

## SEAGRAVE UNITED CHURCH ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Via ZOOM Tuesday, February 22, 2022

The Seagrave United Church Annual Congregational meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 22, 2022 with the following people present: Rev. Stephanie Richmond, Richard Charron, Dale Goddard, Wendy Hudgins, Darlene Hallett, Rick McAskill and Barb Martyn, Ken and Eleanor Sturman, Brooke Acton, John Olivero, Barb and Brad St. Clair, Carol Coleman, Tara Bailey-Taylor, Betty Lou & Don Beacock, Wyn Hughes and Katie O'Hara.

There was a quorum and since all present were members of Seagrave Church the usual motion to give voting privileges to all who were adherents was not necessary.

Rev. Stephanie opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes from the February 24, 2021 Congregational Meeting were approved on motion by John Olivero and seconded by Brooke Action. Carried

Carol Coleman, our Treasurer went over her Financial Report with us. As a side point Carol thanked us for the flowers she received after her car accident, from our congregation.

### Minister's Report:

As we make our way through 2022 with some COVID restrictions lifting, I look forward to the new and exciting opportunities that awaits us all. Sadly, during the first two months of this year we have had to say goodbye to three members of the Greenbank community of faith, MaryJean Till, Helen Hadden and Murray Stone, may our thoughts and prayers continue to uphold the families of these beloved as they grieve their loss.

Luckily we were able to return to in-person services on Feb. 6 when the government deemed it safe to do so. I thank everyone for your continued patience and understanding as we do our best to maintain a safe and welcoming environment for worship. Our live-streaming services are going well with an average around 100 views per service.

I want to extend a special thank you to Tara Taylor for her dedication and leadership in this endeavour. She is producing the beautiful PowerPoint production slides and she has learned and operated the live-streaming system so well. Those uncomfortable or unable to attend services in person can attend online and still feel connected to our community of faith. Thank you to those who have helped her with the services and to those who have expressed an interest in learning how to operate the system.

I have taken this week as a week of Study leave to prepare for Lent and Easter.

I have also booked a week of holidays for the week of March the 7-14. Rev. Janet Stobie will lead worship on both these Sunday's.

Plan on offering a short Ash Wednesday service on March 2 over zoom at 7:00pm that will start us on our Lenten journey. Our Unified Board meeting will begin at 7:30 on the same link.

I continue to host the Lectionary Bible study on Monday Mornings, where we look at the Readings for the following Sundays. Currently we have 3-4 people attending on zoom. On weeks that I am on study leave and Holidays these meetings are suspended.

I will be hosting a Lenten Study beginning Thursday March 3 at 7:30 over Zoom. We will be focusing on the book by Joyce Rupp, titled "The Cup of our Life, A spiritual guide for growth."

I continue to be an active member on the board of North House and I look forward to the Coldest Night of the Year Walk this coming Saturday.

I continue to reach out by phone text and email to our church family members and I thank all of you who are checking in with each other staying connected lifting each other up during these times.

It has taken a lot of commitment and time for all of you to keep our church going over this past year and I thank all of you for your ongoing commitment.

I am grateful to those who have read scripture, offers special music, loaned their sound system for outdoor services, volunteered their time garage and equipment for the Santa Clause parade, and all of you who continue to pray and think of each other. Thank you and may God continue to bless each and everyone.

With sincerity, love and hope thanks be to God.

Amen Rev. Stephanie

Congregational Report from Brooke Acton:

**Seagrave United Church: Nominating Committee 2021**

**Session**-Barb Martyn, (chair), Chris Acton (secretary), Carol Coleman, Dale Goddard, David Hooker, John Olivero, Tara Taylor, Wendy Hudgins, Diane Puckrin, (Communion Seward).

**Stewards**-Brooke Acton, Rick McAskill (Vice Chair and acting chair), Carol Coleman (Treasurer), Keith Puckrin, Richard Charron, John Debono, Katie O'Hara, Terry Taylor, Chris Hochoer, Bill Richmond.

