

**Congregational Minutes of Seagrave United Church,  
September 25, 2023. 7:20 pm**

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Present: Tara Taylor, Brooke Acton, Linda Buscher, Betty Somerville, Wendy Hughes, Wyn Hughes, John Olivero (chair), Keith Puckrin, Rev. Stephanie Richmond, Rick McAskill, Darlene Hallett (recording)

Regrets: Carol Coleman, Don Beacock, Betty Lou Beacock

1. Our chair welcomed all and Darlene Hallett agreed to take minutes for this meeting.
2. Rev. Stephanie opened our meeting with prayer.
3. Items added to agenda: letter from Brooke Acton  
Takeout roast beef dinner Betty Somerville  
Church service ever Sunday at Seagrave.  
Church Identity
4. Motion #1 That the agenda for this meeting be accepted with the noted additions.  
Brooke Acton Linda Buscher Carried
5. Motion #2 That the minutes of the March 26, 2023 be accepted as written.  
Brooke Acton Keith Puckrin Carried
6. Motion #3 That the minutes of the June 6, 2023 be accepted as written.  
Brooke Acton Tara Taylor Carried
7. Business Arising:
  - i. Movie Night at the Barn - to be considered in 2024  
(Betty Somerville)
  - ii. First Aid, Mental Health, CPR - to be moved to spring 2024  
(Betty Somerville)
  - iii. Oktoberfest - needs more time to research (Linda Buscher)
  - iv. Pumpkin Decorating - to be held on Oct. 28 at 1:00  
(Rick McAskill)
  - v. Talent Auction - to be held Nov. 9, 2024 (Keith Puckrin)
8. Treasurer's Report: John Olivero presented treasurer's report (copy appended to minutes see page .)  
Motion #4 That the treasurer's report be accepted as presented.  
Brooke Acton Wyn Hughes Carried
9. M&P: All chairs reminded that the members of their committee and the date of their rotation on and off the committee and upcoming vacancies need to be given to M&P by Oct. 31, 2023 (Darlene Hallett) Questions asked, why was it not announced at Seagrave church about Rev Stephanie was leaving. It was felt that announcing it at Greenbank church and church newsletter was enough, but in chairman's welcoming mention Rev Stephanie was leaving and members stilled did not know until then.

10. Motion #5 That this report be accepted as presented. Brooke Acton Tara Taylor  
Carried
  
11. New Business:
  - i. Reduction of number of committees/reports: this has already been addressed at a previous meeting.
  - ii. Session talk about to have a church service Dec 24 and Dec 31 Sunday morning (copy appended to these minutes) Brooke Action motion that there should be a church service on Dec. 24, 2023 and Dec. 31, 2023 in morning. Wendy Hughes, carried 80%.
  - iii. John Olivero talked about M&P plans to change Seagrave Website and Facebook page (copy appended to these minutes) – Darlene Hallett suggested to tabled until M&P has presented their report - Carried by consensus
  - iv. Affirmative Action Plan - committee sending out info in advance of the congregational vote ( Tara Taylor)
  - v. Brooke Acton read his letter about closing Seagrave church and moving our congregation to Greenbank church. Brooke spoke to the reasons why he had written it (copy appended to these minutes). A heartfelt discussion followed and we are asked to think on the situation. [the cost saving in maintaining the church and up keep is to high and our books have been in the hole the last 3 years. Plus Greenbank is wheelchair accessible].
  - vi. There will be a take-out roast beef dinner on April 6, 2024 fundraiser.
  
12. Date of next meeting: At the call of the chair.
  
13. Meeting closed with prayer by Rev. Stephanie.
  
14. Motion #6 That the meeting adjourn at 8:45 Tara Taylor Carried

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Report

Seagrave United Church Budget and Interim Report January 1-September 12, 2023					
Receipts	Budget 2023	Budget 2022	2023	2022	2021
Benevolent Fund	200	200	0	0	0
Canvass	7,500	10,000	0	5,015	9,820
Catering Income	500	500	0	100	400
Concert Receipts	2,200	0	2,367	2,150	0
Donations	5,000	5,000	1,965	4,190	7,416
Envelope Givings	10,000	15,000	8,776	9,218	11,382
Food Bank Fund	0	0	0	15	420
HST Recovered	1500		0	1,941	0
Interest	2,000	2,000	0	1,924	1,475
Loose Collections	500	150	902	631	276
Memorial Donations Fund	1000	1000	75	1,015	0
Men's Group			730	90	
Miscellaneous/Vibe Income	0	0	0	0	0
Mission & Service	3,500	3,500	2,637	3,444	3,527
Out-To Lunch	500	500	649	0	0
Outreach Activities	500	500	0	300	0
PAR Receipts	7,200	7,200	4,995	7,325	9,160
Rental Income	500	500	350	200	0
Sound System Fund	500	0	133	6200	220
Sunday School	120	120	230	120	120
Talent Auction	8000		75	10,575	
Meal Event	2,000	5000	2,685	0	0
Yard Sale	10,000	10000	13,123	11,004	387
→ Total Income	<b>63,220</b>	<b>61,170</b>	<b>39,692</b>	<b>65,457</b>	<b>44,603</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>					
Accounting Fees	600	800	500	572	572
Advertising	160	160	0	0	0
Affirming Committee	1,000	1,000	0	45	108
Bank Charges	350	325	203	345	325
Benevolent Fund	3,000	3,000	156	200	1,250
Building Fund Exp	2,000	2,000	0	644	1,486
Catering Expenses	0		0	0	40
Computer & Internet Expense	2,000	1,200	1,209	2,003	1,030
Concert Expenses	0	0	0	500	0
Custodian	5,000	5,000	3,750	5,000	5,000
Equipment	1,000	5,000	0	0	6,480

