

OWEN SOUND UNITED FUTURE DIRECTIONS COMMITTEE
March 23, 2011

Present: Ed Walter (brenda.walter@hotmail.com), Laurel Dinsmore, Isabel O’Leary, Jeanette Rankin, Margaret Krauter, Ted Stevens, Bil Best, Ralph Schmidt, Cathy Hird, Terry King (co-chair), Jack Stock (co-chair), Eugenia Rawn, Toni Van Zetten, Kara McCluskie, Bonnie Stethem, Peter Shaw, Lynn Kiddle, Jim Seaborn, Lorna McCluskie, Bill Van Wyck, Kristal McGee, Judy Chalmers (recorder)

Chair, Terry King, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Introductions were made around the table.

Toni Van Zetten opened the meeting with meditation - “Tell us tomorrow”.

Agenda was approved as circulated.

Cathy Hird announced that an Accessibility Workshop will be held at First United Church on May 11, 2011. Representatives from Knox and Division St encouraged to attend.

Marg Krauter clarified the role of the Presbytery representative on the committee. The representative’s main responsibility relates to property; however, she is available to advise on other issues. She stated that at some point a decision will have to be made about who is at the table; a deadline should be set for Central Westside to commit as to whether they are part of the amalgamation discussions or not. The role of First United also needs to be decided.

Central Westside update – the representatives from Central Westside have met and composed a letter to be included in their April newsletter asking for direction from their congregation re: proceeding as a full member in the amalgamation discussions.

- They will continue as observers at the meeting tonight
- First United will also retain observer status.
- The chair of the meeting will ask for comments from the observers when appropriate or desired and at the end of the meeting. Otherwise, the observers will not participate in the discussions.

Minutes from March 2, 2011 – moved by Toni Van Zetten; seconded by Ted Stevens that the minutes be approved as circulated. Motion carried.

Business Arising – Lorna McCluskie asked for clarification of the decision-making process discussed at the March 2nd meeting. Discussion was that the desired method for decision-making is by consensus; however, if consensus cannot be reached, then a vote will be taken.

Sub-Committee Reports –

Vision & Mission – Summary of feed back from joint choirs and young families distributed.

Cathy and Judy will pull together a small group to collect data re: outreach needs of the community through interviews with organizations such as the United Way.

Members are asked to bring a list of current outreach activities their congregation is currently involved in to the next committee meeting.

June 5, 2011 was set as the date to develop a vision for a new congregation based on all the information collected from the focus groups and the outreach interviews. The visioning exercise will be incorporated into the joint church service on that day.

Joint & Cooperative Church Services – It was proposed that the Sundays during the summer (July 1 to Labour Day) that have not already been designated as joint services with Central Westside, Division St and Knox, also be joint services alternating between Knox and Division St. Proposal to go to Program & Worship Committees of Division St and Knox for discussion and decision.

Moved by Lorna McCluskie; seconded by Peter Shaw that a recommendation to invite the Waterloo Regional Police Men's Chorus to perform at the joint Knox/Division St service on October 16, 2011, and that this be a fundraiser for the chaplaincy program, be sent to the Worship Committees of Knox and Division St. Carried.

It was proposed that the April joint service include fundraising for Japan.

It was also suggested that the Worship Committees consider placing a joint ad in the newspaper listing the dates of services at Knox, of services at Division St and of joint services with location. It was agreed that no ad would be placed in the Community Guide as dates of future joint services are still being confirmed.

UCW – no report

Property/Bricks & Mortar – has met since last Future Directions meeting with Marg Krauter and Julia Lobsinger from Presbytery in attendance. A commitment to proceed with amalgamation and, if so, a decision re: timing are needed for the sub-committee to move ahead.

Trustees – a joint meeting of the trustees from Knox and Division St was held on March 9, 2011. Questions were raised about property and the proceeds from any sale of property/assets.

Youth & Children – Kara McCluskie reported that several young people from both Knox and Division St volunteered at the Leprechaun Luncheon at Knox on March 17. The bowling party on March 20 was well attended with people from Central Westside, Division St and Knox.

An Earth Event is scheduled for Saturday, March 26 but it is unsure whether it will go ahead.

Kara asked what summer worship for children should be prepared. Kara would be available to assist with any programming.

It was suggested that summer may be a good time to experiment with some non-traditional services focusing on formats to attract young families.

Ministry & Personnel – have held a joint meeting and have another scheduled for March 30, 2011. Marg Krauter is attending these meetings.

If amalgamation is taking place, this committee needs to know a firm date as soon as possible to proceed with their human resource planning.

M&P representatives asked for clarification of their role. Is it to take direction to M&P from the Future Directions Committee or is it to give direction to the Future Directions Committee?

Reminder was given that M&P's role includes caring for members of the congregations, not just staff. The committees need to ensure that the congregations are aware that this support is available.

Joint Council Meeting – set for Wednesday, April 27, 2011 at Knox

Other Business:

Time Frame for Proposed Amalgamation – a tentative date of May 15, 2011 was set for congregational meetings at both Knox and Division St for the purpose of voting on proceeding with an amalgamation and, if proceeding, to establish a date.

The sub-committees who are waiting for a date to proceed with planning are to bring their recommendations to the next meeting of the Future Directions Committee.

Reminder of Process for Voting – Knox and Division St are both holding congregational meetings on March 27, 2011 to nominate voting members and alternates.

Observers from Central Westside and First United were asked for their comments. Committee was commended on its work to date.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 6, 2011 – 7 pm – Knox United Church

Meditations for Next Meeting: Opening – Jeanette Rankin
Closing – Lorna McCluskie

Judy Chalmers closed the meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.