

**Brunswick Street United Church
Regular Meeting of Church Council
7 pm, Wednesday, April 16, 2003**



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as called by the Chair

Location: Brunswick Street United Church, 2107 Brunswick St., Halifax, Nova Scotia

Chair: Scott Barber

Recording Secretary: Sharon LaFramboise

Present: Dineen Munteanu, Sharon Laframboise, Scott Barber, Vergensie Ward, Wade Mitchell, Arline Shaw, Doris McGrath, Shirley Carmicheal, Susan LeFort, Sybill Thomas, Stella Thomas, Marilyn Callaghan, Renee Duffy, Hugh Creighton, Lorna & Gus Pendleton, Jim Sykes, Beverly & Lindley Johnston, Lisa Jarvis, Lucinda Montizambert, Dianne & Jeff Martin, Elnora Roue

Regrets: Hazel Andrews

Quorum: There was a quorum for this meeting.

Meeting began: 7 pm

Welcome and Prayers

Scott is our chair meeting started at 7:pm. Gus said a prayer before we started our business. Scott also asked that the committees start taking notes.

Property: A hand rail was put on the steps to make them safer which leads down to the kitchen.

Ministry & Personnel: Ministry & Personnel meet with Gus, Lorna & Wade regarding his vacation pay.

Financial Report: Hugh gave us a run-down of our deficit and so far our deficit is lower this year than it was last year. This is because of the drop in wages; since there are no salaries for office personnel, the church installed a shower, the camp was rebuilt and this year, there was a cold spell in the winter months which caused us to use more fuel.

Gus would like to know when our next audit is due.

Jim has talked with Rod.

Gus relayed to us that Paul O'HARA, a well known social worker who is well recognized by all 3 levels of government. He speaks out about the issues of homelessness, will be speaking with Presbytery on the 29th of April. Even Paul sees a great need for BSUC to remain open and that BSUC must have more than just one paid staff to run all the programs that our community desperately needs.

Short Lived Reforms: A) 3 people were let go in order to save on salaries. B) 1994-95 what needs to be stated is that Carolyn and congregation worked very hard to write up a constitution. Presbytery turned it down. Gus was under the impression that the issues regarding the administrator had been dealt with. That person however, still left under bad feelings. They said that they trained trustees and stuarts. Gus had asked Presbytery to help with conflict resolutions; but they did not do this! Gus noticed that we are more united now than ever before! Presbytery seems to be more interested with money than with helping people.

Scott said we need a business plan put together **ASAP!** He is more than willing to help with writing up the plan; he also acknowledges that Presbytery wants to run the church just to see what might happen. As Scott repeated "This is a Holy Place! It is extremely important for us to keep our church ALIVE!"

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Gus has had 2 calls from the media 1 being Street Feat. Scott asked if the person is a good writer. The second was Eastlink, they will air our tape over the Easter Holiday. Media Committee will be Scott, Sharon, Lisa and Susan.

Dineen asked if we can use that video at other functions to let people know what is going on?

Lorna suggested that we say what is in our hearts & mind. We need to say why we need our church to stay alive.

Beverly said that we need to stop dancing around and do something now! She read off a list of what our community would lose if our church was taken from us.

Lindley spoke that we are trying to do God's work and that the day will come when we will be sick and we will need someone to pray with and for us. He knows that the church needs money and he gives at each offering but he is also now saving up loose change in a small container and this will be given when the container is full. He suggested that we should all save up our loose change and bring it in every Sunday. He said that he knows that a miracle will happen.

Jim said that Rev. McCollen would never ask the congregation to give more; but Lindley and Wade suggested that we approach Presbytery to suggest that other churches collect their loose change to help us out. It was also stated that in past, that many threats have been made to close down BSUC. Yes we are in financial grief, but Presbytery is wrong; if they had have read their past notes, they would have seen they spent thousands of dollars in legal fees. (Ref: Mrs. Cruikshanks)

Carla has spoken with Scott & Gus at length regarding (?). Presbytery is proposing 20-30 minutes for council and 5 minutes for each person to speak on our behalf. The first speech must be regarding our "Business".

Jeff suggested that we serve a light lunch after services on Sunday; this might increase our congregation.

We need to raise \$100,000. In order to pay off our dept. People are being interviewed for the positions of fundraiser and assistant to the fundraiser. Scott has already started a great idea for a fundraiser. A small bowl with oatmeal in it they will be sold and the profit goes to BSUC.

Lorna stated that Presbytery very interested in any valuables that we still have. Lorna has spoken to men and they relayed to her that BSUC is there for them "Thank You for being here!" Presbytery has never offered any "SPECIAL SERVICES" ex: volunteering the help of financial advisors, accountants or bookkeepers. Let it be known that Presbytery does have all of the above mentioned at their beck and call!

Vergensie said that she is so very thankful that BSUC is there for her; which is why she is so very proud to be part of our group. She has seen the many difficulties that BSUC has overcome in the past and that is why she admires us so much. Although we might be a very small congregation, we fill very large orders! She too wants to help us in anyway she can!

Wade suggested that we introduce our fundraiser.

Scott brought up a very important point; that our congregation is not just those who attend the Sunday Services, but those who depend and need the services we provide on the week days as well!

Susan asked if Presbytery does not understand that we have a different level of needs in this community? That is why BSUC helps those in need!

Dianne suggested that we put into the bulletins of other churches that we are in urgent need of funds! Not only do we need assistance with funds, but also with the man-power to communicate with the administrators of Presbytery.

Emanuel has sent a letter stating why Presbytery should not shut us down.

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Motion to have our meeting with Presbytery for April 29th, 2003 at BSUC. Approved.

Dianne suggested that council write up letter stating why we need our church to stay open and it be signed by those in council.

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Information/Announcements

Adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m

Prayers

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Appendix

Signed: _____(Secretary) _____ (Chair)