

## **North Burlington Churches united**

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

### **Minutes**

June 5, 2017 St. Stephen United Church

Present: Dale Martin (chair), Heather McGavin (recording secretary), Mike Lawton, Marilyn Stairs, Paul Bartu, Janice Martin, Gary Goodale, Nancy Knill, Carol Boyle, Allison Playfair, Ruth Coverdale, Shirley Bottaro, Daryl Webber, Janet Saunders

Regrets: Sue Stephen, Dale McKeown, Barb McKeown, Marilyn Martin, Keith Rutherford, Steve Huntley

The meeting started at 7:10 with a welcome from Dale who called the meeting to order

Allison opened with a prayer and Heather read the NBCu prayer

Review & Acceptance of May minutes

- Moved by Carol Boyle, Seconded by Nancy Knill - Carried

Review of joint activities/services since May NBCu meeting

- Native author book club met today
- There has been a planning meeting for the combined July 16<sup>th</sup> service.
  - Another one is scheduled for June 12<sup>th</sup>
  - We are consulting with people with indigenous connections
  - We are clarifying which nations to acknowledge at the beginning of the service
- Lowville had their Spring Fling.
  - They almost broke even.
  - They had a 16 piece band.
  - It was held at the Sr Centre.
  - They have a Robert Batement print and wood carving by George McNaught to auction. Tickets are still available
- Next weekend is Nelson's service of memories followed by a church picnic. Final service on June 25<sup>th</sup>
- Lowville had their Lowville Festival with Leona Boyd, Second City and Alice in Wonderland

- Art Gallery was at the church on Sat.
- Attendance overall was good. Leona Boyd's concert sold out.
- Lowville is hosting "Loving God Loving Neighbourhood" facilitated by Edge on Sat. A Strategic Mission and Dev. Officer has been hired by Halton Presbytery half time to help churches move forward and this individual will be involved. Ten congregations will be participating
- No other joint projects are planned after July 16<sup>th</sup> service
- VBS - Tansley and St Stephen are going together with this. They need volunteers and there is one co-op position to be filled. That is an 8 week job. Volunteers can volunteer by the week.

## Updates

### St Stephen

- Congregational meeting May 28<sup>th</sup> with a good turnout
  - The congregation voted 53 - 7 to accept the recommendation to sell all of the property for development except the land that is leased to the Carpenter Hospice.
  - Immediately after the vote 7 new people stepped forward to form a committee to explore options for where we will worship.
  - It was an emotional meeting but it went well.
- It will be 12 - 18 months for permits / zoning and when that is done the building will be demolished. We may have until Jun /18
- May need some practical talks about what amalgamation would entail so that we have more solid info for the committee to examine. The congregation wants to stay together.
- There will be a driveway with access for the Hospice. The final plan has not been completed but the developer will deal with the city
- Lots of details to be sorted out still

### Tansley

- The Tansley Board has extended an offer of space for St. Stephen to use until a decision has been made if they are in need of worship space. This generous offer comes with no mention of strings attached.
- The congregation is managing to arrange services without Steve. Everyone has participated - men's group, choir, prayer shawl group, Cathy Toivin from Presbytery and a UCW service is coming up,
- John Barber has done communion and John Ambrose will do July communion
- Everyone is amazed at how much work is involved with putting together a service - how much time and resources go into 1 hour
- Steve returns the fourth Sun in July. He is on a 2 month sabbatical and then taking vacation. He has split his sabbatical time and next year he will take 1 month more.