**Secretary**-(TBD)

**Board of Trustees**-Roger Bullock, Barb Martyn, Terry Taylor.

**Ministry and Personnel**-Richard Charron, Donna Kent, Wynne Hughes.

**Affirming Committee**-Tara Taylor, Betty Lou Beacock, Carol Coleman, Ken Nix, John Olivero, Rick McAskill.

**East Central Regional Committee Rep.**- Darlene Hallett.

**5 Churches Rep.**-Tara Taylor.

**Organist/Choir Director**-Joan Lee

**Benevolent Fund**-Betty Lou Beacock, Betty Sommerville, Carol Coleman.

**Envelope Stewards**-Carol Coleman, Doris Bullock.

**Memorial Fund**-Don Beacock, Elizabeth Redshaw

**Nominating Committee**- Brooke Acton.

**Church Treasurer**-Carol Coleman.

**Treasurer Books Reviewer**-Jean Short.

**Minute for Mission Report**-Tara Taylor.

**Pulpit Supply/Anniversary Committee**-Barb Martyn.

**Congregational Chairperson**-Rick McAskill, Richard Charron ( Asst.)

**Turkey Supper Committee**-Keith Puckrin, Diane Puckrin, Betty Sommerville, Len Sommerville, John Debono, Donna Kent, Eleanor Sturman, Katie O'Hara.

**Sunday School**-No regular teacher, perhaps someone would volunteer periodically when there are children.

**Church Bookings**-Rick McAskill.

**Outreach Committee**-John Olivero (Chair), Tara Taylor, Wendy Hughes, Doris Bullock, Roger Bullock, Jean Short.

**Greeter Schedule**-Roger Bullock.

**Seagrave News Contact**-Barb Martyn.

**Seagrave Newsletter/Eblast Outreach**-Richard Charron.

**Vibe**-Vacant

**Service PowerPoint Presentation**-Terry and Tara Taylor, Dale Goddard, Richard Charron.

**Hospitality Committee**-Eleanor Sturman, Donna Kent, Wendy Hughes.

**Website Administrator**-John Olivero.

**Sign Board Display**-Rick McAskill.

**Church Phone Inquiries**-Rick McAskill.

**Nominating Committee** Changes to Report for 2022:

**Session**-Leaving: Christine Acton, Carol Coleman, Tara Taylor, Diane Puckrin.

New to Committee-Barb Martyn stepping down as chair, Darlene Hallett.

**Stewards**-Brooke Acton stepping down as chair, Chris Hochoer ,Richard Charron.

**Nominating Committee**-Leaving: Brooke Acton.

New to Committee-Len Sommerville, Wynn Hughes

**Ministry and Personnel**-Leaving: Wynn Hughes

New to Committee: Don Beacock.

**Outreach**-Leaving: Roger Bullock, Doris Bullock.

**Chair of Seagrave Pastoral Charge**-Stepping down: Rick McAskill.

New Chair: John Olivero.

Brooke also reported that the proposal re accessibility/lift & addition for the Seagrave Church is not possible after talking to the health department and the need for changes to our septic system if we were to go ahead with the proposed lift/addition.

Respectfully submitted : Brooke Acton

Session Report given by Dale Goddard Clerk of Session

Seagrave Session had a meeting on Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>.

- Reverend Stephanie managed the election of the Clerk of Session. John Olivero and I were nominated. I was voted in as the Clerk.
- There were no volunteers or nominations for secretary at this time.
- Diane Puckrin, Carol Coleman, Chris Acton and Tara Bailey-Taylor have stepped down. I would like to thank them for their many years of dedicated service as Elders.

- Darlene Hallett is joining Session as new member. Welcome Darlene!
  - We discussed the Governance document and provided feedback to the Official Board.
- The next joint Seagrave-Greenbank Session meeting is scheduled for March 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm.

### Joint Seagrave and Greenbank Group Outreach

We met by ZOOM throughout the year and sent out Valentines in February to congregants, as well as Mother's day in May and Father's day in June.

It was brought to our group's attention that Greenbank Christmas parade not only grew to a much larger event, it will also be a traditional parade (that moves) and many of the people who assisted with all facets of the DRIVE THRU live nativity project were already committed to that event. The group met and determined through prayer and discussion that it was best to cancel the drive thru event and redirect our efforts to preparing a float in the Greenbank parade. We had an amazing time to come together to build and create a float within days of the parade. Special thanks to Doug Watson for quickness in contacting the convener of the parade, who permitted us a "late entry".

We look forward to continuing to partner with Greenbank to reach out and celebrate with our congregation and community.

Tara Bailey-Taylor

### Church Re-opening Report

As of March 1st there will be updated rules and regulations for COVID protection protocols. It is important that the church clearly define what the new restrictions are in order for everyone to understand. Mask wearing is still deemed essential.

The reopening committee will meet to discuss how to keep congregants up to date of the latest policies and procedures.

