

## North Burlington Churches united

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

### Minutes

Sept 18, 2017 Tansley United Church

Present: Dale Martin (chair), Heather McGavin (recording secretary), Janice Martin, Sue Stephen, Allison Playfair, Paul Bartu, Steve Huntley, Daryl Webber, Gary Goodale, Marilyn Stairs, Carol Boyle, Dale McKeown, Janet Saunders, Marilyn Martin, Donna Lelievre, Susan Ward-England

Regrets: Shirley Bottaro, Wayne Elgie, Barb McKeown, Nancy Knill

The meeting started at 7:10 with a welcome from Dale who then led the group with the NBCu prayer.

Review & Acceptance of June minutes

- Moved by Marilyn Martin and seconded by Gary Goodale - Carried

Review of key summer activities/joint services at the 3 participating churches.

- July 16<sup>th</sup> joint service
  - This was an indigenous peoples service based on a previous service at Wellington Square. Rev Candy Harvey consulted
  - There was a joint choir and reps from of the Outreach committees from each church participated
  - It was acknowledge that reconciliation is not about 1 act but a series of acts
  - Testimonials were given about individual contributions towards reconciliation
  - There was a discussion about how indigenous studies are more prevalent in university curriculums and the Halton School Board now has an indigenous liaison
  - The CASs of Ontario will be having a reconciliation event in Oct.
- Several congregants attending Tansley when theirs were closed for vacation.
- Management Policies - Janice Martin has circulated proposed policies to the Tansley Board for approval at the next Council meeting. These are available to the other churches.
- Nelson merger with Tansley
  - The first joint service was the first Sun in July and on Sept 10<sup>th</sup> they held their initial amalgamation service
  - The cross from Nelson has been installed with lighting and various artifacts

- from Nelson have been incorporated in the Tansley sanctuary
  - Of note, some of the same people who carried items out of Nelson, carried them in to Tansley at the amalgamation service
  - It was a meaningful service and well attended. It was followed by lunch and cake.
  - People were pleased that Barb Morrison attended
- Joint outreach
  - A \$4,000 cheque was sent to Fort Albany to support their market. Please find more information about this project attached to the minutes.

## Updates

### Lowville

- Nelson offered to pay their share of the budget until the end of the year and Lowville is covering Daryl's salary until the end of June
- Over the summer they had small group worship. They studied the 12 steps to radical inclusivity over 5 weeks. Attendance ranged from 5 - 15

### Tansley

- Steve returned from his sabbatical on July 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- On Sept 17<sup>th</sup> there was feedback both from Steve and from the congregation about the sabbatical process. Church groups covered all but 3 of the services while Steve was away.

### St. Stephen

- Things are moving slowly on the real estate front but there have been discussions about how the congregation can celebrate the church over the last 60 years. They are looking to doing something monthly to celebrate their legacy (similar to what Nelson did).
- Three members of the relocation committee met with Dale and Barb McKeown to discuss the amalgamation process that Nelson and Tansley have recently undergone. They reviewed things that transpired during that time. Dale reported having felt uplifted by the amalgamation.
- Gary recounted how his men teachers' choir had a big event with alumni members prior to closing and St. Stephen is indeed looking at doing something similar.
- Tansley members expressed a willingness to support the St. Stephen events.

## Discussion of upcoming joint fall events and services including Christmas

### Suggestions:

- Consider a joint spiritual adventure similar to radical inclusivity
- Plan spiritual events that all churches could enjoy.
- Allison is offering Taize services. Consider another faith opportunity at other churches.
- Consider adding an educational dimension

- Is there a need for “grief counselling” at Tansley / Nelson to help folks adjust to the new merger?

Upcoming events / major activities.

1. Ray McGuiness will be conducting/facilitating a sacred writing workshop at St. Stephen on Sat Oct 21<sup>st</sup> from 1 - 4 pm.
  - The workshop is open to all churches
  - Individuals will be encouraged to tell their story, write it down and tell others. Hopefully this could be collated into a book of memories for St. Stephen. There was discussion about how this could be useful for all of the churches. Barb McKeown is making a scrapbook for Nelson. It was felt that stories could provide sensitivity to everyone involved with the amalgamation.
  - The cost of the workshop is \$300. There was some discussion about whether or not participants should pay a nominal fee. No decision was made.
  - Susan offered to set up a registration table at Tansley and Allison will put a sign-up sheet at St. Stephen. Daryl agreed to gather registrations from Lowville.
  - There was a question about whether or not we could get a grant from Edge to cover the cost. Perhaps this would give them an opportunity to follow the last while at St. Stephen since they were involved at the beginning (they facilitated the first visioning day).
  - The goal is to facilitate people to be able to say goodbye.
2. Daryl, Steve and Allison will be getting together and will discuss a joint service this fall
3. Janice would like to bring the Outreach committees together. She had the idea of doing the blanket exercise. It is an experiential learning workshop regarding colonization and the impact on indigenous peoples. Allison, who is a trained facilitator.
4. St. Stephen will be providing dinner at the Wesley Centre on Oct 21<sup>st</sup>. There was discussion about having folks from Nelson/Tansley participate. If there are lots of volunteers, we could consider shifts so that no one works for several hours.
5. Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> is Lowville's anniversary and they will be bringing former musicians back to celebrate.
6. On Sept 24<sup>th</sup> Rev. Mark Curtis will be providing a musical sermon at Lowville called “Thanks Living” followed by a fun fair and BBQ until 3 pm. It is a “Love your ‘Hood” project
7. There will be a Therapeutic Touch workshop - Level 1 on Fri Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> in the evening and Sat from 8:30 - 5:30. The cost is \$75. Registration closes on Wed. Sept 20<sup>th</sup>. It will be held at Tansley
8. Lowville's joint book club's next meeting is Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>. They will be reviewing “The Comeback” by John Ralston Saul.
9. Lowville will be starting small group workshops from 9 - 9:45. Also, one night a

week they will be having a series of speakers addressing critical living issues

#### Other Business

- It was suggested that we incorporate the concept about forgiveness in our NBCu prayer, acknowledging that toes are going to be stepped on over this next while. We must be open to forgiving perceived faux pas. It was agreed that the current prayer does address this by indicating the need for strength, hop and patience.

Next NBCu meeting - Oct 2 at St. Stephen

Dale McKeown moved that the meeting be adjourned seconded by Paul Bartu

Allison closed the meeting with a prayer