

**HIGHLAND HILLS UNITED CHURCH
SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
ZION CHURCH - SEPTEMBER 16, 2018**

ATTENDANCE: Irene Alexander, Peter Alexander, Karen Anderson (call), Chris Archer, Brian Austen, Shelley Austen, Don Ballantyne, Nancy Ballantyne, Bea Berry, Stephen Berry, Pat Bradburn, Barbara Braker, Anne Bulford, Dave Bulford, Marilyn Burrows, Eric Casper, Jaklin Casper, Alice Chambers, Fred Chapple, Joan Chapple, Linda Cherry, Rebekah Chevalier, Shawn Chevalier, Nerina Clark, Ron Clark, Andy Cooper, Charlene Cooper, Anne Cox (call), Jack Cox (call), Wayne Cox, Willie Cox (call), Donna Darby, Neil Darby, Joy Davey, Margo Davidson, Tom Davidson, Lois Deacon, Mabel Deacon (call), Jim Fahl, Maureen Fahl, Mark Fennell, Judith Fisher, Erskine Flook, Gail Flook, Doreen French (call), Joan Grant, Elinor Hamilton, Kathy Harrison, Janet Heffer, Wilma Heggart (call), Ginny Hopkings, Jennifer Hughey (call), Catherine Kellett, Linda Kellett, Ivan Kernohan, Kathy Kernohan, Pearl Kernohan, Glenna Koehler, David Lamb, Loretta Lamb, Meg Leonard, Lynda Litwin, Wes Lytle, Elly Malcomson, Lillian Mann, Bruce McClennan, Carol McClennan, Ross McMullen, Mary Minto, Clara Miscio, Barb Moore, Cindy O’Hanley (call), Barb Parish, Tom Parish, Susan Pethick, Don Pflug, Jessie Pflug, Bob Phillips, Norma Phillips, Jack Proctor (call), Janet Proctor (call), Jordan Proctor (call), Helen Regan, Sue Ripley (call), Linda Robitaille, Jerry Rome, Olga Rome, Paul Rutledge, Ross Shallop, Elizabeth Sheppard, Milton Sheppard, Debbie Sherwin, Wilda Shuyler, Ryan Sisson, Sue Sisson, Cathy Snell, Jack Snell, Maxine Snell, Lawrence Stibbards, John Strange, Mary Strange, Jim Sully (call), Kim Sully (call), Jane Symons (call), Edna Taylor, Winn Taylor (call), Pat Thornett, Barbara Todd (call), Clara Tomkinson, Dale Toyne, Mary Trepanier, Barbara Walford-Davis, Anne Walker, Irma Walker, Mark Walker, Kim Warne (call), Wilma Warne, Keith Welborn, Ted Wilkes, Ruby Wilkes, David Wilson, Joyce Wiltshire, Michelle Wolfe-Miscio

1. **OPENING:** Rev. Max Ward opened the meeting by explaining that the sole purpose of voting was on the motion at hand. He explained the use of the Conference phone and asked all speakers to use the microphone when addressing the Chair. He then provided a brief explanation of the voting procedure.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS:

Chair – Erskine Flook M/S – Jude Fisher/Jessie Pflug.

Secretary – Debbie Sherwin M/S – Ron Clark/Barbara Walford-Davis. Carried.

The Chair and Secretary assumed their roles and led the meeting thereafter.

2. **DEVOTION:** Rev. Max Ward led the congregation in prayer.
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** M/S – Dave Bulford/Elizabeth Sheppard. Carried.

4. **CHAIR'S REMARKS:** Erskine Flook welcomed Rev. Paul Reed, Chair of Kawartha Highlands Presbytery, to the meeting. He stated that the sole purpose of the meeting was for the members of the congregation to decide which of the two buildings should become the permanent home of the Highland Hills United Church (HHUC).

5. **THE MOTION:** The members of HHUC shall vote, by secret ballot, to select a permanent home for their congregation. The ballot shall read: **“My choice for the permanent home of HHUC is ----- Minden ----- Zion.”** A 66% majority will decide the results.

ADOPTION OF MOTION: M/S – Ron Clark/Ryan Sisson

DISCUSSION: There were no questions or discussion specific to the motion on the table.

CALL FOR VOTE: The Chair explained the voting process and the procedure for the order of voting. He asked that once members had voted, to move to the CE building for coffee, while the voting continued and the votes were being counted.

6. **ANNOUNCE RESULTS:**

180 eligible voters

123 members voted (104 in-person & 19 by conference call)

85 members voted in favour of Minden

38 members voted in favour of Zion

The motion carried with 69.1%, which crosses the threshold of 66% in favour.

7. **MOTION TO DESTROY BALLOTS:** M/S – Marilyn Burrows/David Wilson. Carried.

8. **CHAIR'S REMARKS:** Erskine summarized the next steps which were outlined in the August 30, 2018 Congregational Letter. We will continue worshipping at Zion UC for the remainder of September, and October services will be held at Minden UC. The Worship Committee will discuss, at its September 25th meeting, how we will move forward thereafter. Non Sunday use of the buildings will continue while plans and schedules are developed. The Unified Board will be meeting on September 26 to discuss the results of the vote and to determine an action plan and schedule for moving forward.

The following committees will be formed:

Renovations to Minden Building: The existing Joint Property Committee will be tasked to develop a list of priorities and plans to address the critically-needed renovations. This will be brought to the Unified Board for review and approval.

Disposition of Zion Building: The Unified Board and Trustees will develop disposition plans, in communication with the United Church of Canada. Subcommittees will be formed to address such things as Heritage Assets.

Addressing Grief: A new committee has been formed to work with Pastoral Care to develop and implement plans to assist the congregation in dealing with emotions associated with choosing one building. Dr. Jack Russel will be facilitating a “Coping With Change” session at the Abbey Retreat Centre on Monday, September 24 (2 – 3:30 pm). This session is designed to assist us in recognizing and managing grief that we have in our personal lives and with respect to amalgamation.

New Vision: A new committee, co-chaired by Shawn Chevalier and Donna Darby, will be tasked with continuing the work on a new vision for HHUC, including eventual development of new mission and vision statements.

A special closing service will be arranged at a suitable time, for the building which is designated as surplus.

Erskine thanked the Integration Committee and the volunteers who have served in leadership roles, acted on committees, and provided support to accomplish the many difficult tasks over the past three years. He stated that without their energy, skills, and dedication, we could not have achieved so much in this amalgamation process. He thanked them for their openness and empathy while making thoughtful, but sometimes difficult decisions. He reminded us of Joan Chapple’s assertion that “We can come out of this as a unified stronger group of people who wish to continue offering worship and outreach to the people of our communities. A final thank you was extended to the members of HHUC, for accepting the responsibility to vote to select a permanent home for our church.

CLOSING PRAYER: Rev. Max Ward led the congregation in prayer.

The meeting was adjourned by Sue Pethick. Carried.

Erskine Flook, Chair

Debbie Sherwin, Secretary