

**CHARGE PLANNING COMMITTEE  
NOTES FROM MEETING OF MAY 30, 2016  
AT MINDEN UNITED CHURCH**

*NOTE: These notes were taken during a fast-paced and lively discussion session. They are an accurate record of the discussion, but they have not been checked, formatted or reviewed.*

**ATTENDANCE:** M = Minden, ML = Maple Lake, Z = Zion.

Albert Carpenter ML, Andy Cooper Z, Gail Flook Z, Charlene Cooper Z, Max Ward Minister, Bruce McClennan M, Jerry Rome M, Ollie Rome M, Fred Chapple Z, Mary Jane McMullen Z, Ross McMullen Z, Lois Deacon M, Beverly Upton ML, Barbara Walford-Davis Z, Allen Upton ML, Debbie Sherwin M, Eric Casper M, Elinor Hamilton Z, Barbara Braker Z, Walter Braker Z, Doreen French Z, Don Ballantyne M, Nancy Ballantyne M, Janet Heffer M, Pat Thornett M, Nerina Clark Z, Ron Clark Z, Melissa Stephens Z.

**OPENING** – Andy Cooper, Chair of the meeting, opened with a prayer.

**UPDATE** – Andy had four items to present.

1. **Report to Official Board** – (full report available) highlights were: -church committees could be brought together as one committee for the Pastoral Charge only property, finance and trustees need to operate for each church.

- the bulletin and announcements could be in a single format, also a Pastoral Charge Calendar developed.

- joint services once a month beginning in September to be recommended to Official Board

- a communication sub committee has been established. They are Bev Upton, Barb Walford-Davis and Lois Deacon. Their main purpose is to keep the congregations informed.

2. **Meeting with Rev. Bob Root** (facilitator of Chat Groups). Andy and Max met with Bob Root to bring him up to date on the meetings of the Planning Committee. He advised that The United Church Manual is the authority on how this will proceed. Each Congregation will hold a meeting and vote on amalgamation. This is by secret ballot and by members only. Presbytery then meets separately with each congregation and decides whether to approve the amalgamation. The property is a separate issue. There has to be an assessment of the needs and a practical and reasonable plan put forward for Presbytery agreement. Any excess property is declared surplus. Conference is responsible for surplus property and it will decide how to use the property 'for the benefit of the United Church'. Trustees look after sale under the direction of Conference. Approximately two thirds would come back to the church. The other third is divided between Presbytery, Mission and Service and Archives. Queen Street in Lindsay requested and received 100% because they plan a new building.

- a question was raised about the sale of contents or stained glass windows and an answer for that will be sought

- question - What if one church does not want to go with the others. That would have to be approved by Presbytery. They are usually flexible. They are not in a policing position but are there to work with the churches. Make a plan and there is hope of it being accepted. The members of the Congregation make the decision.

- Concern- some people in the congregations are not aware of the work of this committee. Communication will be the key to get everyone on board.

3. **Timing** – we are looking at change the same time as the United Church is considering the elimination of Presbytery. There may be a new organization but it may take time to get on top of these items. Andy would like to work through Presbytery. Can we get on with it at this point? Can we have a vote this fall?

Joining the congregations has been brought up for at least 15 years and again at 10 years but now is the time to bring it to the congregations. Needs for money and people are still a problem. Financial reserves have been used. The question was put to those present "Would a fall vote work?"

Cont'd

#### Responses

- people are not ready
- need a firm plan in place
- if not in October we would have to wait until May because of people being away
- several options could be put forward
- need to advise people to become members of their congregation in order to have a vote
- the steps we are recommending will need to be communicated to the congregations
- we have to decide how much ministry do we need – full time, ¾ time or ½ time
- how many will attend on a Sunday
- it may happen in stages
- do we gain anything by moving this fall – can we afford to wait
- have Rev Bob Root talk to a joint gathering of our congregations he might be able to prepare us for a vote
- Andy is willing to go to each congregation in the next month to make a presentation at coffee hour – he would solicit their ideas in writing. A member of the Communication Sub Committee would also attend. – later it was suggested that all three members of the committee attend to hear what happens in each congregation
- send info by email and regular mail where required. A later comment suggested that everyone receive correspondence by regular mail as many have problems with email
- its not about the building
- approval to proceed could be sought at the Official Board meeting on June 1<sup>st</sup>
- keep moving ahead so that it doesn't have time to die
- Andy advised that Max is our spiritual leader. He does not make decisions
- if you don't know the answer to a question please refer to someone who knows

#### 4. Communications

- the list of emails is available from the secretary in the office
- communication should be a letter signed by the chair of Official Board and the chairs of each council
- should only be one page or people will not read
- the minutes of the meeting should be available and posted in each church
- Andy, Lois, Bev, Barb and Max will get the communication ready.

#### **NEXT MEETING MONDAY, JULY 11, 2016 AT 7:00 PM AT ZION UNITED CHURCH**

We will keep going forward with plans

- what are we going to do with the buildings
- where are we going to meet
- where do we want to be in 10 years from now

Andy will try to set an agenda for the next meeting.

**CLOSING** – Max closed with a prayer "A Lament of Things Lost" which he had adapted to our congregations.