

North Burlington Churches united

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

MINUTES

March 5, 2018 at Tansley United Church

Attendance: Allison Playfair, Daryl Webber, Steve Huntley, Ruth Coverdale, Paul Bartu, Heather McGavin (Chair), Carol Boyle, Susan Ward England, Janet Saunders, Barb McKeown, Dale McKeown, Sue Stephen (Recorder)

Regets received from: Gary Goodale, Marilyn Stairs, Dale Martin, Janice Martin, Nancy Knill

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. with Heather leading the group in reciting the NBCu Prayer.

Minutes of February 5, 2018: Noted that the clergy rep on Lowville’s JNAC is Brenna Baker (nee Nickel). Moved by Susan Ward England and seconded by Dale McKeown that the minutes be accepted as corrected. Carried

Updates from the Congregations

- All 3 congregations have held their Annual Congregational Meetings – Lowville (February 25) St. Stephen and Tansley (March 4)

Lowville

- There was a good turn out to the Pancake Tuesday supper
- The Native Book group met on March 5 and discussed The Break. Next meeting is planned for May 7 to discuss Lee Maracle’s video: Reserve 107 (available on YouTube)
- Announced at AGM that the financial situation is better than expected for 2018

- JNAC is surveying the congregation to gain information to use in completing the profile
- Likely that JNAC will result in recommendation for ½ time minister
- JNAC sent a letter to Tansley re: partnership possibilities
- There is a “For Lease” sign on the church and the hope is to attract another congregation to “Church Share” or to attract an individual/organization to operate a licensed child care program in the basement. (Sue S. sent an email to Daryl, Allison and Steve on March 6 outlining information on licensed child care, first steps and providing links for additional information)
- Bible Study 101 and Kids in the Kitchen are ongoing programs
- Lenten Studies: Che Marville is offering monologues during worship

Tansley

- Lenten Study is ongoing – Wednesday afternoons
- AGM was well attended
- Congregation finished the year “in the black”
- Electronics recycling event – April 7, 2018
- Decluttering workshop open to all – April 21, 2018 cost is \$10
- Response to Lowville’s letter about a proposed change in the present clergy arrangement outlined that this is not the time for Tansley to be considering a JNAC
- The congregation is coping with the fact that numerous members are dealing with serious illnesses and there was a recent death in the congregation.

St. Stephen

- AGM revealed that givings have levelled off and show a slight increase
- Congregation is carrying a significant deficit
- Loan has been received from the UCC (National level) to see the congregation thru 2018
- Development plans have been held. The City of Burlington wants ownership of the creek lot. This means there are 3 pieces to the property: creek and green space/lands for the hospice/lands for development

- An EIS is required (Environmental Impact Study)
- The original contract with the developer is null and void. A new contract is expected within 6 – 8 weeks. The number of units that can be developed has yet to be determined based on how much easement the city requires.
- The congregation is to receive \$100,000 one year after the signing of the contract
- The congregation voted to vacate the building as of end of June 2019
- Motion at the AGM that the congregation will make a decision by the first Sunday in June (3rd) as to “where the congregation is going”. 34 of 40 in attendance at the AGM voted in favour of the motion.
- Talks continue with Tansley (next meeting March 8, 2018). Participants saw Tansley’s openness as being very positive.
- Relocation Committee’s mandate was to explore possible options for where St Stephen congregation would worship but the committee did not feel that their mandate was clear.
- The Relocation Committee has made a recommendation to the Council to buy property north of Dundas. This would be a missional opportunity. The recommendation was inclusive of purchasing a property (with building) for approx. \$750,000. Council saw the recommendation as being within the purview of NBCu and not St Stephen alone.
- Congregants are concerned about maintaining an identity and legacy for the St Stephen UC congregation.
- Congregants are experiencing grief. Allison is contacting Minister for Congregational Support: Kim Uyede-Kai; kuyede@hamconf.org (Hamilton Conference) + asking her to offer/lead a Healing/Listening Circle.

Holy Week

- Members of all 3 congregations are invited to attend
- Maundy Thursday at St Stephen 7:00 p.m.
- Good Friday at Tansley 10:00 a.m. (Joint service – choirs of Appleby, Lowville, St. Stephen and Tansley have all been invited to participate)
- Easter – Sunrise Service at Lowville Park 7:00 a.m. with light breakfast at the church following.

Other Upcoming dates/events

- Irish Night at Lowville on March 17 at 7:30 p.m. will include the band
- Next NBCu meeting at Lowville on April 9, 2018
- St Stephen has a Renewal of Baptismal Vows service planned for April 15, 2018 and the response has been overwhelming
- A ½ day VBC is being offered at St Stephen the week of August 13 – 17. Invitation issued to Tansley for participation by children and volunteers.
- Joint worship discussed for June 10, 2018 - Allison, Daryl and Steve to consult with the Worship Committees of each congregation for joint planning
- September 23 – St Stephen is planning for a service to celebrate the Renewal of Wedding Vows

Motion to Adjourn – Paul Bartu

Closing Prayer – led by Steve Huntley