

*a place to be*

*Knox United Church  
a place to belong*

*a place to become*

Leadership Team Meeting  
Minutes of a meeting held  
Tuesday, July 2, 2019  
Narthex at Knox United Church

**Present:** Charlotte Caron, Peter Fox, Thelma Bretel, Ashley Bennet, Cathy Zroback, Meg Illman-White, Don Cameron, Jean-Anne Hallas

**Absent:** Elora Cavner

### 1) Opening

a. **Reflection - Reflection** - Meg Illman-White gave a reflection on Jesus being drawn to water and the land when he was troubled, or just needed time to heal, pray and restore. She noted the restorative power of this beautiful Lake of the Woods and how often in summer we all take a break from Church to take sabbatical on the land. She noted that this is the common ground we all share and that a sense of caring intercultural is build through being out on the land together in a respectful way. This is the work of our Knox Focus Group on Truth and Reconciliation (TRC): drawing families of differing cultures, economic levels and abilities together on the land. She noted that Don had requested to hear more stories about this Focus Group and its work and that come fall the group will make an effort to tell those stories.

### b. Appointments

**Motion:** That Ashley Bennet be authorized to chair the meeting.

Moved by Charlotte Caron      Seconded by Jean-Anne Hallas      CARRIED

**Appointment:** Don Cameron was appointed to take Minutes

### c. Agenda:

**Motion:** That the agenda circulated to all members on July 2, 2019 be approved for this meeting

Moved by Charlotte Caron      Seconded by Thelma Bretel

CARRIED

d. **Minutes of June 27<sup>th</sup> meeting:**      Deferred to next meeting

### 2) Pabaamashi Guiding Circle Project

Leadership team followed up on past team discussions around several logistical concerns for the Pabaamashi project including: Knox's oversight, liability, and liaison role. The team determined that Leadership Team should have further clarified Knox's connection to Pabaamashi upon its initiation and took the following actions to ensure clarity:

- a) **Motion:** moved by Peter Fox and seconded by Charlotte Caron

*Be it resolved that;*

*Pabaamashi is a Truth and Reconciliation Commission focus group of Knox United Church that began with a grant from Embracing the Spirit (part of "Edge" an internal consulting agency for the United Church of Canada). Pabaamashi seeks to deliver Intercultural, Intergenerational Land Based Family Camps in keeping with the Knox Vision and Mission and with Call to Action #61 of the TRC.*

*That Pabaamashi, as a Truth and Reconciliation Conference focus group/ministry of Knox United Church and Knox United Church will maintain its usual direction and control of a ministry through its Leadership Team, as per Section 6.3 of its constitution by:*

- *Hiring a Project Co-ordinator*
- *Reviewing annually the Terms of Reference of Pabaamashi*
- *Receiving (through the Guiding Circle leadership) updates on their work.*
- *Receiving regular financial statements from the Guiding Circle (board) of the focus group*
- *Receiving regular Reports on the activities of the Group at Leadership Team meetings;*

*That a member of the Knox Leadership Team be assigned to connect with the Focus Group and that United Church member(s)/adherent(s) sit on the guiding circle and participate in the Camps;*

*That the Leadership Team ensure through the Project Co-ordinator that Knox's Insurance holder (Standard Insurance) is informed in advance of all camps;*

*That Peter Fox and Jean-Anne Hallas be authorized to sign the contract of the Project Co-ordinator position*

CARRIED

- b) **Motion:** moved by Charlotte Caron and seconded by Jean-Anne Hallas

*That Thelma Bretel be appointed as the Leadership Team's liaison with the Program Coordinator and the participants in the program.*

CARRIED

3. **Reorganization of church Executive Officers** - Shannon McCarthy of the regional office made Meg aware that in her opinion we are not properly constituted because we have not officially appointed members (capital M) of Knox to church Chairperson (no chair at this time), Secretary (Cheryl Dyck, non-member) and Treasurer (Karen Richardson, non-member) positions. An ad hoc committee formed at the last Congregational meeting and consisting of Thelma Bretel and Brenda Shodin, is working hard to find appropriate recruits. Peter Fox noted that we may not require Members in the

positions and LT decided to defer the matter to the Fall Retreat as a Governance matter and to seek assistance from Cheryl Kinney Matheson and Shannon McCarthy (Peter Fox will be in touch with her) in this discussion.