- Had their garage sale May 27<sup>th</sup>
- Shredding event this Sat in support of the first nations joint outreach program
- Book sale was in May - raised about \$3500. Left over books went to the Salvation Army
- Board meeting June 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - Mike Lawton will attend to discuss the transition and legacy funds Management for the combined Nelson Tansley.
  - Allison to attend in Steve's absence
- Move from Nelson
  - Waiting for a moving date so that they can have helpers lined up. Nelson has a list of what to take with them. Many items will be removed after the last service and taken into Tansley over the fall.
  - There is a question of where to put Nelson's cross. Consideration has been given to putting it at back of the church. It is not too big (4 x 8). Walls are all angled so options are limited.
  - There is a slide with the Tansley cross on it. Someone took a photo of the Nelson cross and they will make a slide of that too and put them together.
- UCW will have their last potluck June 21st. All churches are invited

#### Nelson

- They will be taking things like communion sets after the last service
- Most items are going to Tansley and some to Lowville. Some are being left behind. Congregants have the options of getting mementos and family items will go back to the families
- New owner made a presentation at a service. They are respectful and people felt comfortable with the presenter. They are a Hindu community group. The name in stone hopefully will remain but the outside hanging sign will change.
- Memory service - a video has been put together with photos from over the years. People have donated stories which will be posted and read.
- Final service June 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### Lowville

- Communion - when Daryl asked for help with communion a little boy offered. Since then the children put the bread and wine of each of the communion stations (3) and then take them away afterwards
- Nelson has offered to carry them forward as status quo until Dec 31 2017. What will happen after that is under discernment
- Lowville will be closed July 23 - Aug 20<sup>th</sup>. During this time the congregation will go where they want. Time of the other church services need to be well documented. St Stephen worships at 10 as of July 2 and is open all summer.

They return to 10:30 worship after Labour Day. Service at Tansley at 10 am also

Potential activities that NBCu churches could do together.

Churches were to go back to their congregations and decide on what their priorities might be. St. Stephen did not address these due to other pressing decisions but hopefully will address in Sept. There has been interest in the activities listed below:

1. *Pursue mental health initiatives*

- A discussion is already starting with Canadian Regional Mental Health. Janice has met with Halton Region. They are hoping to get a better read into the community. They are just going to bring better resources into the church. They are not looking for new people to support. Tansley would provide the space for someone to come in with some regularity so that people would know that this is available.

2. *Expand outreach activities - youth group at Fort Albany - goal is to raise \$5,000*

- Nelson is interested in supporting this
- Shredding event will go towards this
- Linked to July 16<sup>th</sup> service
- Edwund Metatawabin leads this trip. The river rafting trip is for healing purposes. It is for youth and elders. They learn about spirituality and loving in nature and they will fix up cemeteries
- Could we learn more about the community itself? Janice is putting information together that will be together for the service.
- Up Ghost River would be good reading
- Tansley is collecting books by First Nations authors

3. *Set up a meal program for seniors - perhaps working with Chef Robin from Lowville.*

- There is a program starting in Sept based on a New Horizons grant.
- Two chefs will share.
- It is about cooking and eating together with seniors
- They will be able to take food home and freeze.
- Volunteers are needed to be ambassadors - helping in kitchen, chat, eat with seniors.

- Anyone from congregations are welcome but it will be opened up to the community.
  - 20 sessions planned from Sept to March
4. *Ensure Vulnerable Sector Screening policies of each church are consistent*
- Tansley now does Vulnerable Sector screening rather than police checks.
  - Anyone working with seniors has to have this as well as anyone with children or whenever there is a power differential.
  - Some members of Lowville have had this done and they will take their certificates to Tansley

#### Other Business

##### Risk management policies

- Janice is working on this as a summer project with Volunteer Halton and is looking for input. Heather offered to help.

##### Decision to continue or suspend NBCu meetings for July/August.

- There was consensus that taking a break would be good. People are tired
- Planning a fall joint service? Leave with Clergy and they can talk to their joint worship committees

##### Next Meeting date - Mon Sept 18<sup>th</sup> 7 pm

A decision about whether or not to meet a week later in Oct or wait until Nov will be decided at that time.

Location - Tansley

Shirley Bottaro moved that the meeting be adjourned 8:30

Daryl closed with a blessing