

Highland Hills Pastoral Charge Planning Group Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2016, 7pm-8:45pm
At Minden United Church

Attendance: Andy Cooper (chair), Michelle Wolfe Miscio (minutes), Albert Carpenter, Ted Koehler, Jack Cox, Mary Jane McMullen, Judy Carpenter, Debbie Sherwin, Doreen French, Barb Walford-Davis, Fred Chapple, Paul Rutledge, Nancy Ballantyne, Janet Heffer, Don Ballantyne, Dave Wilson, Max Ward

1. Opening: Debbie Sherwin opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. Review and Update: Andy briefly reviewed the proposed changes in the United Church of Canada which were discussed in the previous meeting. Some updates since that time: Conference asked Presbytery how many “regions” they want. The timing seems to be taking longer than originally anticipated. Andy suggested the group take a look at the 16 page comprehensive review report on the following website: <http://www.gc42.ca/comprehensive-review-report>

3. Church Status Summaries: A summary was presented by a representative from each of the three churches in the pastoral charge. (Andy from Zion; Albert from Maple Lake; Don from Minden). Summaries outlined the church’s history, membership and finances. Detailed summaries are attached. The general sense was that, despite a lot of effort and hard work of members in each church:

- our church membership numbers are not increasing;
- age of members is increasing, with a very larger proportion over the age of 60 (84% at Minden UC and Zion UC; 100% at Maple Lake UC);
- expenses are going up;
- revenues are going down;
- each church has assets in the form of a building, some land and some funds in trust, most of which are not accessible without special permission (from trustees, presbytery or a judge);
- These struggles are common across many churches at this time.

4. Next steps: Committee members were asked to reflect on the information that was presented. Questions to ponder before the next meeting include, “*What do we and the people in our congregations want?*” and “*How can we best use the resources we have now, to leave some sort of church for future generations?*” Andy asked us to bear in mind that “It is our obligation to leave some sort of church for people who come after us.” This will require some creative and “outside the box” thinking. Please bring ideas and encourage others in the church to come out to the next meeting to share their ideas about the future of the church.

5. Closing: Reverend Max closed the meeting with a prayer.

6. Next meeting: Monday, February 15, 2016, 7pm at Zion UC.

Zion Church – Status Summary 2016.

Highland Hills Planning Committee

Presentation to HHPC January 25, 2016

The following summary was compiled using the results of a review conducted by the Zion Planning Committee and recent budget discussions at Zion Council.

Historical Background

The Brown Appointment of the Methodist Church originally met at Brown's Schoolhouse, and was renamed the Zion Appointment in 1891. Construction of the church in Carnarvon was begun that year. It became Zion United Church when the Methodist Church became part of the United Church of Canada in 1925. The stone basement was added to the church in 1934 to accommodate the Sunday school, and the Christian Education wing was added in 1961 when there were approximately 70 children involved in the program. The church has a strong background of music, Christian education and group participation in building and fund raising.

Membership

- The official membership total for Zion United Church (as reported to UCC for assessment purposes) was 76 in 2015.
- Regular Sunday attendance at Zion is in the range of 30 to 50 people, and approximately 55 people are considered 'active' members who attend church at least once a month, have envelopes, and/or exhibit regular participation in church activities.
- The membership at Zion in the last few years has increased slightly, due to a strong effort to encourage and engage new people. This has made up for the loss of people leaving and passing.
- An estimate of the demographic composition of the congregation was completed in the fall of 2014. The list of people maintained by the Pastoral Care Committee contained 102 people. Based on participation levels these were split into 'active' members (55 People), occasional (25), and inactive (22). An estimate of age groupings was also completed.
 - Active members 80 or older 21
 - Active members 70 to 80 21
 - Active members 60 to 70 11
 - Active members 60 and younger 2
- An assessment of residence location of active members was also conducted in the fall of 2014. The majority of active members live at some distance from Zion in places such as Haliburton

(and points east), Halls Lake (and points north), and Minden. Only a few active members live in Carnarvon.

- Many of the Zion members have limits to the amount of effort they can direct to church activity. Some have physical challenges, some are dealing with medical issues, some spend significant time away from Zion, and many have family commitments.

Finances

- Fixed costs for running the church have risen steadily over the last decade, and they are expected to continue along similar trends. The Zion committees have worked hard over the years in order to maintain the church. The building is in relatively good condition, but it is an old building, and continuing expenses and effort will be required to maintain it.
- A summary of donation statistics for several years indicate that the regular attendees at church are the main source of revenue. Envelope givings have remained near the same level in recent years. Summer attendees ('occasional' members) increase the numbers at church, but the summer collection does not increase significantly.
- Zion's DRAFT 2016 budget for expenses is approximately \$83,000. This is a slight increase over 2015 to allow for increases in costs. The numbers have remained relatively consistent and predictable over recent years.
- Zion's DRAFT 2016 budget for income is approximately \$73,000. This includes a planned transfer of \$10,000 from funds administered by the trustees, but does not allow for revenue generated by 'Special campaigns' (church suppers and other money makers held by the church). Special campaigns have generated between \$17,000 and \$8,000 in recent years, but amounts have declined. The transfer of interest-generated funds from the trustees has allowed the church to balance the budget in 2015, but the planned 2016 transfer will essentially deplete available interest-generated funds.

