

**Two Rivers Pastoral Charge
Official Board Meeting – September 15, 2021**

The Official Board of the Two Rivers Pastoral Charge met at Long Reach United Church, Wednesday evening, September 15, 2021, following Session Meeting.

Mission Statement read by Ross Sherwood

Call to Order: Chairperson, Ross Sherwood, called meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Acknowledgement of Territories read by all present.

Christ Light lit from previous Session meeting.

Opening Prayer led by Ross Sherwood

Present: Amber Graham, Bette Ashley, Catherine Cole, Cathy Thorne, Chris Patstone, Doug Evans, Linda McCullough, Marilyn Parish, Ross & Anne Titus, Ross Sherwood, Sue Gamble, Treva Fudge, Rev. Kate Jones & Beth Quigley.

Regrets: Phil Jones, Ida MacPherson, David Lomas, Kelly Newstead, Josie Pike, Sandra Lattimore, Richard Fullerton, Eldon Smith

Agenda: Motion to adopt amended agenda with addition of COVID Update moved by Linda McCullough, seconded Doug Evans. Motion carried. (Agenda Appendix “A”)

Minutes: Motion to adopt Annual Official Board Minutes of May 19, 2021 meeting as circulated by Doug Evans, seconded Catherine Cole. Motion carried.

Business Arising:

1. Committee Job Descriptions: To remain on agenda for next meeting.

2. Live Streaming Services: In terms of equipment, a camera/computer system is more complicated to operate, so we will continue to use camera set up. Outdoor services have been hesitant, but David Henderson’s funeral in August at Long Reach Memorial Park was clear. No wind that day and new phones improve quality of sound. We will continue to get feed back from community and non residents who have appreciated live streaming of services. The choir is back on Sunday at Westfield Church. The decision on when to delete streamed services to be made by Rev. Kate, Bertis and choir.

Correspondence: Atlantic School of Theology looking for donations towards ordained ministry. Request referred to Phil Jones.

Scripture & Reflection: Rev. Kate Jones reflected on Psalm 46: vs. 1-5 & 10-11, regarding refuge and strength. “Be still and know I am God”. The past 1 ½ years has shaken up things that anchor us, but God is still there with Love for all.

Ministers Report: Rev. Kate reported that since May, there have been 12 funerals or interments, two weddings with two more weddings scheduled for fall. The majority of funerals for those who died earlier in the past year have been on Friday or Saturday, which has made it a strange summer in that respect. Rev. Kate may look at optional days off instead of Friday & Saturday if trend continues. Summer fairly stable with worship out of doors for Long Reach and Bayswater/Summerville well received. Only

one Sunday inside due to rain. Numbers trending up for services. Hospital Visiting has not returned to normal, still only allowed in by invitation of patient with one personal visit per day. One visitor per patient still valid. She has completed some visits but no like before pandemic. Ross thanked Rev. Kate for her leadership and work, plus for keeping us informed.

Reports

- **Joint Board of Stewards:** No joint meeting of stewards. Two Rivers Pastoral Charge Financial Report presented as printed by Phil Jones. Long Reach Report as printed. Bayswater/Summerville holding their own and had a successful fundraiser. Westfield Church hosted Elections Canada Training which has helped with their income.
- **Trustees:** Ross Titus Reported that Long Reach United Church had new roof installed on east side of church and siding repaired on steeple this past spring/summer.
- **Session –** Report as presented plus Chris Patstone reported on this evening meeting and ornament fundraiser for all churches.
- **Ministry & Personnel:** No Report. Still seeking new Youth Co-ordinator.
- **UCW /Quilters:** Westfield report as printed
Bayswater/Summerville Church has not started quilting yet. Inviting names of those who would like to quilt to arrange seating as per COVID regulations.
- **Home Mission Council:** Report as written. Three students from Two Rivers Pastoral Charge approved for Bursaries this year.
- **Church in the World:** Meeting in two weeks. “**The Outside Circle**”, another graphic novel, chosen for book study scheduled some time in November. St. Mary’s Pow-Wow cancelled for Saturday due to COVID Restrictions.
- **Regional Council** - report as presented. (Appendix “A) Perhaps next meeting may be in person and not on Zoom. Voted to be an Affirming Region. Congratulations to Executive.
- **Peninsula Food & Clothing** – group was supposed to meet today. Cereal, juice, snacks and school supplies donated from Peninsula churches.
- **Mission & Service** – Peninsula churches above goals. Planning phone calls for end of October for Westfield fundraising tree painting mural that will stay at Westfield. Something to be presented to Peninsula Churches later. Last year donors received phone calls and people appreciated the contact. The 2020 fundraiser received National Recognition.
- **Affirm Team:** No report.
- **Youth Group and Youth & Young Families** -Still looking for Youth Co-ordinator to replace Gabby. Youth program stalled at the moment. Children will be coming back to church. Require Sunday School teachers. Plan to prepare 10/12 minute video plus time for craft. Youth Connection will start up in next few weeks and Mary Fulton back on board.
- **Pastoral Care Team** – Reconvening later this month to update names of contacts.

Moved by Linda McCullough, seconded Doug Evans, reports adopted as presented / circulated. (See Appendix A for Reports) Motion carried.

New Business.

COVID Update: Province of NB requires, as of next Wednesday, proof of vaccination to participate in indoor organized gatherings, indoor organized group gathering, and indoor organized sports events. With much discussion the following was decided:

- Proof of vaccination for all patrons 12 years of age and older required
- Training for people at door to view various types of vaccination records
- Vaccine Medical exemptions need documentation
- Greeters require very clear procedures as to process
- List of vaccinated people may be kept only with permission from said person
- Procedures listed outside door – posters available from government
- Required for worship, UCW, Official Board and other meetings.
- Greeter encouraged to be masked while greeting
- Choir members to be vaccinated

Motion by Doug Evans, seconded Anne Titus, proof of vaccination to be presented at every church event and those who cannot be vaccinated show proof of exemption. Masks must be worn as per government instructions. Motion carried.

National Day for Truth & Reconciliation: Bill from Federal Government to establish September 30, 2021 as Statuary Holiday for Federal Government employees to recognize history of Canadian Indigenous People. Federal & Regional Offices will be closed that day. Optional how non-federal businesses/companies etc. handle the day. Province of New Brunswick not acknowledging it as a Stat Holiday. Schools will be open. Various villages, towns and cities in the province are treating it as a Statuary Holiday. Individual churches have the option of making it a Statuary Holiday with day off or a symbolic day with no actual day off. Following a lengthy discussion on how we should respond brought us to the following conclusion: **Two Rivers Pastoral Charge will not recognize the day as a paid Statuary Holiday.** Suggest members participate in an Indigenous lead event, many of which are being organized in Saint John and the surrounding area. Social media posts on our web site and face book during the day. Church in the World to look at “**94 Calls to Action**” and ideas of revisiting the Blanket Exercise, Indigenous Elder as a guest speaker, Church in the World book studies, etc.

Next meeting scheduled November 17, 2021 at Westfield United Church, 7:30 pm, following Session meeting.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Catherine Cole, Seconded Bette Ashley

Rev. Kate closed meeting with prayer.

Chairperson

Secretary