

# North Burlington Churches united

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

## DRAFT MINUTES

May 1, 2017

Tansley United Church

### **Start - 7:00 pm**

Attendance: Nelson: Rev. Daryl Webber, Dale McKeown, Barb McKeown, Mike Lawton,

Lowville: Rev. Daryl Webber, Keith Rutherford, Ruth Coverdale,

St. Stephen: Rev. Allison Playfair, Paul Bartu, Kaye Rioux, Shirley Bainbridge, Colleen Edwards, Sian Baker, Nancy Knill, Brian Sharpe, Sue Paquette, Sharon Georgas

Tansley: Dale Martin (Chair), Janice Martin, Sue Stephen (Recorder for this meeting), Marilyn Stairs, Gary Goodale, Janet Saunders, Donna Lelievre, Susan Ward England, Carol Boyle

Facilitator: Jill Strapp from EDGE

Regrets: Rev. Stephen Huntley on Sabbatical May and June 2017, Heather McGavin, Shirley Bottaro

1. Welcome & Blessing & NBCu prayer led by Rev. Daryl Webber. Christ Candle lit by Dale Martin

2. Review & Acceptance of April minutes: Moved by Dale McKeown and Seconded by Barb McKeown that the minutes of the April meeting be accepted. Carried

3. Review of joint services since April NBCu meeting and upcoming joint events.

- Holy Week: Joint services and activities were summarized by Allison: Book study (Tansley) was offered and open to all. Ash Wednesday service (Nelson) very meaningful and attended by members of all 4 churches. Wednesday evening Taize services (St. Stephen) throughout Lent. Attendance grew weekly and continuation of Taize services was requested. Wednesday April 12 - Pot Luck and movie/discussion (Tansley), Maundy Thursday (St. Stephen) beautiful service included the washing of hands/feet. Good Friday (St. Stephen) an amazing service saw the NBCu joined by Appleby and included a choir with members from all 5 of the participating churches. Easter Sunday (Lowville) excellent Sunrise Service.
- Possibility of joint Aboriginal service to be led by Maggie McLeod from General Council on July 16 at Tansley. Maggie's leadership of the service to be confirmed, however, the service at Tansley on July 16 will be one focusing on Aboriginal peoples of Canada
- Allison shared she is a trained facilitator in the blanket exercise which gives meaning to the reality of the colonization of NA specifically Canada. A date to be arranged for Allison to lead those interested through the exercise.

- Native Author book study continues and about 10 people met today (May 1). Next meeting is 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of June (5<sup>th</sup>) and the book to be discussed is - Back to the Red Road by Florence Kaefer + Edward Gamlin
- 4 members of Tansley attended a meeting April 26, 2017 at Port Nelson United Church. The speaker, Phil Monture presented on the topic: Land Rights – A Global Solution for the Six Nations of the Grand River
- Inter faith event is being planned for Burlington. Next planning meeting is May 10 at Wellington Square UN from noon to 1 p.m. Details were sent (May 1) to all four churches
- Comment was made that there is a Canadian history series airing on CBC (Sunday nights at 9:00 p.m.)
- Taize – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month at St. Stephen 6:30 – 7:00 p.m.
- Therapeutic Touch – Introductory session (Lowville) May 2, 2017 from 7:30 to 9:30. No cost and registration is not required.
- All women of the NBCu congregations are invited to a pot luck at Tansley on June 21, 2017. Flyers were provided to each church for posting.
- Lowville is hosting a Spring Fling with a live orchestra on May 13, 2017 – Burlington Seniors' Centre
- Lowville is hosting their Strawberry Festival on June 24, 2017

#### 4. Update on developments at the four participating churches

##### Tansley

- a) Dale Martin, Dale McKeown and Mike Lawton had the first official meeting to begin to work through the steps of what needs to be done regarding the amalgamation.
- b) fun and successful Tansley + Nelson – getting to know you pot luck was held on April 21. Approximately 40 people attended.
- c) Earth Day Service at Tansley (Nelson-Lowville and Tansley) was held on April 23 and included participation by the band that played at the Visioning Day.
- d) Susan WE to contact the Post re an article in the fall re Nelson-Tansley

##### Lowville

- a) consolidating position
- b) looking forward to renewing existing partnerships eg. With the City of Burlington and ROCK (Reach Out Centres for Kids), trying to continue with ministry and outreach
- c) focusing on healing arts, Sabbath rest, faith formation - partnering with wider church and with those outside the church
- d) Community development and farmers market – still in process
- e) Therapeutic Touch – May 2, 2017 from 7:30 to 9:30

##### Nelson

- a) pot luck
- b) meeting with Dale Martin

- c) Burlington Post reporter will visit Nelson May 9.
- d) New owners coming to service on May 7 to speak with the congregation and answer questions
- e) planning underway for June 11 a celebration service with Lowville: a sharing of memories of happy times at Nelson
- f) June 25 – de-covenanting service with Daryl.  
Allison offered the help and assistance of NBCu with closing services

### St. Stephen

- a) final presentation was made this past Sunday (April 30, 2017) by the Design and Development Committee to the congregation. The meeting was approximately 1.5hours long. The presentation outlined 2 options: Plan A – 28 townhomes + a “church” building, or, Plan B the development of the whole property
  - b) decision to be made at the end of May
  - c) over the next month members of the congregation will meet in small groups and pray to decide how to continue to worship as the St Stephen congregation or plan to amalgamate with another congregation. The value of the property is approximately 4 million dollars.
  - d) congregation could be out of the site by June 2018
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### 5. Next Steps