Financial Assets

- Zion has the church property itself, and 2 building lots adjacent to the church, which could be sold, plus approximately \$140,000 in funds from the previous sale of property. Funds are currently held in a variety of financial investments under the care of the Zion Trustees. The interest from these investments is available to the Zion Council to cover operating expenses, but Zion would have to seek permission from Presbytery to use the principle of any of these funds or to sell the church or building lots.

Andy Cooper

Minden Church – Status Summary 2016.

Highland Hills Planning Committee

Presentation to HNPC January 25, 2016

The following summary was compiled using the results of a review conducted by Treasurer Don Ballantyne and recent budget discussions at Minden Council.

Historical Background

In 1865 the first church was built in Minden. The union with the Presbyterian Church came about many years before the nation-wide union in 1925. The dedication of the current United Church in Minden was held January 17, 1926. In 1958 an addition nearly doubled the size of the building. In 2003 – 2005 considerable remodelling of the sanctuary was done to create a more versatile & contemporary worship space. In 2006 an addition was added to provide meeting space, another set of stairs to the lower level & enlargement of the kitchen. In 2007 a lower parking lot with access to the upper level was added. 2008 – 2012 communications were modernized including hearing devices, audio/visual equipment for the sanctuary, an outdoor LED sign, new sound system, use of Facebook & in 2015 audio/visual equipment for the lower level. The church had a very successful Sunday School until recently, has always had a very strong & supportive UCW, has superb acoustics in the sanctuary, offers Christian Education workshops, provides several community interest groups (Knitting for Warmth; Bridge; Ladies Exercise Classes; Brush with Colour; Enviro-Café; Diners Club). While up until the past few years we have had a small choir, we now have several sources of worship music ranging from organ, keyboard, piano, instrumentalists, soloists to “canned music”. We also have good group participation in building & fundraising.

Membership

- The official membership total for Minden United Church (as reported to UCC for assessment purposes) was 96 in 2015, which doesn't include “Adherents”.
- Average Sunday attendance at Minden in 2015 was 37 people, down from 40 in the previous 2 years. Approximately 125 members & adherents are considered ‘active’ members who attend church at least once a month, have envelopes, and/or exhibit regular participation in church activities, & another 41 are inactive or have moved.
- The membership at Minden in the last few years has increased slightly, due to a strong effort to encourage and engage new people. This has made up for the loss of people leaving and passing.
- An estimate of the demographic composition of the congregation was completed in the summer of 2014. The list of people maintained by the Pastoral Care Committee contained 166 people.

Based on participation levels these were split into 'active' members (125 People), and inactive or moved (41). An estimate of age groupings was also completed.

- Active members 80 or older 28
- Active members 70 to 79 43
- Active members 60 to 69 34
- Active members 59 and younger 20

Over the past year we have been fortunate to attract 5 under age 50 people into our congregation, forming the nucleus of possible growth of their peers.

- An estimate of residence location of active members indicates that the vast majority of active members live in the immediate Minden area.
- Many of the Minden members have limits to the amount of effort they can direct to church activity. Some have physical challenges, some are dealing with medical issues & some have family commitments.

Finances

- Fixed costs, especially utilities, for running the church have risen steadily over the last decade, and they are expected to continue along similar trends. The Minden committees have worked hard over the years in order to maintain & upgrade the church, and thankfully a large Bequest from the Kirkwoods producing considerable interest income, stipulated for use only for building expenses enables us to keep the building in relatively good condition and modern, but it is an old building, requiring continuing expenses and effort to maintain it.
- While we don't have a summary of donation statistics over the years, we do know that at least 15% comes from those who don't attend worship services, & approximately 85% from regular attendees at church. Envelope givings have remained near the same level in recent years, although dropped 10% in 2012 with the passing of a large donor. Summer attendees ('occasional' members) increase the numbers at church, but the summer collection does not increase significantly.
- Minden's 2016 budget for expenses is approximately \$87,000. This is a slight increase over 2015 to allow for increases in costs. The numbers have remained relatively predictable over recent years, but have varied somewhat because of increases in Utility costs & programs to attract newcomers.
- Minden's 2016 budget for income is approximately \$90,000. This includes income from all sources except possible transfer of funds from Trustees (which were recorded as income in prior years so aren't double counted). We track our results broken down into the following categories: "Operating", "Memorial Fund" & "Building Fund". Our budget assumes an

“Operating” break-even, with “Envelope Givings” containing a \$13,500 gap to be filled by donations or income from other sources (eg UCW donations and other sources). “Fundraising Events” of \$8,300 are included in our “Operating” budget. The transfer of Trustees’ Funds (other than “Building” and “Memorial” has enabled the church to finance deficits, but continued “Operating” deficits beyond the next few years will essentially deplete available funds requiring different financing methods.

