**Niverville United Church**

**Council Meeting Minutes**

 September 25, 2023; in Church

**Attendees:** Rev Simba, Lesley Reimer, Gloria Nicol, Roxanne Anderson,

Ellen Gaudry, Judith Hinton

**Regrets:**  Judy Limpright, Bill McVicar, Terri MacDonald

**Recording Secretary:** Roxanne Anderson

**Called to Order & Recitation of Mission Statement**: 7pm by Lesley

**Opening Prayer:** Rev Simba

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**Minutes from Previous Meeting:** June 2023

Due to not meeting quorum the minutes of the June, 2023 that had been received by email could not be put forward for acceptance. Tabled for next meeting pending quorum.

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**Thank you notes:**

A thank you card and DQ gift card will be sent to the Pritchard Family for their faithful and impeccable care of the church grounds.

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Treasurer Report:

Gloria reviewed the church’s financial status. There is currently a monthly shortfall of $225 and in order to use monies from other church funds we need congregation’s approval. To inform people of the current financial situation Gloria will provide Stacy with a copy of the Financial Summary by Thursday so that she can include it with the weekly News & Notes email to the congregants. It was noted that in QuickBooks, the General Ledger name for Prairie to Pine Region is listed as Selkirk Presbytery and she will have that corrected to P2P.

**MOTION# 21**: Gloria made the motion to accept the treasurer’s report as discussed.

\* Seconded by Roxanne Anderson

\*Carried, unanimous

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**Old Business:**

The UCW have asked for help with setting up the tables for the congregational Thanksgiving supper being held on Sunday October 1 at the Golden Friendship Centre. Les will look into her contacts.

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**New Business:**

1. Prairie to Pine Region has requested NUC form a self-assessment team. They are to reach out to all corners of our church and get a comprehensive assessment. Volunteers on the team are Roxanne, Gloria and Ellen.

(2) The United Church of Canada is holding a one day workshop on “Flourishing: Bold Ideas Daring Connections” being led by The Right Rev Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, moderator, Judith and Roxanne have registered as has Rev Simba. There will also be a few from SUC.

(3) There was discussion on a QR code being placed on the door of the church that would provide info and link to the town website.

 (4) The Niverville Remembrance Day committee does **not** currently have any NUC folk in their group. This years’ service will take place outdoors at the Cenotaph.

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**Committees**

**Minister**: (1) Rev Simba will be doing the memorial service for the late Bettie Hiebert. The son Patrick has asked if NUC has a pianist who could plan and lead singing. Bev charges $100 and will let Simba know if she can do this. (2) Role of spiritual leader and the culture of the faith community was shared and discussed: as one becomes closer it is like becoming family. StUC has a team that looks into building community, caring, and mutual caring. The team is called “Growing Spirituality.” (3) Rev Simba needs to know who might need a card or a visit from the minister. A “thinking of you” or “visitation card” would be appreciated. (4) The Doctorate of Ministry program was explained. It is a program for working with a congregation. Offering ministry to all. To enlist and encourage others to be part of assessment and planning. Ask for suggestions rather than give instructions.

* **Cemetery**: (1) The tax bill for the cemetery was received. Ellen had asked the town for the taxes to be lowered and she is looking into what services from the town are available to the church’s cemetery. (2) The new shed has been designed and ordered. The legacy of $5000 from the Podjan Family was designated by the family for beautification of the cemetery. (3) The Clean-up crew will be assisted by volunteers from the Niverville Nighthawks Hockey Team of the Manitoba Junior Hockey League. Their hard work was greatly appreciated. (4) Ellen reminded folks that the Cemetery committee included herself, Kerry Church, Deb Pearson and Myra Kehler.
* **Worship**: (1) The joint team continues to meet every Tuesday by zoom. The pieces of the worship are created by Rev Simba and the team chooses songs and theme time stories and works on a schedule of where Simba will be on Sundays. Oct 1 Simba will be in StUC and then coming to Niverville at 5pm for the congregational supper. Simba will be off on Oct 8 so both StUC and NUC will plan the whole service. (2) The next communion service will be a joint service in NUC on Oct 15 and will not be streamed. (3) It was explained that when Rev Simba leads the worship service at Woodhaven Personal Care Home then the 10:15 service would be in StUC. (4) This year’s Christmas Eve service will be an evening service only in StUC and will be streamed. (5) Tech is continually being tweaked in order to provide the best possible experience for folks in each church. Music is always a concern because wherever the pianist is the sound is better. NUC could do with some volunteers to lead singing from the front of the church.

**Property**: (1) The team will look into having the memory cleaned on the old copier in the church basement before the copier machine is discarded. Ray Bowness will be asked for his help. Also, there apparently is a time and location in Steinbach where the old machine can be discarded. (2) There is a damp spot on the concrete floor in the northwest corner of the basement which will be investigated. (3) The dehumidifier contains mold and needs to be cleaned.

* **Pastoral Care**: (1) A prayer shawl was taken to Denise Stoesz; her husband John passed away. (2) Seven shawls were taken to the hospice near the Grace Hospital in Winnipeg. (3) There is a family of nine arriving in Niverville on October 20 and they will have needs for themselves and their new home. Donation of prayer shawls was also recommended. It was brought up that the only qualification for receiving something should be that the person is in need rather than being of a certain religion.
* **M & P**: (1) The minimum hourly wage in Manitoba is going up to $15.30 and the joint M&P has been looking into the hourly wage for Stacy. It was $14.15 to start and has moved up to $15.15. Judith will speak with Stacy and the Joint M&P about raising the hourly wage to #16.75. (2) Now that Brielle has full-time employment at the Grocery store in Niverville, this may be the time to ask Brielle if she wishes to continue with the job of cleaning the church every week. Brielle’s mum Lesley will speak with her.
* **Trustee:** No report noted
* **Finance**: (1) Heather Watt continues to work closely with Susan Friesen; having the Sunday offering counted, cheques deposited, and records updated. (2) The concern over the church’s cash flow requires some serious assessment and discussion.

***\*\*Next meeting – October 25, 2023\*\****