

## Council News June 2020

The hardest working team at SAUC these days is the Re-opening team! The team has heard your concerns and your suggestions for creative ways to provide services at St. Albert United, and is working hard to come up with a way to get our church family back where it belongs, in the safe and secure building we know and love. Plans are underway to reach out (by way of a questionnaire) to solicit your opinion on what you would feel comfortable with. Please watch for your chance to respond.

We should add that our Ministry team is also putting maximum time and effort into providing on-line services while our Sanctuary is unavailable. This has been a steep learning curve and requires many more hours than a regular Sunday Service. In spite of this, we realize that the wants and needs of many are not being addressed during this time of Government and safety restrictions.

Council spent our last Zoom meeting hearing all of these concerns and discussing all our options and none of our discussions and brainstorming can come up with an optimal solution except SAFETY FIRST.

We discussed outdoor services, small group prayer services, personal prayer resources, streaming, and any other option we could think of and still come to the same conclusion, none of our options would give us the safety we want to provide. So, for now, we are still not able to offer an open door.

Rev. Mervin and Rev. Deborah have requested a change to the wording in the Grapevine so that their phone contacts are no longer listed as “emergency numbers” but “contact numbers”. Both ministers are here for you if you need to speak to someone! Pastoral contact is important to the life and work of our church family.

Rev. Mervin and Rev. Deborah are both in need of their annual summer break. Rev. Mervin will be on holiday July 1 to July 21, and Rev. Deborah July 28 to August 18. We wish them a restful respite and hope they spend their time catching up on some needed “me time”.

Council business must continue, and some decisions have to be implemented.

- A security system has been installed at our front door. This will ensure that any staff working alone in the building will have the security of seeing who is at the door and allowing access (or not).
- The Annual General meeting will be delayed until the scheduled meeting in November 2020. An Annual Report is being prepared and we are seeking every option to ensure everyone gets a copy. The report includes a budget until December 2020. Council has passed a motion to approve this budget until we can be together and the Congregation can ratify it at the Annual Meeting. This will allow our wonderful finance team to carry on the great work they are doing.

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- Our Audio Visual system has been upgraded so we now have the capability to livestream services. This will be another learning curve for all of us but will allow us to present a service without interruptions.
- Our present Council membership has agreed to stay in place for the time being. The one exception is Betty Welsby, who will retire after seven or so years on Council. Council membership will also be on the agenda for the November AGM.
- Our upper hall has been painted and the floors throughout the building are being stripped and waxed.
- Our website has had an update! The “Covid 19 Pastoral Care” heading has been removed and you can now find our Sunday Service under its own heading “Services”. This will make it much easier for newcomers to our site. Our thanks to Kathy Hutchinson for keeping our website current.
- Our mid- week groups have been making good use of our Zoom. Rev. Mervin has been kept busy hosting and making it easy to access. We are enjoying these on-line meetings where our smiling faces are front and center. Our UCW has even managed to meet outdoors.
- Plans are underway for a Virtual Vacation Bible School. Please see the poster in the Grapevine. The deadline for registration is June 30. If we get enough interest, Amy will be a busy lady. Our sincere thanks to Amy for her hard work and her dedication to even consider being on-line in the summer after being on-line for these past months!

I know this is a long message, but hope it answers some of your questions and allays some of your concerns. Your Council is here for you. Please reach out if you need to.