

OWEN SOUND UNITED FUTURE DIRECTIONS COMMITTEE
March 2, 2011

Present: Peter Shaw, Eugenia Rawn, Toni Van Zetten, Jeanette Rankin, Helen Laughlen, Don Knight, Laurel Dinsmore, Isabel O'Leary, Lynn Kiddle, Ralph Schmidt, Cathy Hird, Kerry Lee, Kara McCluskie, Ron Savage, Terry King, Jack Stock (chair), Kristal McGee, Lorna McCluskie, Margaret Krauter, Shelley Phillips, Judy Chalmers (recorder)

Lynn Kiddle welcomed the committee members to Central Westside United Church.

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

Introductions were made around the table.

Ralph Schmidt provided the opening meditation: *If the roots are strong, new growth can come even if the plant is cut down.*

Agenda was approved as circulated.

Minutes: Moved by Toni Van Zetten; seconded by Ron Savage that the minutes of February 16, 2011 be accepted as printed. Carried.

Report from Central Westside:

- They are not ready yet to join in the monthly joint church services
- They do not expect Division St and Knox to slow down but many of their members still have questions and concerns. They need time to digest what is happening.
- They want to participate as much as possible, but at a slower pace. They may need to involve an external consultant or facilitator to assist them in clarifying the direction their Council and congregation wish to take. The extent of the mandate provided by the motion of the congregation was not clear and is being interpreted differently by different groups. The committee supported the suggestion of engaging an objective person to work through this process with them.
- In the interest of complete and open communication, any information sent to either Ralph or Cathy will be shared with the other and with the appropriate committee chairs at both Knox and Division St.

Committee Name: Moved by Ron Savage; seconded by Peter Shaw that the name of this committee be changed to Owen Sound United Future Directions Committee. Carried.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Vision & Mission – summary of comments from the focus group with the women from the four Owen Sound United Churches was distributed. A focus group will be held with the joint choirs from Division St and Knox on March 3, 2011.

Joint & Co-operative Church Services – planning continues. A schedule of joint worship services has been drawn up.

UCW/Women's Groups – the women from the four Owen Sound United Churches are invited to Knox for a luncheon on June 13, 2011.

Property/Bricks & Mortar – is meeting on March 7, 2011 to continue deliberations.

Youth & Children – First United is planning a 30 hour famine for the young people in May. Division and Knox young people may also participate.

Ministry & Personnel – a joint meeting has been held. Marg Krauter attended representing Presbytery. All agreed to keep staff up to date on the progress of discussions and to treat all staff with dignity and respect.

Trustees – a joint meeting will be held within the next 2 weeks.

Councils – a joint Council meeting is being proposed for May. One area of discussion would be possibilities for blending other parts of the ministry in addition to worship services.

Other Business:

Telephone List – production of the list has been on hold waiting to know Central Westside's involvement.

Knox is issuing a newsletter in the next 2 weeks and will include a list of upcoming joint and shared services in it. Division St will also issue a newsletter with this information. First United has requested a copy of the schedule of services for the inter-church meeting they are hosting on March 22, 2011.

Process for Voting – Moved by Ron Savage; seconded by Helen Laughlen that 5 voting delegates and 2 alternates be appointed from each of Division St and Knox by April 15, 2011. Carried.

Central Westside was invited and encouraged to also appoint 5 voting delegates and 2 alternates when they are ready to commit to amalgamation discussions.

Any votes would be on recommendations to be taken back to the congregations for their approval. Ideally, decisions will be made by consensus rather than going to a vote.

Observers and participants from First United and Central Westside will continue to be welcome to attend the meetings in addition to the voting delegates.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 – 7 pm – Division Street United Church

Meditations for Next Meeting: Opening – Toni Van Zetten
Closing – Judy Chalmers

Helen Laughlen closed the meeting with prayer.
Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm