

OWEN SOUND FUTURE DIRECTIONS COMMITTEE
February 16, 2011

Welcome: Co-chair, Jack Stock, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Present: Kara McCluskie, Alvin Stewart, Jim Henderson, Helen Laughlen, Ross Church, Don Knight, Laurel Dinsmore, Lynn Kiddle, Isabel O'Leary, Bill Van Wyck, Ralph Schmidt, Marg Krauter, Terry King, Ron Savage, Shelley Phillips, Eugenia Rawn, Toni Van Zetten, Jeanette Rankin, Ted Stevens, Cathy Hird, Jack Stock, Judy Chalmers (recorder)

Jack introduced Marg Krauter who has been appointed to the Committee as Presbytery contact.

Agenda was accepted as circulated.

Minutes: Moved by Ted Stevens, seconded by Bill Van Wyck that the minutes of January 26, 2011 be accepted as printed. Carried

How are things going?

- Jack congratulated the congregations for being so friendly and welcoming to each other at joint services and events.
- Isabel O'Leary presented the example of 4 congregations in Langley, B.C. that were working through amalgamation. A study by Simon Fraser University indicated that the population of the area could only support 1 United Church. Further information can be found at the following websites:
<http://jubileeunitedlangley.ca/langley-futures-initiative/>
<http://www.langleyadvance.com/news/Churches+vote+unite/3727572/story.html>
http://www.bclocalnews.com/surrey_area/langleytimes/news/105822043.html
<http://www.bc.united-church.ca/fraser/minutes/FRAREPORT.pdf>

Central Westside – Results of Congregational Meeting:

At a Congregational Meeting on February 6, 2011, a motion was passed stating that the congregation of Central Westside United Church wished to participate with Division Street and Knox United Churches in depth, meaningful discussions with everything on the table including program, property and personnel.

The Committee applauded the possibility of 3 congregations coming together. Representatives from Central Westside will be named to the Property/Bricks & Mortar Committee and to the other joint committee meetings. Isabel and Lynn Kiddle will take the request for representatives back to their Board.

Committee Reports:

Vision & Mission – 2 further Focus Groups have been held since the last Committee meeting, one at the Knox AGM and one at a meeting of ladies from the 4 Owen Sound

United Churches. Feedback from the first 2 Focus Groups has been compiled and was distributed. A Focus Group is planned for the joint choirs on March 3. Themes are beginning to emerge: the need to attract young people, more variety in church services and facility accessibility.

Joint & Cooperative Church Services – members of the Program & Worship Committees from Division St and Knox met to plan services for Easter and the summer:

- Wednesday, March 9 – Ash Wednesday service at Knox
- April 21 - Maundy Thursday service beginning at Knox and moving to Division St
- April 22 – Good Friday service – 10:30am at Division St
- April 23 – Confirmation service – Division St
- April 24 – Sunday Sunrise service – 8:30am at Knox followed by breakfast

With Central Westside now as active participants in the planning, the summer services may involve the 3 churches and the schedule will be revised.

It is important to schedule a joint service at Central Westside this spring. Central Westside is invited to send representation to the joint Worship Committee meeting on April 27, 2011, 1 pm at Division St.

There has been some confusion when the Sunday service is moved to the other church. A phone out system to members of the congregation not worshipping in their home church was suggested. Toni Van Zetten will develop a script for phoners to follow; the church secretaries will prepare phone lists; volunteers will be recruited to phone.

The joint service is always the first Sunday of the month. Dates will be posted on the participating churches' websites.

UCW/Women's Groups: Women from the 4 United Churches in Owen Sound met for lunch and conversation at Division St on February 14. All were invited to another joint meeting at Knox United on June 13, 2011.

Joint Church Committees: Ministry & Personnel committees from Division St and Knox are meeting together on February 23. Central Westside was invited to send representation.

The Trustees from Knox, Division St and Central Westside are setting a date for a joint meeting.

Property: The committee has held 2 meetings,

They now have a third building to consider with Central Westside becoming an active participant in the discussions.

A major contractor has been through both Division St and Knox looking at the buildings from the perspectives of continued use as a church, re-purposing of the building and no future use for the building.

Members of Knox feel strongly that their organ needs to stay with them.

A key issue in the assessments is accessibility.

The possibility of a new multi-functional building is still very real, but an interim step will be required with probable re-location to one of the existing buildings.

Youth & Children: Some families with young children who do not get to church regularly on Sunday mornings are not aware of what is happening with the Future Directions discussions.

Kara McCluskie has sent emails to these families directing them to the Division St website and the minutes of the meetings,

A bowling and potluck party is planned for young families from Knox, Division St and Central Westside for March 20 at 4 pm.

An Earth Hour event for youth will be held March 26, 7 pm to 10 pm at Central Westside.

Everyone is invited to Knox's service at Harrison Park on Sunday, February 27. The service will be followed by lunch then games and outdoor activities.

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 2, 2011 – 7 pm – Central Westside United Church

Opening meditation will be led by Rev Ralph Schmidt

Closing meditation will be led by Helen Laughlen.

Toni Van Zetten closed this meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.