Financial Assets

- Minden has the church property itself, plus approximately \$262,000 in funds, of which \$15,000 principal is readily available from Trustees’ Funds upon their approval. These are currently held in a variety of financial investments under the care of the Minden Trustees. Use of the remaining funds which are also invested by the Trustees for other than what they are stipulated would require permission from other sources.

Don Ballantyne

MINDEN UNITED CHURCH & ZION CONGREGATIONS

AGE & INACTIVE ANALYSIS

	<u>MUC July 28/14</u>		<u>ZION Dec 1/14</u>	
	<u>Active</u>	<u>Age %</u>	<u>Active & Occasional</u>	<u>Age %</u>
Under 20	0	0 %	5	6 %
20-39	0	0 %	1	1 %
40-49	4	3 %	6	8 %
50-59	16	13 %	1	1 %
60-69	34	27 %	14	17 %
70-79	43	34 %	27	34 %
80-99	<u>28</u>	<u>23 %</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>33 %</u>
Sub- Total Active	<u>125</u>	<u>100 %</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>100 %</u>
Inactive or Moved	<u>41</u>		<u>22</u>	
Total Recorded	<u>166</u>		<u>102</u>	

MAPLE LAKE CHURCH -- STATUS SUMMARY FOR 2016

PRESENTATION TO HIGHLAND HILLS PLANNING COMMITTEE, JANUARY 25TH, 2016.

SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE CHURCH, AND CHANGES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE OVER THE YEARS.

The possibility of having a new church built at Clarke's Corner, now known as the intersection of Hwy 118 and Stanhope Air Port Road was set into motion on December 1st, 1900. A Meeting took place between some folks from the Maple Lake and Pine Lake (West Guilford) area at the home of a Mr. Demille. On December 19th of the year 1900 a Committee was set up and with \$250.00 in cash and several committed volunteers things were put into motion, along with a paid Foreman to oversee the construction.

The new church was to seat 150 people, and frame built with wainscotting and a plaster upper wall interior, and pine v-joint ceiling.

A year later, December 1901 the building itself was completed, and ready to be furnished. It was insured by a Mr. R.H. Baker (my great grandfather) In early 1902 a Pulpit was acquired from Lindsay Ontario, and a used pump organ was obtained. The current church pews were also constructed locally.

Some of the major changes, or improvements that have taken place over the years were.

In the mid 1950's the interior of the church was renovated when the upper walls were re plastered, and re staining of the pews, floor and wainscotting took place.

When a basement was considered in early 1958, a portion of the money required for this project can way of donations that were sent in to a Reverent Myth by listeners when his request for possible financial help on this endeavour was broadcast over his weekly radio devotional segment; heard over a Orillia Radio Station. In 1962 a oil furnace took the place of the good old wood stove, and also the basement saw a kitchen area constructed which was outfitted with dishes and silverware donated by the newly formed U.C.W., which had been previously known as The Ladies Aid.

Some of the church back Pews have been removed over time in order to accommodate such things as the stairway to the basement, and clothes closet.

In the 1970's the church floor had rug installed, and this eventually wore out so in 2011 it was replaced by new rug.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

The church Membership is listed at 26, but unfortunately this number is deceiving, as usually on most Sundays the number flocculates between 10 to 15 folks in attendance. Thank goodness for some seasonal summer visitors that reside in the area, which on occasion might boost the attendance on three or four Sundays up to possibly 18 or 20.

Much like the other two churches in our Pastoral Charge the regular people attending range from possibly their early nineties, down to the mid sixties in age. There are 5 that are over the 80 mark, 4 that range in age from 70 years up to 80, and 5 that start at the age of 65 plus. Just over the past year we have lost one person that moved because of illness, one through death, and one other for a reason unknown, with three slightly younger ones scaling their attendance way back, because of a necessary commitment to their growing Business, or other work projects.

In Maple Lakes case there currently is no young people that attend Sunday School. unlike the days of years ago. In the mid 1990's when there was a drastic decline in these numbers.

FINANCES

It is the usual trend, expenses like increases in church insurance, and the cost of heating fuel are just two of the ongoing financial drains.

Like the other two churches our Members raise extra funds by way of having events like bake sales or dinners, but it does get more difficult to organize and put these things together as the Members are getting very limited as to what they can do, because of age, or are willing to participate in.

So besides the fund raisers, and weekly offering, there is occasionally money donated in memory of a families loved one that is resting in the churches accompanying cemetery.

The Maple Lake Church expenses for the upcoming year of 2016 will possibly remain close to last years, as some items such as water testing, bank charges, the telephone and Administration costs and contributions to M&S are proposed to be lower; while the building insurance, hydro and heating fuel costs will no doubt increase slightly. So the proposed Budget for 2016 is \$25,000.

Judy & Albert Carpenter
Maple Lk. Church