

Red Deer Lake United Church

Congregational Meeting on October 17, 2021

Held at Red Deer Lake United Church (RDLUC)

Meeting Start Time: 11:45am

Quorum met: yes

Agenda:

- Voting privileges
- Voting Procedures
- Gratitude & Celebrations
- Elections
- Financial Update
- Covid Protocols
- Congregational Care
- Worship Plans
- What do the next few months look like
- Call to Action
- Q&A

Approval of the Agenda

MOTION 2021-1 by Jocelyn Churchill

- It is moved and seconded that the agenda be approved.

Vote results: Carried

Voting Privileges

MOTION 2021-2 by Andy Porter

- It is moved and seconded that all members of our RDLUC community, in-person and online, be granted voting privileges for this meeting.

Vote results: Carried

Gratitude & Celebrations

- Morris Basket reviewed and discussed all work that has been ongoing within the RDLUC since the covid pandemic began and thanked the volunteers, staff and board members.

Election of Church Board Chair

- Floor was open to nominations for Chair of the Board
 - Rob Howard put his name forward

MOTION 2021-3 by Phil Jackson

- It is moved and seconded to accept Rob Howard as Chair of the Board.

Vote results: Carried

Election of Church Board Members

- Morris Basket put forward the names of Al Pollock, Doug Den Hoed and Matthew Berry to be members of the Board

MOTION 2021-4 by Irene Carter

- It is moved and seconded to accept Al Pollock, Doug Den Hoed and Matthew Berry as members of the Board.

Vote results: Carried

Election of Board Trustee

- Morris Basket put forward the name of Ravi Abraham to be a Board Trustee

MOTION 2021-5 by Gary Mikina

It is moved and seconded to accept Ravi Abraham as Trustee of the Board.

Vote results: Carried

Financial Report 2021

- Mike Jackson, Treasurer of the Board presented the Financial Report for 2021
- See Appendix A

Congregational Care 2021

- Anne Welsh-Baskett spoke of the necessary ongoing work that the congregational care team has continued to do throughout the pandemic
 - the number of care packages that are created and distributed to the elderly, the sick and those in need
 - The phone calls made and conversations with the bereaved, the depressed, the downfallen
 - Healing and qigong
 - See Appendix B

Covid Protocols

- Bonita Felton, former Board Chair, now member of the Board, briefly addressed the reason why the Board decided to make proof of double vaccinations mandatory for all church events at this time. This situation will be monitored as time progresses

Worship Plans

- Irene Carter and Ralph Carter both discussed the benefits of zoom and online functions
 - To give people the capability to still attend Sunday services online without having to physically attend church; a benefit for those who are unable to attend or are uncomfortable about attending due to covid
 - The ongoing opportunities to attend church functions and socialize online, through Faith & Coffee, Sister Friends and other events
 - To still feel connected to God and worship by initiating online services for all members and non-members of RDLUC
- Michelle Den Hoed discussed potential opportunities to partner with other churches within Calgary for the purpose of sharing music and musicians for in-person services

The next 4-5 months

- Rev Nicholas Coates talked about the next several months and what those might look like for the Church
 - We are maintaining our online services for all church events and functions as much as possible

- Navigating through this pandemic day-by day
- We are researching new justice programs, events and opportunities that will encourage growth and evolve an ever changing culture during these difficult times
- Do we know exactly what that looks like today? No, but we will experiment with new ideas and thoughts to create or implement new plans
- We ask for your help and assistance to help us make these wonderful things happen. He specifically requested volunteers for the following:
 - Counters (Sunday offerings)
 - AV Team
 - Greeters
 - Show up where and when you can
 - Dream with us

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Adjournment of meeting

- The Meeting had to be adjourned as time ran out. Morris Basket requested that all those with questions submit to the staff, Nick or the Board
- Meeting adjourned