#### **4. Review of our Minister's service to the Leadership Team -**

Meg reminded the Leadership Team that the Minister is the legally appointed "Pastoral Charge Supervisor" No meetings are granted quorum without a Pastoral Charge Supervisor on site. Meg's responsibility is to know and understand the rules and the procedures of the UCC Manual and of the various procedural handbooks so that the congregation is not in a precarious legal position. This means that the PCSupervisor is the Parliamentarian for the congregation. When a decision is made in such a way as to miss out on rules (see business 5, removal of cross as example of this), the possibility of an expensive appeal is left open. Meg has been wearing the conflicting hats of temporary chair of LT meetings, pastoral charge supervisor and Minister and this has been challenging: the business of removing the cross speaks to this.

#### **5. Removal of the cross from its current location -**

At the Leadership Team meeting of June 25<sup>th</sup> a motion was passed authorizing the Kenora District Services Board to move the cross from the facade of the homeless shelter: that motion was as follows

"Having heard the strong recommendation of the congregation that the cross should be moved, that Leadership Team, acting on that advice, authorize the removal of the cross from its current position at KDSB's convenience and expense. The cross will be stored until a decision is made about its future installation The cross will be stored until a decision about it is made. **Peter/Charlotte**

**As per June 25th minutes**, Meg had strongly argued against this motion on the grounds that it is procedurally out of order. The agreement at call of meeting was that this would not be a decision making meeting and that the congregation was aware that it was for discussion only. After the straw vote it was agreed that the congregation would come back to vote on the matter at its next congregational meeting.

After checking with Shannon McCarthy at Regional Office, Meg confirmed that this motion was out of order because the Leadership Team was acting on the "guidance" of a straw vote at a congregational meeting that had been called for discussion only and not decision. Therefore the straw vote cannot be used as more than a "temperature" of where those present at are "at". As such, the motion was reopened for consideration at this month's meeting and the acting chair called the motion out of order. A new motion was carried to guide next steps for deciding about the cross.

Motion: Moved by Thelma/ Seconded by Charlotte? That the motion from the June 25th meeting be reconsidered. Carried.

**Motion** - Moved by Thelma Bretel      Seconded by Jean-Anne Hallas

*That a Congregational meeting be convened in early August and chaired by past chair of the Leadership Team, Louise Boileau, to put forward a decision making motion regarding the removal of the cross from its current location and to recruit members to an interest group to determine what will be done with the cross if removed.*

6.5b. Meg noted that she has now chaired one LT and one congregational meeting since Louise resigned and that this is not sustainable or advisable. It is legal but difficult for minister/ parliamentarian to take on the chairing and the role of “moving the meeting along” She therefore invited Ashley to chair this meeting. As chair it is difficult to participate in discussion and she could see the potential of future role conflicts. She noted that she would not chair another meeting and urged that the search for an interim chair be completed. She noted that, in lieu of a chairperson, while she is on holidays a contact person is needed for members of the congregation.

Thelma reported that she and Brenda are working hard to find M&P reps as well as Chair and a possible secretary for LT.

CARRIED

**7. Minister’s Annual Holiday** - Meg Illman White will be on annual vacation during the month of July. While she is away Jean-Ann Hallas and Brenda Shodin will provide response for urgent pastoral care requests and Don Cameron to respond to homeless centre matters.

**8. Interest Group and Focus Group Processes** - the Leadership Team has encountered a number of governance-related matters and will solidify procedures at the Fall Retreat. Item deferred. A form which has been out of circulation for many years, used in the past for forming interest groups, was looked at and the team will consider how best to set up committees, interest groups, ad-hoc committees in the future.

**8. Ashley Bennet closed the meeting** - with a prayer of thanks and fulfilment.

Respectfully Submitted  
Don B Cameron / edited Ashley Bennet

July 3, 2019