift cards: Linda, Catherine, Rob Tapscott, Marg, Glenda, Jane and Ian. Recipients' signatures and ID are required.
- All further information on this topic will be emailed to everyone by Sheila.

Minister's Report:

- Prepared an Advent Candle-Lighting Liturgy booklet to be used throughout Advent.
- Purchased and donated a ceramic advent candle creche-type arrangement, complete with coloured candles to be used during Advent.
- Faith & the Common Good prepared webinar on Tuesday, November 24, 2020 with material "No Space for Community".
- Conducted church worship services on Nov. 1 and Nov. 22, 2020.

- Attended (via Zoom) Advent Worship at Bethel UC on Nov. 25, a clergy only meeting with Whit Strong on Nov. 26, 2020, and tuned into our own services at Trinity on Nov. 8th, 15th and 29th.
- Appreciates the help received from Rebecca, Sheila, Ian and Don for their efforts in keeping things running smoothly.
- Continues to stay in touch with members of the congregation, right now by writing Christmas notes.

Worship and Sacrament:

- Zoom worked well for the service on Nov. 29th
- A suggestion was made that we invite the congregation to stand in appropriate places during the worship services. i.e. during the benediction. Times to stand should be shown in the bulletin.
- Catherine has written an Advent letter which will be mailed out with the Christmas offering envelopes.

Correspondence: None

Membership/Pastoral Care: The membership list is being updated. Work on this is scheduled for some time in the new year.

Christian Education: Nice to know that some children are missing coming to church each week.

Outreach: Diane Revill has volunteered to take on the job of sending out cards from the congregation when needed. A thankyou card is to be sent to Kathleen Goodfellow who was in charge of this for so many years.

New Business:

- Carolling on Christmas Eve: Plans are being made for those who wish to go caroling to various shut-ins in the area. Singers are to meet in their cars in the church parking lot at 2:30 p.m. Catherine will prepare song booklets.
- Sanctuary décor: Thank you to Noreen Peters and Carl and Glenda Turner for the decorations this year. It is suggested that we put up a small Christmas tree in the sanctuary as well as wreathes on the windows, keeping all the covid rules in mind.
- Christmas eve service will be at 5:00 p.m.
- There will be a service on January 3rd, 2021

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 5, 2021. Time – 7:00 p.m.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment: Glenda moved the meeting be adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Chair: _____
Marg Smith

Secretary: _____
Jane Mackay

Stewards were meeting at the same time as session and joined us at the end to review the business items that both committees have in common. The following information was shared:

- Ian gave a report on Ralph McInnes and his health issues. He has been diagnosed with stage 4 lymphoma.
- There was a discussion on the hanging of wreathes on the windows. Result: Yes, let's do it! Andy will contact Noreen Peters to let her know it's a go!
- Annual meeting will be held on February 7, 2021.
- January 17th is the due date for annual reports.
- Financial reports were noted.