Motion 2021-6: by Michelle Den Hoed

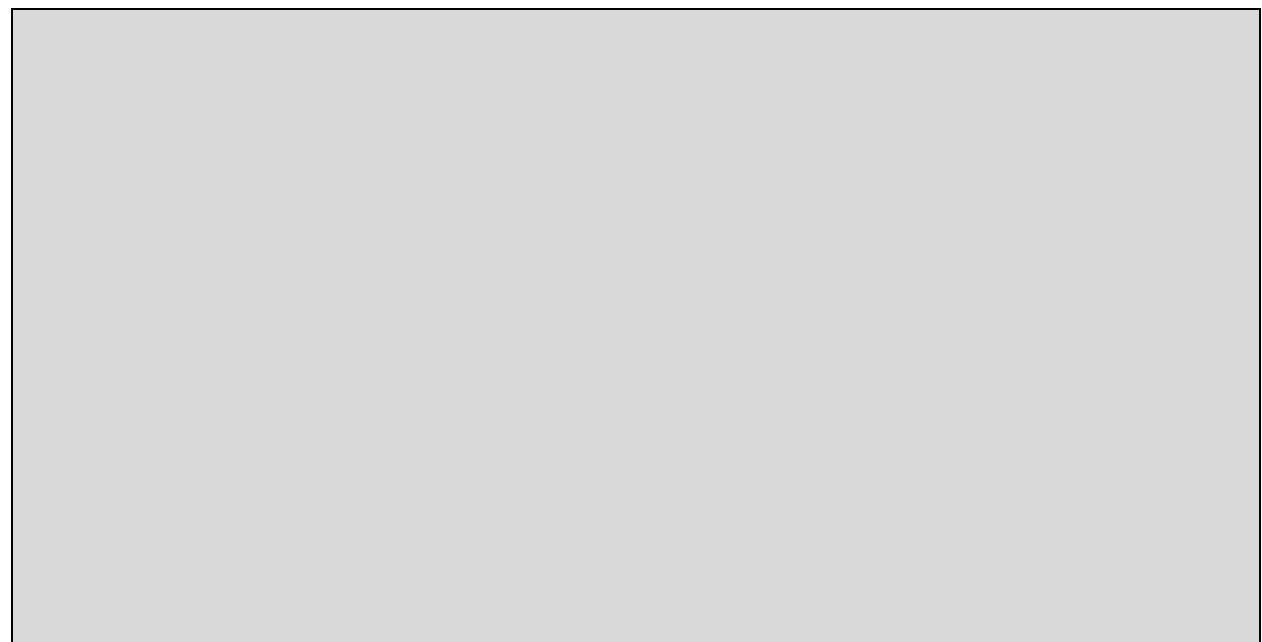
- It is moved and seconded to close the meeting.

Vote results: Carried

Meeting end time: 1:00pm

Morris Basket, Congregational Chair

Angie Johnston, Congregational Secretary



Appendix A:

FINANCE REPORT FOR OCTOBER 17, 2021 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

2021 Budget and Forecast

In April the Board approved a 2021 budget that contains a deficit of \$103 (all \$ are thousands). Material variations to the budget are currently expected to be:

- For budget purposes, an assumption was made that the building would reopen Oct.1st with activities resuming at pre-pandemic levels. The Delta variant casts a shadow on the activity:
 - The number of Sunday services & attendance is uncertain
 - The turkey supper has been deferred (\$12 in budget)
 - The budget assumed one OTE concert, whereas two are currently scheduled (vaccine passports required, attendance tbd)
- A kindergarten is renting a portion of the building July 15, 2021 to August 31, 2022. The fee is \$2 per month, which equates to \$25 over the rental period (\$11 in 2021, which was not in the budget).
- The Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy program was scheduled to conclude June 30th but was extended to October. The budget contains \$50 for CEWS, whereas \$68 has been received to Sept.30th with an additional \$3 expected.
- We received a \$5 Province of Alberta Faith-Based and Cultural Relaunch Grant that was not in the budget
- Property expenses are \$16 below budget. Good cost control throughout the year is partially offset by unexpected vandalism & theft costing \$3. Lower 2021 expenses will rebound with higher energy prices this winter and repair of the elevator which has been postponed from 2021 to early 2022.
- Salary & contractor expense is \$20 below budget through prudent management of hours worked and headcount. The headcount involves not hiring a bookkeeper until April and the departure of the Director of Music, both of which were in the budget for a full year.
- Program expenses are lower than expected because of activity level (e.g. hospitality) and expenses being offset by drawing on the government grant.

