

## North Burlington Churches united Meeting

Dec 5, 2016

“One church body in Christ which ministers to the needs identified by the North Burlington community”

Present: Jill Strapp, Dale Martin, Janice Martin, Barb McKeown, Marilyn Stairs, Dale McKeown, Susan Ward- England, Keith Rutherford, Mike Lawton, Stephen Huntly, Sue Stephen, Ruth Coverdale, Marilyn Martin, Ryk Brown, Shirley Bottaro, Daryl Webber, Paul Bartu, Allison Playfair, Heather McGavin

Regrets: Nancy Knill, Gary Goodale

### Welcome

Dale welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Ryk for attending despite the fact that his position will be finished at the end of the month.

### Minutes

Shirley Bottaro moved and seconded by Paul Bartu that the minutes be accepted as circulated. There was no discussion. CARRIED

### Updates from Congregations

#### Tansley

- The trustees have been carrying out a stewardship campaign (different trustees speaking each Sunday for a month) and it has worked well.
- The have been praying for NBCu each week

#### St. Stephen

- The prayer for NBCu was read once and has been in the bulletin each week.
- The congregational message re our Feb 25<sup>th</sup> retreat was shared a couple of weeks ago

#### Nelson

- They will be having a vote about closing on Jan 8<sup>th</sup>. Their target for closure is June 2017
- They have had an offer to buy the building
- They have met with Presbytery who has approved their plans
- They recently received a bequest and decided to share the \$\$ with those less fortunate. They gave \$5,000 to Wesley Urban Ministries and \$5,000 to Partnership West food bank.

#### Lowville

- They have been meeting with various groups and recently had a community round table
- Keith provided us with handouts and a Power Point presentation about 2 major considerations being presented to NBCu.
  1. Lowville United Community and Leadership Development Centre
  2. Become a part of Halton Food Security Network
- The presentation is attached to the minutes.
- Presbytery is supportive of these ideas as is the regional Councillor.
- There is funding available from a number of resources

- Keith asked that we take this back to our respective Councils. To this end, he will develop a budget within the next couple of weeks and send it out.
- Keith emphasized that this would not be a Lowville Centre but would be a North Burlington Centre
- A question was raised about whether or not this proposed entity could be incorporated and be established as a business.
- Please provide feedback to Keith following the next church Council meetings.

#### Common website

- Susan Ward-England reported that it is ready to go. Links with the church sites will now kick in
- Churches now have to share with their congregations.
- Paul Bartu moved and seconded by Steve Huntley that we move forward with our shared website. CARRIED
- We need an email link for the NBCu website. An email account will be set up that will be forwarded to both Dale and Heather.

#### Common prayer

- This needs to be communicated regularly so that those who are not involved actively with NBCu will start to internalize it.
- We will say the prayer at each NBCu meeting and churches were encouraged to say it at each of their Council meetings
- We will continue to use the same prayer and perhaps modify it occasionally

#### Joint Outreach update

- The committee has met twice and decided to work jointly on two First Nations projects that Tansley has started
  1. Greenhouse to grow food. The two locations currently are in the James Bay area and along the north-west outer border of the province.
  2. Retreat Centre. This is to address the fact that they are losing their sense of culture and spirituality.
- Tansley has a First Nations committee and will ask for more clarification regarding needs. They are waiting for a contact name as a direct contact for someone who is involved with the growing of gardens and teaching of nutritional skills.
- Thus far they have collected \$\$ for fresh fruit and have shipped up snowsuits through their snowsuit drive.
- They have also partnered with Knox Presbyterian in Waterdown.
- Daryl did a 6 week study group on the Truth & Reconciliation report and is wondering about follow up.

#### Joint Worship service Feb 12<sup>th</sup>

- The committee plans to start working on this in Jan
- There was discussion about the possibility of all worshipping at one of the churches once a month. Perhaps we try this over the summer. There was concern about the frequency of putting a closed sign out front of churches when we have these shared services.
- It was agreed that significant services such as Ash Wednesday and Good Friday would be good times to join together
- We will ask the Worship committee to discuss this and provide a recommendation for 2017

### Feb 25<sup>th</sup> Visioning Day

- A vote of thanks is extended to Don Hunt for arranging the venue. Dale McKeown agreed to contact Don and clarify some details regarding set up, possible rental charge and time frame.
- The time frame will depend on the agenda. It could be 9 – 12:30 or 9- 2 with lunch provided
- Allison, Sue Stephen and Shirley Bottaro volunteered to work on planning the agenda and the logistics of the day. If anyone else is interested in helping out, please contact one of the above members.
- It was suggested that each church approach their Council for approval to contribute \$100 to cover the cost of the day. If there is no rental cost we should give St John's an honorarium.
- We need to remind our congregations about this date and ask people to register. There was discussion about having an on-line registration but there is value in having a sign-up sheet so that people can see who is attending. It might influence others to sign up also.
- The purpose of the day is for the 4 congregations to get to know each other and explore how we can live out our mission.

**TO DO: each committee member** should think about at least 1 item that they would like to see on the agenda and forward to Dale at [dalevmartin@gmail.com](mailto:dalevmartin@gmail.com) He will then forward these to Jill.

### Misc

- It was suggested that other North Burlington churches attend Lowville's visioning day

### Closing

- Daryl led the group in the reading of a prayer and lighting of the candle of Peace and gave a Blessing

Barb McKeown moved that the meeting be adjourned

Next meeting Jan 9<sup>th</sup> 7 pm at Lowville United Church