	Budget 23	Budget 2022	2023	2022	2021
Sound System Equipment	100			3,871	
Food Bank Expenses	350	350	0	0	370
Honoraria	1,500	1,500	0	825	1,496
HST expense	0	0	0	0	0
Insurance	6,000	4,500	4,296	5,620	4,450
Janitor Service	2,000	1,000	755	1,549	375
Men's Group	0		500	1,000	500
Mission & Service	3,500	3,500	2,890	3,591	3,946
Office Expense	900	750	748	865	425
Office Stationery & Supplies	500	500	592	282	865
Organist	7,200	7,200	5,400	7,000	7,200
Out-To Lunch Expenses	200	0	92	156	0
Outreach Activities	500	500	33	70	662
Pastoral Charge Exp	40,700	28,254	27,133	30,149	28,254
Powerpoint Compensation	3,000		1,200	3,372	
Repairs & Maintenance	3,000	3,000	2,856	1,544	3,330
Session	250	500	0		
Sunday School	50	200	0	0	0
Talent Auction	400	0	0	239	0
Treasurer's Compensation	2,500	2,500	1,875	2,500	2500
Meal Event Expense	500	0	438	0	0
Enbridge Gas	3,500	2,400	2,895	3,142	2,312
Hydro	2,000	2,000	1,306	1,792	1,506
Telephone	875	850	663	865	810
Vibe/Misc Expense	300	300	0	0	315
Yard Sale Expense	2,000	2000	1,198	1,763	0
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 96,935</b>	<b>80,289</b>	<b>60,688</b>	<b>79,504</b>	<b>75,607</b>
Balance	\$ (33,715)	-19,119	-20,996	-14,047	-31,004
Bank Balance - end of period <i>Sept 12, 2023</i>			5,411	8,080	12,007

**Investments - Edward Jones**

GIC 1	\$25,000@4.92%	matures October 30, 2023
GIC 2	\$25,000 @5.11%	matures Nov 18, 2025
GIC 3	\$25,000 @5.05%	matures August 8, 2024
GIC 4	\$25,000@5.10%	matures Nov 18, 2024
Cash Account	<i>Manse \$5</i>	\$30,824.01 @.5 <i>saving</i>
GIC 5	\$77,386 @4.20	matures Feb 6, 2028
		130,824 + 77,386= 208,210

Memorial Fund	\$ 1,308.67			
Memorial Fund GIC	\$ 5,227.83			
Men's Group	1,259			

**Session report by John Olivero;**

Sunday morning service Dec 24 and Dec 31

Session voted not to have a Sunday morning service on Dec 24 Christmas Eve, because there will be two services in the evening. Sunday morning service would have been in Greenbank. Session received a letter requesting that there be a morning service Dec. 24, because that would mean that there would be only one Sunday service in Greenbank for the month of December and children, families will miss singing and coral Christmas morning. Through email talking about this letter 2 members changed their vote and for real good reason. Session would like to ask congregations of both churches whether to have a Sunday morning service or not on December 24?

Session did not ask of this but December 31 is New Year Eve on it is a Sunday service in Seagrave. What is the consensus of the congregation to have a service this Sunday or not? I will bring your thoughts up at our next Session meeting later in October.

**Website Report; John Olivero**

About two years ago Rev. Stephanie and I where talking about a suggestions was made to have one website that both churches and public use to access common information and from then branch off to the present church websites minus the information already shared. Greenback and Seagrave would still manage the page.

At the last Official Unified Board meeting it was voted to give control over the websites of Greenbank and Seagrave to M&P. I meet with Doug Watson and there is a different opinion on how to manage the two churches websites that the two churches sites to made into one so information is up to date. A better design and manage content to maintain, relevant website to Pastor Charge. This would be a paid potion, honorarium.

So basically there will be one person running everything on the website and each church supplying information to the new webmaster.

The good news is that M&P has to do a report and present it at the next Unified Board meeting. On pay structure, Website appearance, how to supply information and who to manage the website.

It is my opinion that when we go back to having church service every Sunday there will be very little in common between the two sites or our Facebook page.

I would recommend strongly not to move forward in amalgamating our site with Greenbank or Pastoral charge at all.

**Letter from Brooke Acton;**

Folks: Since Covid our numbers and attendance have declined and this affects our ability to populate committees as well as our financial situation, which, in spite of our many fundraising activities still necessitates drawing money from our dwindling savings.

I, as Chair of Stewards may be alone in this thought, however I would suggest a business decision be entertained to merge Seagrave with Greenbank'

Greenbank already has a lift, adequate parking and an identifiable septic system ( which we don't have ). The combined congregation would have increased savings. A larger pool to draw from for volunteers and committees as well as decreased expenses from not operating in two locations.

I know this will not be popular with some because of the emotional attachment you feel to "your" church but it may be time for some forward thinking.