Tara Bailey-Taylor

### Technology Report for Seagrave

Our joint Technology committee met throughout the year virtually with a dream of being able to Live Stream our services from Seagrave and Greenbank. Deborah Watson from Greenbank was able to get in touch with John Beddell from Niagara on Line Worship, who provided quotes for Live Streaming Equipment and installation. Greenbank has a slight advantage as they already have a sound board in place. It was determined that should we decide to move forward, both churches would be participating and sharing the costs as well as working collaboratively to fundraise.

In order for us to be able to Live Stream, we needed to install WIFI at the Seagrave church. Quotes were received from companies who service the area, and Rural Wave (out of Little Britain) was able to provide what we needed at the most reasonable price. Wonderful to be able to support and have support from a local company.

Sound is the biggest complaint, issue, concern at our church. Seagrave has been investigating options for delivering better sound by purchasing additional equipment (sound board and microphones). We have received 4 quotes with varying components to assist with our sound. Quotes will be sent to the Stewards for consideration end of February.

We continue to alternate Live Streaming of services every other Sunday with Greenbank and I will continue to prepare the PowerPoint for our services.

A DRAFT detailed step by step manual for operating the Live Stream and PowerPoint systems has been created. It is important to note that this is a document in progress. We will continue to update this manual as we learn best practices through trial and error.

Thank you to Jonathan, Bill, Wendy and Terry for assisting with the delivery of the PowerPoint and Live Streaming. We will be holding training sessions for anyone who would like to learn and volunteer in the coming weeks.

Fundraising has already begun to assist with recouping the total monies spent at both churches. The first fundraising event was an in person and virtual Christmas Music Celebration with a guest organist; Garden Tour is being planned for June 18th.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Bailey-Taylor  
Seagrave Tech Team Point Person

### **Seagrave 2021 Affirming Report**

The Seagrave United Church Affirming Committee met via ZOOM a few times throughout 2021. Reverend Stephanie Richmond shared the book "True Inclusion" for each of us to read and make notes and comments on for discussion.

Reverend Allen Boyd hosted a virtual discussion group regarding Affirming. "Why I endorse Affirm United" and "What is the Attitude of Those who don't Share the Same Feelings to be Affirming", were two of the main topics in the presentation. Our committee discussed the presentation openly and shared our thoughts and findings. I definitely learned some key elements to help our church create a fully inclusive environment.

Our updated Marriage Policy as well as Affirming Mission Statement have been prepared. Both are ready to be re-presented at an in-person congregational meeting (versus a virtual meeting) as we anticipate greater opportunity for discussion and information sharing in person. July 1st Canada Day, we partnered with Greenbank's Affirming Committee for a TEA LIGHT Candle Vigil at Greenbank, to honour the children whose lives were lost at Canadian Residential schools. It was a very emotional ceremony.

We had to postpone our meetings with groups and committees within the congregation to ask the three questions put forth by Affirming United for all congregations becoming affirming;

1. What do you know about Affirming ministries?
2. What questions do you have about Affirming ministries?

### 3. What fears or concerns do you have about our ministry becoming Affirming?

In October we held a ZOOM meeting for information purposes to discuss what affirming means with congregation members; an opportunity for everyone to ask questions, share their concerns, thoughts, fears and understanding. A small group participated in the discussion.

Presently, we are drafting a letter to send to the congregation that may help bring more clarity and eliminate some concerns of the importance of becoming an Affirming Ministry.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Affirming Committee,

Tara Bailey-Taylor

#### **NEW BUSINESS – Rick McAskill**

- FOOD BANK – went well this year and hopefully we can keep up the good work. Certainly it raised our profile as a church that cares for others.
- YARD SALE date for this year has been set for May 27 and 28, 2022
- UNIFIED BOARD STRUCTURE we went over the sheets we printed previous to the meeting. We are asked to bring our questions about the governance of this board to our meeting on Mar. 2, 2022 for discussion. Questions can be forwarded to Terry Taylor.
- NEXT MEETING to be Thurs., May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
- ELECTION OF NEW CHAIRPERSON: John Olivero put his name forward. His name was ready by Rev Stephanie 3 times and hearing no other person interested, John Olivero was made our new Congregational Chairman.
- Motion made by Tara Bailey-Taylor and seconded by John Olivero that All changes to the Nominations Committees (page 2)of the report be accepted. Carried
- Motion by Betty Lou Beacock and seconded by Tara Bailey-Taylor that all Annual Reports be accepted. Carried
- Rick McAskill thanked everyone for their dedication and hard work on all Seagrave Committees and special thanks to all those stepping down at this time.

Rev. Stephanie closed the meeting with prayer.

Acting Secretary, Betty Lou Beacock  
Feb. 23, 2022