

North Burlington Churches united Meeting

Oct 24, 2016

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

Present: Daryl Webber, Allison Playfair, Dale McKeown, Barb McKeown, Keith Rutherford, Heather McGavin, Dale Martin, Janice Martin, Marilyn Stairs, Ruth Coverdale, Don Hunt, Nancy Knill, Shirley Bottaro, Janet Saunders, Marilyn Martin, Ryk Brown, Paul Bartu, Sharyn Georgas

Facilitator: Jill Strapp

Daryl opened the meeting with a song and a prayer.

Jill reviewed the agenda and started with **updates** from each of the churches.

St. Stephen

There are no new developments regarding the redevelopment. They are waiting for the developer chosen to complete his ‘due diligence’ before taking concrete suggestions to the congregation.

Tansley

Their communications team is anxious to move forward with a common communications strategy

Lowville

They will be hosting a community round table on Nov 23rd. It is designed to bring the community together to identify issues and needs and look at how the church can minister to them.

Nelson

Their congregation still needs to decide if they want to amalgamate or just close their doors and they would like some help from Edge in making this decision. Regardless of their choice, they have significant issues regarding the future of the church building. The City of Burlington is involved as well as the Niagara Escarpment Commission and the issues are very complex. There may be Edge resources available to assist them with many of these issues. Jill will put them in touch with Kris Tavella, EDGE’s real estate consultant. They have imposed a deadline for themselves to have a decision made by the end of June.

Name

In discussion about what our name should be on a move forward basis, it was pointed out that North Brampton United Church is widely known as NBUC and so we really should not use North Burlington United Churches. After much discussion we decided on **North Burlington Churches united**. It was felt that openness of this name by having united not capitalized, could lead to other uses or concepts (e.g. united in mission, united inwhatever else we choose).

Vision

There was a great deal of discussion about this. Eventually it was moved by Dale Martin and seconded by Marilyn Stairs that the vision be “One church body in Christ which ministers to the needs identified by the North Burlington community”. CARRIED unanimously

The vision statement will be included in all written communications.

Visioning Group

There was again great discussion about what the ongoing group which will lead us forward would be called. There was some objection to being called a committee or a council. Other ideas were generated but we will now call the new group a Visioning Group.

Membership: minimum of 3 members from each church (one of whom must be a part of the official church Board or Council). If any member cannot attend, the member is responsible for finding a replacement. We would like all 3 ministers at all meetings whenever possible.

Co-chairs: Dale Martin (Tansley)
Heather McGavin (St. Stephen)

Minutes: Heather will take minutes when Dale chairs. We will need a volunteer when Heather chairs in Dale's absence.

Meeting dates: First Monday of each month 7 – 9 pm

Joint Visioning Day

We would like to broaden the engagement of this process – we specifically would like to engage some younger congregational members (which is admittedly a challenge for some churches). We also agreed to have a half-day workshop with all 4 congregations invited. Feb 25, 2017 date was chosen and we have engaged a facilitator from EDGE, A Network for Ministry Development of the United Church of Canada for the workshop. Jill Strapp who has already met with this group has agreed to facilitate. Don Hunt has arranged for us to meet at St. John's Anglican Church on Dundas St. (across the street from Nelson UC). We did not settle on times at this point.

Communication:

Heather agreed to pull together a one page information sheet that can be shared with each of the congregations.

It was agreed that the minutes of each meeting would be shared with the congregations after each meeting and that we would provide periodic updates for the congregations.

Moved by Dale Martin and seconded by Marilyn Martin that "we build a common website that all North Burlington churches can link into. All communication from the Visioning Group will go through this site."

CARRIED unanimously

Dale will speak with Susan Ward-England about taking on this responsibility.

Common Prayer

This will be a standing item at the end of each meeting agenda. Volunteers will be sought to write new prayers and these will be incorporated into each church service as each church sees fit (read it, put it in the bulletin...). Marilyn Stairs and Janet Saunders volunteered to write the next prayer.

Joint Worship

The next joint worship service will be on Feb 12th at St. Stephen. The worship committees will be getting together to plan. They will provide a report at the Dec. meeting.

It was suggested that we consider worship in a broader sense (such as a Taizé service) that we could share. The ministers will look into this.

Joint Outreach

We would like to collaborate on a joint outreach activity. It can be something new or build on an existing project. Marilyn Martin is gathering contact information regarding reps from the various outreach committees and they will provide a report at the Dec. meeting.

Next meeting: Mon Dec 5th at Nelson UC

Paul moved that the meeting be adjourned.

Allison closed the meeting with a prayer.