We are currently forecasting a 2021 deficit in the vicinity of \$45. The cash burn will be approximately \$72, which includes the operating loss plus a drawdown of the seniors' support grant. This could vary substantially depending on donations during Oct-Dec.

September 30th Snapshot

RDLUC has done great work supporting seniors and others during the pandemic. Two government grants aggregating \$40 funded these programs. The grant money will be fully used by March 31, 2022 and no further grants are on the horizon.

Monthly electronic donations via PAR/Breeze/Moonclerk have been steady: \$126 Jan-Sept 2021 versus \$123 Jan-Sept 2019 (i.e. pre-pandemic). Non-PAR donations, such as plate givings, have fallen off a cliff: \$15 Jan-Sept 2021 versus \$67 Jan-Sept 2019. It is disappointing that people who regularly donate via passing the plate during Sunday services have not switched to PAR or periodic on-line, but it may also indicate potential for catch-up donations during Oct-Dec.

The September cash position is: \$90 unrestricted plus \$170 restricted. This is a cash burn of \$62 year to date.

Outlook

We have financially survived the pandemic (surely the Delta variant is the end of the tunnel; fingers crossed) by having a strong cash position at the beginning thanks to a couple large planned gifts, government subsidies/grants, committed monthly donations (e.g. PAR), a positive response to the Nov/Dec 2020 ask for donations, and good expense control. We are at a point where government pandemic funds are ending and the building is reopening, which is an important transitional phase for church finances.

RDLUC had questions around financial sustainability before the pandemic, and post-pandemic these remain along with some twists. These include:

- What does the faith community look like post-pandemic? Will pre-pandemic members remain active? Will new members who joined the community virtually during the pandemic become active with live and/or virtual participation?
- When activities and finances stabilize, how do we fund strategic growth opportunities such as social justice?
- Members of RDLUC probably appreciate all the good work the church does. We need to do a better job explaining the financial model and encouraging support within peoples' capabilities. This involves:
 - Switching to PAR/Breeze scheduled donations so we can get off the roller coaster of plate givings and year-end asks/campaigns.
 - Provide more awareness and assistance for estate planned gifts
 - Facilitate different ways to give, such as tap, marketable securities, old vehicles etc.
- More rental of the building. Completion of the SW leg of Stoney Trail should make our location more accessible.

Mike Jackson
Treasurer

Appendix B:

CONGREGATIONAL CARE UPDATE FOR OCTOBER 17, 2021 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Vi Sharpe asked me to speak about Congregation Care today. We have had a Congregational Care Program at RDLUC for quite some time but with the pandemic, it has been enhanced and expanded to meet the complex needs of the congregation. I am honored to share with you the wonderful work that has been happening during Covid 19. Probably everyone knows a little bit about Congregational Care and the work that is being done but few are aware of the entirety of this marvelous service.

The program that has been the heart of keeping people engaged at RDLUC since the pandemic began.

The Congregational Care Team has provided care, support, love and compassion for all of those in need of **some extra love and support in their lives**. These services extend beyond RDLUC and into the community. There are currently 13 TEAMS within Congregational Care. Several people serve on more than one team. There are 60 volunteers who currently serve or have served in some capacity on these teams during this time of the pandemic.

