**Niverville United Church**

**Council Meeting Minutes**

**October 25, 2023**

Chair: Lesley Reimer

Recording Secretary: Terri MacDonald

Present via Zoom: Lesley Reimer, Roxanne Anderson, Rev.Simba, Bill McVicar,

                              Ellen Gaudry, Judith Hinton, Judy Limpright, Gloria Nicol

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* Lesley called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm and recited the mission statement;

Rev. Simba offered the prayer/meditation

***The mission of the Niverville United Church is to worship God, care for each other, and seek***

***justice and deepen our faith within our Christian church family***

**REMINDER: COVID-19:** *Masks are optional but encouraged due to poor air exchange in the church.*

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**Thank You –** Thanks to the UCW for putting on a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner; after

expenses, UCW were able to donate $1150.00 to the church.

* Thanks to those who came out and helped with the Cemetery clean up, including the players of the Night Hawks team.
* Thanks to those who wish to remain anonymous people that recently donated large sums of money to the church…your thoughtfulness is truly a blessing!

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**Minutes –** Corrections from September meeting include:

* Attendees: Rev Simba, Lesley, Gloria, Roxanne, Ellen, Judith.
* Regrets: Judy, Bill, Terri
* Lesley called the meeting to order at 7pm and recited the mission statement.
* Opening prayer per Rev Simba.
* Last meeting minutes (June 2023) could not be put forward for acceptance due to lack of quorum.

**MOTION #22:**           Roxanne made the motion to accept June 2023 minutes as read.

                                    \*Seconded by Judith

                                    \*Carried, one abstention

**MOTION #23:** Roxanne made the motion to accept the Sept 2023 minutes as corrected.

\*Seconded by Gloria

\*Carried, unanimous

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**Treasurer Report** – Gloria presented the financial report and added the following info:

* Thank you to congregants that continue to dig deep in their pockets and increase their church offerings as the church is definitely in need.
* GST – the church missed out on the last few years for claiming this assistance but Gloria advises that we did receive a chq this year for Jan – June 2023. Gloria sends her many thanks to Sally from StUC for her help in teaching Gloria the steps to claim this benefit.
* Interest obtained from the bank accounts is - $684.00; this money will remain in the accounts in order to increase interest earned, however, it is available at any time it may be needed.
* Council supports Heather Watt in her continued service to assisting Susan with making the monetary deposits as needed. In order to maintain anonymity, donations can be directed to Gloria Nicol and/or Susan Friesen.

**MOTION #24:**            Gloria made the motion to accept the treasurer's report as read.

                                    \*Seconded by Judith

                                    \*Carried, unanimous

**MOTION #25:** Judy made the motion to acknowledge that Heather Watt has the authority to make deposits and to assist Susan, the envelope steward, as necessary.

\*Seconded by Roxanne

\*Carried, unanimous

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**Old Business**

* Photocopier is not working properly, this is being looked into and will be discarded.
* Brielle Reimer has given notice to end her position but will continue with cleaning the church until a replacement can be found; she will be reimbursed for the work she has done in which she has not been given a full min wage payment.

**MOTION #26**: Bill made the motion to ensure all staff that have been receiving min wage, will receive the recent increase as passed by government.

\*Seconded by Ellen

\*Carried, unanimous

- Simba thanks the Council for the boxes of cards he received (get well, etc) so that he can share with congregants as an essential part of his ministry.

- Parking signage – “Church Parking Only”, is a necessary addition to our parking lots due to insurance requirements. Lesley and Jason Reimer are in the process of arranging to have the poles on the signs placed into cement blocks; this makes the signs easier for moving around the lots.

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**New Business**

* Name tags – Heartfelt thanks goes out to Gloria for ordering and purchasing the lanyards and plastic card holders. Stacy will print out all the labels and we are hopeful that they will be ready by Christmas. Tags will remain in the church after use.
* UCC has posted to all united churches the upcoming need to make a vote on what is known as “Remit”. Once Council reads up on this issue, it will be shared with the congregation and by the March AGM, congregants will be asked to vote.
* Inclusivity – Council will look into creating small groups in order to facilitate discussion around the idea of NUC becoming an Affirming church.
* Info on min wage, COL adjustment, etc can be found on the UCC and Prairie to Pine websites.

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**Committee Reports**

* + **Minister** – Simba thanks the church for accommodating his requests and to the Worship Committee for their ongoing support with cards, calls, etc. Simba is looking forward to Advent Season and Christmas eve services.
  + **Pastoral Care** – Have given out several more prayer shawls; the committee is starting to run low on the shawls and are looking for more people to knit, sew, crochet, loom, etc more shawls for this vital service.
  + **Cemetery** – Awaiting on the town permit to get on-site building made. Town of Niv has not acknowledged request to lower cemetery taxes.
  + **Worship** – Committee welcomes a few new members; they are working to plan all of the upcoming Advent services. In terms of music/hymn choices, it is important to understand that it is not possible to always match up these choices with everyone’s preferences being accommodated, but the committee certainly does their best. We are looking to have a practice at true live-streaming so that those who cannot attend the actual service will be included as it happens (it will still be recorded for later viewing).
  + **Finance** – There is a stockpile of unused donation envelopes, therefore, we will use these up instead of ordering more for the next year. They will be altered so that the appropriate assigned number goes to the correct people.
  + **Trustee** – Taxes were paid in September.
  + **Property** – Will be meeting soon; continue to deal with issues as they arise.
  + **M & P** – Sharon Harder has now offered to replace Brielle as cleaning staff.

Meeting adjourned at: 9:30 pm \*\***Next Meeting – November 22, 2023\*\***