

# North Burlington Churches united

*"One church body in Christ which ministers to the needs identified by the North Burlington community"*

Feb 6, 2017 - St. Stephen United Church

**Attendance:** Heather McGavin Chair, Marilyn Martin, Marilyn Stairs, Steve Huntley, Sue Stephen – Recorder for this meeting, Gary Goodale, Paul Bartu, Mike Lawton, Jill Strapp, Allison Playfair, Barb Mc Keowan, Shirley Battaro, Ruth Coverdale, Carol Boyle, Daryl Webber

**Regrets** Nancy Knill, Janet Saunders, Keith Rutherford

**WELCOME & BLESSING & NBCu PRAYER** – led by Allison Playfair "It's about Jesus"

**REVIEW & ACCEPTANCE** of January 9th minutes

**Update on common prayer:** this is being used weekly at St Stephen, and is reported as working well for Nelson/Lowville. Tansley plans to use the prayer weekly. It was suggested that the prayer not be changed.

## **UPDATES FROM THE CONGREGATIONS**

**St Stephen** – had congregational meeting and will proceed with signing a non-binding letter of intent with developer. There's a 60 day process with the city being followed. A block of land remains the church's that can be developed. The motion (re: signing the letter of intent) passed almost unanimously. There have been 3 follow up meetings after the vote giving members an opportunity to have their questions answered and to share ideas and concerns. The Design + Development committee has met. The committee has had a brainstorming session and talked about involvement with/input from NBCu. Within 10 – 18 months, "something will be happening here". There is sadness: should another building be built or all the land developed?

Upcoming worship plans - Holy Week: Maundy Thursday 7 – 7:30 – Good Friday 10:30 (NBCu congregations and Appleby) Ash Wednesday 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. (Note: there was discussion that Ash Wednesday service(s) would be at Nelson this year)

**Nelson** – working on action items: setting up endowment fund (liturgical basis – real focus is outreach) and consulted with Port Nelson. 2 offers received so far and a 3<sup>rd</sup> in expected. Hoping to present information on the offers to the congregation on 26<sup>th</sup> of February. Worship planned for Ash Wednesday. (please see note above re: Ash Wednesday, services may occur at both Nelson and St. Stephen, or at only one of these churches)

EDGE grant for NBCu has been received, in the amount of \$4500. This has been deposited into Nelson's account.

**Tansley** : hosting Lowville Festival on 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Steve shared the idea of hosting a movie night with discussion to follow at Tansley one evening during Holy Week.

**Lowville** – Sun Rise in the Park on Easter Sunday a.m. About 25 people attended the visioning day on Saturday February 4. This was facilitated by EDGE and discussion topics included: 1) Lowville Festival + possible link to music therapy 2) Burlington Arts – perhaps working with youth, justice issues, 3) Retreat Centre idea. There have been conversations with Presbytery, Conference Office, 5 Oaks, spiritual director, General Council about what a centre would like at Lowville. Two possible events include session related to Ministry in Motion (Fall 2017) and a pre-General Council session in 2018

#### **DISCUSSION ABOUT FEB 25<sup>TH</sup> VISIONING DAY**

- Purpose of the day – get to know each other, know what's happening in the other churches, determine the plusses and minuses of joining together, initiate decisions to form, or, not to form one church. Question to be asked: do we agree to continue having discussions re moving forward together?
- proposed agenda was reviewed and clarified
- Template for presentations from each church - Dreams, Strengths, Opportunities, Challenges – each church to get their information to Jill a week in advance to have it formatted into 4 power point slides.
- Reminder that each church is responsible to provide \$100 cash (to Allison). This money will cover a donation to St. John's for use of their facility as well as cover food costs. Nelson's money has already been submitted.

#### **UPDATE ON FEB 12 2016 JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE**

Each congregation to supply a chalice and plate for serving of communion.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Allison renewed the idea that regular worship (not a jointly planned worship) be held one Sunday a month at each church. There would be no service in other 3 churches that day. In this model each church would only be open for Sunday worship one Sunday in 4. It was decided that this topic should wait for further discussion following the Visioning Day on February 25.

**NEXT MEETING:** March 6, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at Nelson United Church. Marilyn Stairs will take on the role of secretary for that meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING BLESSING:** (8:50 p.m.) Allison initiated prayer and each person had the opportunity to add their own words of prayer.