

OWEN SOUND FUTURE DIRECTIONS COMMITTEE

January 26th, 2011

Welcome: Acting Chair Judy Chalmers, until Ron Savage arrived, welcomed everyone.

Present: Kara McCluskie, Helen Laughlen, Toni Van Zetten, Ted Stevens, Ralph Schmidt, Bill Van Wyck, Kerry Lee, Shelley Phillips, Jim Henderson, Jeanette Rankin, Judy Chalmers, Styn Furness, Kelly Lougheed, Ron Savage, Cathy Hird. Guests from First United, Kristal McGee, Don Knight, Laurel Dinsmore and from Central Westside, Isabel O'Leary and Bonnie Stethem were present.

Meditation:

Bill Van Wyck read a paragraph on handling difficult situations. "Come to me with your heavy burden".

Minutes:

Motion by Helen Laughlen to approve the minutes of the Jan 5th meeting. Seconded by Ted Stevens. Carried.

Committee Reports:

Vision and Mission:

Judy Chalmers and Cathy Hird used a chart board to write 3 questions.

1. What are your hopes and dreams for your church?
2. What are your hopes and dreams for you community?
3. What do you need from your church to nurture your spirit?

The responses will be typed up and available for further comment at the next meeting.

Joint & co-operative church services

Joint services update was given by Toni and Ralph.

1. Feb 6th a joint service at Knox followed by lunch and their annual meeting.
2. March 6th at Division Street with Ralph preaching
3. April 3rd at Knox with Cathy preaching
4. Easter Sunrise will be a joint service.
5. Good Friday at Division Street

UCW

Helen Laughlen invited the ladies from Knox, Central Westside and First United to a Valentine Luncheon on Mon Feb. 14th. Judy and Cathy will lead a brief visioning time.

Joint Church Committee Update

1. M & P to meet Feb 9th and discuss staff concerns.
2. Knox Trustees to invite Division St to their next meeting coming up.
3. Birthday Bash—Kara stated that a successful evening was had with over 80 people in attendance. Thanked everyone who donated a cake.

4. Annual meeting report by Ron Savage and Helen Laughlen has been prepared and will be presented at the annual meeting of Knox on Feb 6th and at Division Street on February 20th congregational financial meeting. Judy and Helen volunteered to write up highlights of today's meeting to be inserted in the church bulletins of Knox and Division Street.
5. Property has a sub-committee of Terry King, Ted Stevens, Bill Van Wyck and Milt Bye and they have met several times. There are many aspects of the brick and mortar that needs to be looked into such as assessing the buildings, inventory of what items can be used, what items to dispose of, the cost of moving and the cost of restructuring.
6. Presbytery communications: Judy and Styn to write a letter to chair of NW Presbytery, Rev. Brian Goodings requesting a representative to come to our meetings. Bill Van Wyck suggested that a mediator has a job description and play a defined role in our talks.
7. Central Westside : Bonnie Stethem from Central Westside stated that they will have a definite answer after their Annual Meeting on February 6th. She also stated that it is important to have a mediator at these meeting. She read an article written by Glenn Hepburn.

Youth and Children's Activities

Cathy Hird stated a need to have input from the youth. We want the youth to feel part of this journey together.

List and Phone Numbers

A sheet was passed around for people to sign and add their e-mail address.

Letter from First United

Kristal McGee explained the reasons why the letter from First United was sent. At their December 22nd meeting, a discussion to meet with the other United Churches in Owen Sound and area to promote communication and the sharing of ministry programs. They wish to encourage a healthy conversations and sharing of programs such as Marriage Prep, Confirmation, Outreach and other resources. She said that the timing of the letter was not suitable as the amalgamation with Knox and Division Street has begun. Cathy Hird stated it was not possible to meet at this time.

Ron Savage handed out a sheet and read the differences between Merger and Amalgamation. This was taken from the internet.

Next Meeting February 16th, 7 p.m. at Knox United Church

Closing Meditation Helen Laughlen closed with a story about "A Time for Everything."

Next meeting Opening Meditation: Jeanette Rankin

Closing Meditation: Toni Van Zetten

Adjournment at 9:15

Styn Furness, Scribe.

Visioning for our Congregational Future:
A first set of ideas from Our January 26th meeting

What are your hopes and dreams for your church?

Enough people to do the work of the church
A strong congregation which pulls together
A caring, non-judgemental community
A diverse community: with diversity of age, background, culture, worldview, theology....
Become an “affirming” congregation
Become an “inter-cultural” congregation.
Innovation
Food and a welcoming, functional kitchen
Good acoustics
Accessibility: for people with mobility challenges; for people with other challenges as well
 bussing people to Sunday morning service
Involve youth with specific tasks.
Try some different venues for worship
Promote lay involvement for example through drama
Identify the gifts of people in the church and encourage them to be shared

What are your hopes and dreams for your community?

A green congregation: develop a responsible relation to creation
Have an outreach goal
Develop a joint project like housing in the community (if a building is sold, use the money to
 make a project financially viable, draw on grants as well)
Send a mission team
Support M&S
Youth programs
A parish nurse

What do you need from your church to nurture your spirit?

Prayers which speak to and for our spirits
Hymns from Voices United
Music which nurtures the spirit: organ, choir, guitar, Praise Band...all kinds!
Identify the gifts of people in the church and encourage them to be shared
An openness to fun in worship
Creativity
Communion on a regular basis