

## Highlights of Paulin Session Meeting – November 2023

**New Beginnings:** The small group leaders are: Janet Brigham-Turowski, Nancy Carle, Audrey Landon, Jim Marchand & Anne McLachlan. The groups have started meeting and will be finished by January 19<sup>th</sup>. The house groups will spend the first 3 meetings discussing what makes a vital church, the “why” of church, & how to be a missional church. The focus is not on fixing or “axe-grinding.” Then in the 4<sup>th</sup> session, we will generate a “future story” or vision for our congregation. In the New Year, the group leaders, together with Rev. Aide, will meet to amalgamate the future stories into one & present it to the congregation. Then we will work on implementing the future story/vision for our congregation. Rev. Paul Kang, our New Beginnings coach, will provide us with 6 virtual coaching sessions during the implementation phase over the next year.

**New Members & New Member Sunday** – On Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, we will welcome 7 new members as they complete their profession of faith: **Donald & Jean-Marie Towsley, Mary Singh, Festus & Yvonne Moasun, Heather Inksetter, & Paul Henderson.** Nancy Carle is not available that day and will join at the next New Member Sunday. Bonnie Pittock will be the acting Clerk of Session.

**Elders:** We moved to 6-year Term Eldership in 2022. 2024 is the next election year. We are recruiting new elders. Six elders are at the end of their “terms” but can be re-elected: Bonnie Pittock, Darrin Stockford, Beth Stockford, Carla Johnson-Hicks, Anne McLachlan & Audrey Landon. Nominations can be submitted to Anne McLachlan from January 7-21, 2024. Two members are required to nominate a member (must be in agreement with the nomination). At the January 22<sup>nd</sup> session meeting, the session will receive and approve the list of nominees. Ballots will be distributed to members only, and voting will take place over 2 Sundays. Members who are not able to attend church, can contact the minister to identify another member who can vote as their proxy. Amy Vreman and Rev. Aide will count the ballots. Candidates are elected based on congregational support (i.e., a predetermined threshold of votes required) with no maximum number of elders. Amy Vreman is resigning as an active elder as of the election.

**Minister’s Report:** Rev. Aide will be on vacation December 25, 2023 to January 7, 2024 but is available for emergent pastoral care concerns. Rev. Shirley Murdock will lead worship service on December 31 and January 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Worship:** There will be a Blue Christmas Service on December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7 pm. The Choir is performing their Cantata on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am. The Christmas Eve Service is at 7:30 pm. Any loose offering received during the evening service will be split 50% to Presbyterian World Service & Development and 50% to the General Operating Fund.

**Stewardship:** This committee is struggling as there is no elder available to chair it. Rev. Aide has been sending out thank you letters to people who have contributed to Paulin with their time, talents or financially.

**2024 Budget:** The PCC determined that our allotment for Presbyterians Sharing should be \$18,079. Unfortunately, we are not able to meet this allotment given our current donations. People are requested to donate specifically to Presbyterians Sharing over and above what they donate to the General Operating Fund of the church. The budget also includes \$3115 for our Synod dues which are determined in part by our membership numbers. As a result, session has been contacting members on our roll who have not been active at Paulin in the past 2 years to determine if they wish to stay on the roll. The session approved the budget proposed by the board of managers with the Presbyterians Sharing amount of \$4,000. Money donated through the Birthday Church will be designated for Presbyterians Sharing. The AGM is set for Sunday March 3, 2024 after worship.

**Fundraising:** The Poinsettia Bazaar will be held December 9, 2023. Proceeds are for the General Operating Fund.

*Respectfully submitted by Anne McLachlan, Clerk of Session*