- a) Jill Strapp introduced an ice-breaker - Church BINGO – and all participated.
- b) Jill reviewed the current NBCu joint activities and how the North Burlington United Churches are currently working together on various programs including:
  - Partnering through North Burlinton Dinner Night Out (Tansley + St. Stephen volunteers)
  - Ongoing partnering through the Worship Committees for shared services.
  - Ongoing sharing of information via web sites
  - First Nations Outreach initiative
  - Shared music programs
- c) Jill numbered off the participants into 4 small groups for discussion
- d) Jill will take away the ideas from the 4 groups (details below) and report back.
- e) Information coming out of the exercise will need to go to boards and congregations for action to be agreed upon and taken.
  - Is there something from the Feb 25<sup>th</sup> Visioning Day and/or Rishia’s themes (Isolation/Loneliness, Mental Health, Seniors, Access to Food) that could be taken on by a shared group from NBCu?
  - Is there something else that is identified by NBCu as important to be worked on through a shared group?
- f) Homework piece to be sent out with the minutes to prioritize the list (from the discussion groups) in order of interest for ongoing action. Goal is to identify 3 items.

## 6. Output from the discussion groups:

### Group 1 – Barb McKeown

1. Open up a space in a public place like a mall to run a program that is not designated as being from a specific church. Not necessarily a large space. One that shows what we can offer and what help we can contribute to the neighbourhood.
2. Find out if Fair Trade purchases can be made collectively.

### Group 2 – Donna Lelievre

The group discussed Rishia's identified issues and wondered – is it resources? Is it transporting food to specific needs? Where are the gaps? Is food more important than mental health for kids who are on a waiting list? They suggest combining finances to train people to come forward and help reduce the waiting lists.

1) **Mental health** seems to be the primary need. (NOTE: Janice Martin has already initiated contact with Halton Region – CMHA). St. Christopher's offers drop-in counselling on Tuesdays from 1 to 9 pm.

2) **Legal aid** was identified by the group as a second important need. For example, North Rotary's "Start-to-Finish" at Crossroads, Huntly Street – 2 hours, once per week "running and reading" = fitness and tutoring for at-risk kids. Needs coaches – e.g. Rotary's exchange students are expected to help as it is one way for them to learn English.

Utilize resources now to spread out the burn-out factor by building enthusiasm.

### Group 3 – Marilyn Stairs

1. Single Moms program 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday – add energy to this with additional volunteers from other churches.

2. What are the thoughts of being one church body - (considering St. Stephen's upcoming decision) – outcome/direction. What is the will? Tansley or some other location? Is there a willingness on part of Tansley to consider renovations and changes to the building? (identified that members of St Stephen don't like Tansley's concrete, acoustics, chairs)

How do we communicate the message to all members of all congregations some of whom are not as passionate as others (us) about the work we have been doing?

(Additional comments from larger group relating to discussion of group 3: Amalgamate the Outreach and Action committees across the 4 churches - look at a worker re Mental health – perhaps drop-in – look at the money that St Stephen and Nelson may be able to use to support outreach, AA home and space)

### Group 4 – Carol Boyle

1. outreach (planned) – support from all churches for Fort Albany – goal is to raise \$5,000 Meal program for Seniors – mention of Chef Robin (Lowville)
2. outreach (possible) Acclaim Health partnership – Tele-touch, Alzheimer's

(NOTED: Vulnerable Sector Screening – look at policies of each church to ensure consistency)

Action – discussion between St. Stephen and Tansley to begin “soft” investigation of what types of building enhancements might be available to bring St. Stephen / Tansley together and continue/increase outreach/community programming with shared resources – possible contact with EDGE architect for concept drawings

Daryl – Lowville offers spiritual space – something to keep in mind, particularly when Tansley and St. Stephen are focusing on building issues

7. Next Meeting: Monday, June 5, 2017 at St Stephen (to be confirmed)

- Need for summer meeting(s) to be determined

8. Motion to adjourn – Shirley Bainbridge

9. Closing blessing – Rev. Allison Playfair

NBCu Visioning Session on May 1, 2017

To be discussed at the next meeting on June 5, 2017

Review the items below and determine the top three areas, in order of priority, on which your congregation would like to focus:

1. Open up a space in a public place like a mall to run a program that is not designated as being from a specific church. Not necessarily a large space. One that shows what we can offer and what help we can contribute to the neighbourhood.
2. Find out if Fair Trade purchases can be made collectively.
3. Pursue mental health initiatives – A discussion is already starting with Canadian Regional Mental Health
4. Look at setting up a legal aid initiative
5. Expand outreach activities – youth group at Fort Albany – goal is to raise \$5,000
6. Set up a meal program for seniors – perhaps working with Chef Robin from Lowville
7. Investigate a potential partnership with Acclaim Health – Tele-touch, Alzheimers
8. Ensure Vulnerable Sector Screening policies of each church are consistent
9. Put more energy into single mom's group
10. Put more thought into "one church, one body" of NBCu
11. Amalgamate outreach/action committees
12. Discuss if there is a willingness to move to another location and/or if there is a willingness by Tansley to consider renovating the building