

Highlights of Paulin Session Meeting – April 25, 2022

Pandemic Safety: COVID-19 continues to circulate at a high rate within our community. The WECHU encourages everyone to get vaccinated, wear a mask at indoor public gatherings, open windows for ventilation and make use of HEPA filters to prevent transmission. Several pews at the back of the sanctuary have been set aside for those who wish to have more physical distance while wearing a mask during worship. Let us all care collectively for the vulnerable in our community.

Elders on Session: Carla Johnson Hicks was welcomed back from her Leave of Absence. Anne McLachlan is finished her term as Clerk of Session at the end of April and C. Johnson-Hicks will be interim clerk until September 2022. Keith Pittock submitted his resignation as a ruling elder on Paulin's session and his years of service (especially as church photographer, website master, and choir member) were acknowledged with thanks. There are 15 ruling elders on session with 1 elder still on leave of absence. The session will discuss Term Eldership as well as recruitment of new Elders during the May and June meetings. The session agreed to ask Presbytery's permission and support in moving to Term Eldership.

Minister's Report: Rev. Aide was thrilled to lead in-person worship services for Maundy Thursday (18 people), Good Friday (25) and Easter Sunday (70 people). As of Easter, Sunday worship services are livestreamed on Facebook; recorded versions are now available within a few days on both the Paulin Youtube channel and Facebook page. Bible Studies continue in-person on Wednesday mornings and via Zoom on Wednesday evenings. Rev. Aide hopes to call everyone on the Paulin list between May and July this year. Rev. Aide and B. Pittock attended the Presbytery of Essex Kent meeting in April where they heard the sad news that Knox Leamington church is closing. Rev. Aide is on Study Leave from May 2-16 so she will not be in the office but will be available for pastoral calls and will still conduct the worship services on May 8 & 15.

Treasurer's Report: **March 2022** - Operating income - \$14,123.29; Expenses -\$19,481.37
Inc vs Expenses: (-\$5,358.08) Year to Date Income vs Expenses: (-14,129.70). Members and adherents are encouraged to regularly donate whether or not they are attending in-person worship services.

Fundraising Activities: The Mother's Day Tea will be held May 7, 2022 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at a cost of \$15 with proceeds to go to the General Operating Fund.

Pastoral Care: Unfortunately, with the latest outbreaks of COVID-19, visiting is again restricted in the majority of the rest and LTC homes. The team continues with phone calls and cards, which are always appreciated by the residents.

Mission and Outreach: The mission project for April is collecting socks for the Downtown Mission. The committee consists of Louise Dupuis, Don Dupuis, & Bonnie Pittock with help from Sheila Bowyer when she is able. Anne McLachlan is joining the committee in May. Louise & Don Dupuis are stepping down as co-chairs but will remain on the committee as of May 1, 2022. Additional committee members from the congregation are encouraged.

PCC Parallel Definitions of Marriage: At the 2021 General Assembly, the Presbyterian Church in Canada changed its theology to no longer bar those who identify as LGBQ2+ from ordination as ruling and teaching elders (i.e., ministers). The church also changed its theology to hold 2 parallel definitions of marriage – between a man and a woman (traditional) and between 2 adults (inclusive). Sessions, after consultation with their congregations are to vote on which definition of marriage will apply for our church building. On May 15, after worship service, members and adherents will have another opportunity to ask questions and provide their perspective on this matter. The session will vote by secret ballot on this issue at the June 2022 meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Anne McLachlan, Clerk of Session