

KNOX/DIVISION ST. UNITED CHURCHES JOINT COMMITTEE

January 5, 2011

Welcome: Acting Chair Ron Savage welcomed everyone and special guests from Central Westside and First United who have come to observe.

Present: Helen Laughlen, Jeanette Rankin, Peter Shaw, Rev. Cathy Hird, Rev. Ralph Schmidt, Kara McCluskie, Doug Roberts, Sue Roberts, Shelley Phillips, Judy Chalmers, Tone Van Zetten, Marjorie Perry, Bill Van Wyck, Ted Stevens, Ron Savage, Styn Furness and guests from Central/Westside, Bonnie Stethem and Isabel O'Leary and from First, Pat McDonough and Laurel Dinsmore.

Meditation:

Toni Van Zetten read a story of the cracked pot. Even flaws can create usefulness as the cracked pot watered the flowers along the path. Rev. Ralph Schmidt led us in the opening prayer.

Minutes of Dec. 9th meeting:

Motion by Judy Chalmers to accept the written report of the Dec. 9th minutes. Seconded by Toni Van Zetten. Carried.

Worship Committee's Report:

Joint services have been planned by the staffs of the two churches and are as follows:

- . Working together not as guests
- . One joint choir not wearing their distinctive gowns.
- . One lay reader from each church
- . Two greeters from each church at each door
- . Ministers to preach in each other's setting - Cathy at Knox and Ralph at Division
- . Worship plans to be made by the Wed before the next joint service
- . Plans are to meet soon to plan the Easter services.
- . Suggestion that two committee persons from each church be appointed as spoke persons for the committee. They would give a report to the congregation at the Sunday service immediately following the committee's most recent meeting. They would give identical reports to each church.

UCW Uniting:

Knox Friendship group has extended an invitation for Division St. to join in an afternoon of food and fellowship on Monday Jan 10th. An invitation will be given in church on Sunday Jan 9th.

Birthday Bash:

- . Sunday January 23rd
- . Time 5:30 with eating of cake first
- . Pot Luck
- . 6 cakes from Jan to June to be supplied by Division and 6 cakes from Aug to Dec. by Knox
- . Sign up form at each church to prepare for numbers

Report for Annual Meeting:

Ron Savage and Helen Laughlen will prepare a report of the committee's progress so far. This report will be given at both Knox's Annual Meeting and Division St Financial Cong. Meeting.

Joint Church Committees:

It was decided that church committees from both churches would begin to invite representatives from the respective committees in the other church to their meetings.

Joint committee meetings with the M & P committees should start as soon as possible as there are growing concerns by staff.

Mission Statement:

A new Mission Statement needs to be planned.

Questions raised: What is important?

How does the community see us?

Our journey together is more than just Sunday Services.

Vision:

Suggestion of a Vision committee

Concern of finances were expressed

Suggestion of a day long retreat to discuss mission and plans for the future

Judy and Cathy offered to brainstorm on a day retreat and work out details

Bring other members of the community in to talk to us

How can we as a church help the community? Working together.

Press Release:

The local paper has requested an interview with both churches. Several people have been contacted, but all have refrained to give interviews until after our Jan 5th meeting. It was decided at our meeting to make no comment yet. We need to inform our own congregations first rather than have them read the info in the paper. Ron will contact the Sun Times.

Highlights of our meetings could be printed in the bulletin as well as a verbal report to each congregation.

Property Evaluation:

Terry King contacted the company Genivar Engineers to submit a quote to do a visual walk through both churches. The letter received outlined their intent and the cost would be \$2,850.00 for each church.

Discussion followed and a suggestion was put forth - does Presbytery have funds to cover this expense? Could funds come from Trust Fund?

Cathy stated that Toronto Church Council has manpower to help with information and possible funds but an application needs to be made and this all takes time.

Ted Stevens and Bill Van Wyck agreed to co-chair a new sub committee to research and come up with possible uses of our buildings. A more in depth engineering inspection of each building will be needed in the future. What could the buildings become were some of the questions. Depending on the possible uses of the buildings the engineering quotes would probably be higher. Concerns about costs were expressed.

Other Business:

A change of name for the committee was discussed to better describe our mission. It was decided to change the name from Joint Committee to Knox/Division Future Direction Committee.

Agenda for Next Meeting

Youth and Children's Activities
UCW groups uniting report – Marg Whetstone
Vision Committee

Guests Opinions:

Ron asked if Central Westside wished to make a comment. Bonnie and Isabel commented that they have had experience with amalgamation and it has worked well for them. Bonnie has attended the joint services over the last few years and expressed that it is good to worship in a church that is full. They expressed an interest in attending our next meeting and that they would like to be part our planning meetings. Ron said that the train is leaving the station and that if they wish to get on board, the sooner the better.

Ralph expressed his concern that Central/Westside had not held a congregational meeting to discuss and pass a motion to pursue amalgamation similar to that passed by Knox and Division Street. The motion would place everything on the table to discuss. Bonnie assured the committee that Central/Westside would hold such a meeting.

Isabel expressed concern that no one from Presbytery was in attendance. She was informed that Presbytery knows of our meetings. Cathy suggested that Ann Hartbridge from Presbytery be contacted.

First United representatives congratulated the committee on all the work that has taken place so far. Laurel Dinsmore said that the joining of the two churches located so close together seemed the right thing to do. First United are still OK with their present situation.

Presbytery:

It was suggested that an official letter be sent from the two churches to presbytery. Judy and Styn will get together and draft a letter.

Next Meeting:

Wed. Jan 26th, 7:00 p.m. Division Street Church.

Closing:

Ralph closed the evening with a prayer.

Adjournment: On a motion by Tony the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Meditation for Next Meeting: Bill Van Wyck and Closing Helen Laughlen