The value of this beautiful program is that it is designed to provide support to those in need. But it also has provided an enormous opportunity for those doing the giving to find fulfillment, self worth and a sense of belonging in themselves.

The TEAMS include:

PRAYER SHAWL and QUILT TEAM - headed up by Joyce Conley

PRAYER TEAM - headed up by Fran Porter

CARING HUGS BAGS - which are prayerful creations by Doreen McKinnon for those who need support.

CHEMO CARE BAGS - which are bags of valuable items for people going through chemo. This ministry was founded by Norma Cannon.

COMPASSIONATE CARE VISITATION TEAM and SENIORS CARE TEAM - headed up by Vi. There are several people on this team who keep in regular contact with our seniors and those in need of extra support, including those who have been bereaved. This is making a significant difference in people's lives.

WILMA CLARK - has provided a great deal of support and pastoral care in Vi's absence.

QIGONG Classes - were provided by Darlene Abraham when the weather was good enough to be outside.

HEALING MINISTRY TEAM - I coordinate this team of 14 Healing Touch/Healing/Pathway practitioners. While we have not been able to provide in person treatments to people, we have **recreated** ourselves during the pandemic. Each Monday morning since March of 2020 we each, in our own homes, offer prayers, meditation and distance healing to those who have requested it. Often over 100 each week, which demonstrates the suffering that people have been enduring throughout the pandemic.

MONTHLY CARE PACKAGES are also new - each month a package is delivered to those who are feeling shut-in and isolated during the pandemic. The packages are nothing short of amazing. There are 70-80 packages that go out each month and have served over 100 people. People look forward to the surprises inside. They are created by dedicated people from our congregation who donate to them, assemble them, deliver them and make food to send along with them. Artistic creations are often donated. The package also includes a small piece of art, painted by Larry Stilwell. In every package is the CHURCH@HOME magazine which is filled with sermons from Rev. Nick and contributions from staff and numerous congregants. There are poems, prayers, pictures, stories and even some humor. If you have not seen one, you can get it online with the news from the church. They are well worth reading, often more than once, I'm told.

CARING CARDS TEAM - Eileen Tillet, Ann Brown and Vi Sharpe send cards of both joy and sorrow to those who are pleased and those who are suffering. Some of the cards are made by volunteers, most are designed and printed by Katherine Matiko in the church office. Over 1500 caring cards have been sent since the beginning of the pandemic.

HOSPITALITY TEAM - Never enough can be said for the hospitality team headed up by Marj Den Hoed for all of the wonderful food and hospitality prior to and during the pandemic. She has a team that has been cooking for those who receive monthly food as part of the care packages. On average since the beginning of the pandemic, they have created 60 three course meals per month, which are frozen and then distributed.

PERSONAL PRAYERS FOLLOWING IN PERSON CHURCH SERVICES are offered from the PRAYER and BLESSING TEAM - Ann Brown and Vi Sharpe have created a welcoming and safe space in the chapel to offer prayers following services, if someone wishes to receive one.

For many of us, participating on the Congregational Care teams has provided the anchor which has held us steady during this very challenging time. For me, I am humbled and often enlightened as I am welcomed into the lives of so many people.

If you are interested in getting involved in any way, please do contact Vi Sharpe. There is always room for more. Everyone's gift of themselves is a gift to others. Every little bit helps. As a congregation we can continue to reach out and care for all others as we experience our new reality.

Going forward, we hope to be having more in person services and that they will become the norm. Even as that happens, we will continue to create a warm and welcoming environment for those who are being buoyed up by the packages, especially when they are not able to make it to the services. **The packages developed each month involve heart, time, energy and money. Providing the heart, time and energy comes from within; but the money needs to be found.** We are looking for funding for the future. **If you know of any avenues for funding please contact Vi.**

I would like to extend a **BIG thank you to Vi and to ALL** of those who contribute in **all of the ways that you do.**

Thank you
Anne Welsh-Baskett