

**OAK BANK UNITED CHURCH  
UNIFIED BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
May 9, 2017**

**PRESENT:** Barb Bromilow, Ardith Cook, Marge Habing, Karen Hunt, Karen Ivison, Lawrie Kyle, Louise Laing, Bruce MacLean, Joan Nurse, Hans Peper, Ian Reid, Kim Reid, Bobbie Tucker, Stacey Walterson, Kori Van Ryssel, Barb Zawada. Guests: Jaime Kyle, Rev. Scott MacAuley.

**REGRETS:** Tammy Bleue, Maureen McCartney, Irene Peters, Kathy Randall, Nettie Rayner, Doug Zawada.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Bobbie Tucker called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

**OPENING PRAYER:** Led by Bobbie.

The Mission and Vision for Oakbank United Church was read by Marge Habing. Rooted in community, grounded in compassion, growing in faith, reaching out in generosity; a vibrant church reaching out to love and serve our community in faith.

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:**

Update on the Discovery Series and the Knitting Circle.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**#24, 2017 Motion:** To approve the revised minutes of the March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Executive Meeting, the April 11, 2017 Board meeting minutes and the April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017 congregational meeting minutes.

**Moved by:** Brenda Tjaden      **Seconded by:** Louise Laing      **CARRIED**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

Barb Bromilow reported back that the Outreach committee proposes the Church supports all ministerial students with equal bursaries for tuition. Discussion followed with various additional factors raised for consideration. The Outreach Committee will discuss further the plan to formalize a policy for ministerial bursaries going forward.

Memorial acknowledgements of donations being made to the M&S fund were tabled until the June meeting. As requested, Kathy reported there are 80 cards left that specify M&S as the home for donations currently. It was noted that this alone not be considered adequate grounds for a decision. Given Kathy's absence, further discussion was tabled until the June meeting.

The new Ministry Profile Committee has received initial communications about beginning the process towards hiring.

Bobbie reviewed the questions being asked in response to the Oversight Visit. The Board provided the following feedback:

- It was appreciated how Heather picked up cues from the group regarding Mona leaving, and handled them tactfully.

- Comments provided on how the church handles financial matters (how givings are handled) were considered inappropriate given the scope of this particular visit. The Stewardship Committee met to review the feedback and has decided to maintain the status quo.
- Several examples were provided of initiatives to promote diversity and inclusiveness within Oakbank United church.
- The visit was handled well and very well-organized.
- For people who still had questions around Mona's departure, the meetings were helpful in giving another venue for concerns and discussions to happen about topics the M&P committee was unable to share.

The above feedback will be circulated back to the Board for review and additional input, then it will be sent back to Presbytery. It was suggested to review the report again after one year.

**CORRESPONDENCE IN / OUT:** A letter came from Steinbach United Church acknowledging that Oakbank United has struck a Ministry Profile Committee, and indicating interest in discussing a shared ministry. They are looking for a half-time minister currently.

**MINISTERS' REPORT:** As previously sent by Maureen.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Presented by Lawrie Kyle.

**#25, 2017 Motion:** That the 2017 budget reflect several revisions: \$65,700 for the dinner theatre, \$3000 for the ministry mileage, and \$500 for ministerial discretionary spending.

**Moved by:** Lawrie Kyle                      **Seconded by:** Marge Habing                      **CARRIED**

**#26, 2017 Motion:** That the April 2017 budget be accepted as presented.

**Moved by:** Lawrie Kyle                      **Seconded by:** Marge Habing                      **CARRIED**

**PRESBYTERY REPORT:** As previously sent.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Ministry and Personnel:** Report(s) to follow.

**Stewardship:** As sent by Hans.

A call went out from CE for youth to attend the Rendez-vous event in Montreal (Youth Leadership training). There are various sources of funding that may be accessed to support them. Ian Reid will bring further information for a possible decision in the June Board meeting.

**Christian Education:** As sent by Karen Ivison.

**Pastoral Care:** As sent by Kathy Randall.

**Worship:** As sent by Karen Hunt.

**Fellowship:** As sent by Louise Laing.

**Outreach:** As sent by Barb Bromilow.

**Building and Property:** As submitted by Doug Zawada.

**GROUP/INDIVIDUAL REPORTS:**

**United Company:**

**#27, 2017 Motion:** To accept the recommendation of the United Company to reduce the number of shows from 15-14 next year.

**Moved by:** Hans Peper

**Seconded by:** Louise Laing

**CARRIED, 1 OPPOSED, 1 ABSTENTION**

**Vision Fund:** Update provided by Hans.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Web Site

Jaime Kyle found a company called ChurchOS ([www.churchos.ca](http://www.churchos.ca)) that provides web site platforms for Canadian churches. The Board was asked to consider the opportunity, review the web sites and the feedback provided by Jaime (see below), and come to the June meeting prepared for another discussion and possibly a decision about how to go forward.

**“Church OS:** This is the recommended provider. <http://www.churchos.com/>

Linked on their website are links to 8 churches that use the Church OS services. I have heard back from 2 of the churches, who highly recommend their services:

**Burlington Alliance Church:** <http://www.burlingtonalliance.com/>

Based on content on their website, they have been using Church OS since 2012

*Good morning! I am new in this position and new to the church in general so I am not sure how long we have been with ChurchOS. However, I would recommend them as a provider. They have been very helpful and the platform that they provide has been very user friendly. I had no experience maintaining a website before I started working here and have had no problems learning how to maintain our site. The ease of use is a big selling point for me. I like that they leave the website in our hands so that I can make updates and changes when needed without having to go through someone else. To date, I have had no concerns about ChurchOS. Hope this helps.*

**Pacific Community Church:** <http://www.pacificcommunity.ca/>

Based on content on their website, they have been using Church OS since 2011

*I am fairly new to this position but the previous office manager informed me that Church OS is simple and intuitive. It is cheaper than paying someone to develop a website where you have to pay every time you would like to make a change.*

*We have been very happy with the service provided by ChurchOS. They respond quickly to any change requests, usually within a couple of hours. I hope this helps.*

**Trinity Bible Church:** <http://www.trinitycanmore.com/>

I wanted to include this one because of the Giving option at the top right.”

## 2. Discovery Series

Brenda and Laurie discussed future plans for lectures, and propose the Discovery Series will hold 2-3 more lectures in the fall of 2017. Brenda will co-ordinate a committee meeting in the months ahead.

## 3. Knitting Circle

There have been initial discussions about moving the meeting time for the Knitting Circle to 3:30pm on a weekday to allow school-aged participants and their parents to join in.

## 4. Inclusivity comment in the Oversight Report.

It was decided not to pursue further initiatives at this time in light of the topic being addressed in CE, the Discovery lectures and other areas of the church activities. Scott suggested that it may be worthwhile for the Board to set aside time at the end of meetings to discern how the work activities discussed look in the lens of inclusivity, and the Church’s role in the Broader community.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Scott closed the meeting in prayer at 9:40 p.m.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:** Tuesday, June 13 at 7:30 p.m. (Coffee at 7:15 p.m.). The calendar planning meeting will be held ahead of time, at 6:30.

Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bobbie Tucker

Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_  
Brenda Tjaden