

North Burlington Churches united

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

Agenda

November 6, 2017 St. Stephen United Church

Attendance: Dale Martin (chair) Sue Stephen (secretary for this meeting), Susan Ward England, Marilyn Stairs, Allison Playfair, Janice Martin, Dale McKeown, Barb McKeown, Carol Boyle, Daryl Webber, Steve Huntley, Janet Saunders, Donna Lelievre

Regrets: Heather McGavin, Nancy Knill, Gary Goodale, Paul Bartu, Marilyn Martin, Shirley Bottaro

1. Dale Martin called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
2. Sign In + Welcome. Blessing led by Steve Huntley + NBCu prayer was recited by all.
3. Moved by Dale McKeown, and seconded by Marilyn Stairs, that the minutes of the September meeting be accepted. CARRIED
4. Reports from the congregations:

A) Tansley: Tansley i) Traditions (bazaar) was held on November 4 – Thank You to St Stephen for use of tables – record year.

ii) Cooking at Tansley program – some participation by St Stephen folk,

iii) choir has increased in size,

iv) Christmas Eve services (4) regular service at 10:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m. young children and families, 7:00 p.m. with participation of the choir and Communion at 11 p.m – no 8:30 p.m. this year.

v) 18th December – musical afternoon will be offered again. No set fee but free will offering will be received.

vi) Information in friendship pads is being evaluated + will be used for gathering specific for data

vii) Steve attended a Multi faith event on November 5 – Holy days and holidays –

viii) Nelson church is now being rented by Heritage Baptist as of October 22.

ix) Spiritual Decluttering workshop being offered on November 18. Flyers were provided to St. Stephen and Nelson

B) St Stephen

i) Rummage sale went well.

ii) Christmas bazaar is December 2 – tables will be borrowed from Tansley.

iii) Congregational meeting was held – presentation given on how congregation got to its current status. The information was news to some people in the congregation. Allison stated people cannot be given info too many times. Letter signed with lawyers + contract approved. Agreement to become final in December. \$100000 goes into trust

for 1 year and another 100000 will be paid out then as well. Money is not going to be paid out as quickly as had been thought. Congregation is in debt and will need to borrow additional funds. \$100000 will be used to pay existing debts. Congregation wants to stay in the building as long as possible. Congregation can be borrowed against monies to be paid out in the future. The agreement is a partnership. The congregation needs to leave the building pre-demolition. Congregants are going through stages of grief. Some are very angry.

iv) Choices remain the same – rent somewhere or join with another congregation. St Stephen has been approached by another Burlington UC church (other than Tansley) – interested in having discussions with St Stephen. Question remains if St. Stephen decides to join with NBCu/Tansley or the other church, what will that mean? There's a need for more open transparent information/discussion. St. Stephen needs to be invited into a conversation. Steve asked – should an offer of an invitation to enter into discussion be made? Tansley will deliver a written invitation to St. Stephen to engage in a discussion with Tansley re possible amalgamation. The letter will be available for the November 26, 2017 Congregational Meeting at St. Stephen. Allison will follow up with the contact from the other congregation to see if the interest comes from the Board/Council of the congregation or if the person was speaking as an individual. Allison will circulate a template on amalgamations and congregations coming together. Allison circulated these documents on November 8, 2017.

v) Spaghetti dinner will be held in January to support the Bridge Program

vi) Christmas Eve Services –regular service at 10:30 a.m., Children and Family Service at 5 p.m. and Communion at 11:00 p.m.

C) Lowville

i) Christmas Eve Services – regular morning service and an evening service at 7 p.m.

ii) Anniversary service October 22 went well – 120 people in attendance.

iii) Fun fest/love my hood (September) – 100+ people including police and fire departments, bouncy castle, dance group.

iv) Lowville Grassroots centre meeting 2 weeks ago.

v) Day of silence will be offered – date TBD

vi) Stuart McLean evening – December 1 at 7:30 – food donation and free will offering.

vii) Secret Path by Gord Downie is the next book for Native Authors discussion on December 4.

viii) Strategic Mission Development Events: 1. Loving God Loving Neighbourhood – this Saturday (November 11) John Pentland presentation at Appleby November 11 – 1 – 4 p.m. 2. In Advent - an Old Fashioned pot luck 6 p.m. + New Fangled Thinking (Envirionics Data) November 26 will be held at Appleby UC.

ix) Request is going to Presbytery to establish a JNAC

5. Discussion of any upcoming joint fall events and services including Christmas:
 - A) Suggestion was made of having a joint service around late January or early February or for Epiphany Sunday (January 7/18) – 3 churches, 3 kings – Steve, Allison and Daryl to discuss with the respective worship committees

B) Suggestion of joint “visioning” day(s) January and March for NBCu with focus on How can we collaborate in our ministries?

C) Jan 20 – Steve and Daryl – looking at facilitating a session on “ knowing our stories and telling our stories for the church to have a future” at Lowville 9a.m.-3 p.m. It was suggested that advertising for this begin now.

D) Special Services in December open to members of all churches

1. Gift of the 4 Directions – December 3 at 7 p.m. Tansley
 2. Cantata December 17 at 7 p.m. at St Stephen
 3. Bereavement service 3 p.m. on December 10 St Paul’s RC (Service facilitated by Smith’s Funeral Homes and Bereavement Council – formerly held at St. Garbriel’s)
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4. Next NBCu meetings December 4, 2017 – Lowville and January 8, 2018 at Tansley
 5. Motion for Adjournment made by Steve. Allison gave a closing blessing and everyone sang Go Now in Peace