ARWRC Town Hall Meeting via Zoom: Chat Notes
Friday, March 27th, 1 pm – 2:30 pm

AGENDA

Orientation to Zoom
Acknowledgement of the Land: President Joyce Payne
Opening Devotion: President Joyce Payne
Advice for Communities of Faith (to be amended with your input)

- Pastoral Relations and Employment Concerns: Diane Blanchard, Minister, Pastoral Relations
- Community of Faith Meetings, Finances, Other Concerns: Lynne Allin, Minister, Congregational Support and Mission
- Supporting Giving: Lynne for Dave Jagger, Stewardship and Gifts Officer
- May Regional Meeting & General Council Update: Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Executive Minister

Kevin Steeper, Pastoral Support Minister, is available to ministry personnel during this period of time by email and phone, 1-833-236-0280 ext. 8.

ARWRC TOWN HALL CHAT NOTES

General

From Mary Elford : Will all these chat items be available in the record?
From DulibanSusan : Yes the chat will be made available
From Andrew : With the regional council meeting being cancelled will those who have already paid and signed up for it get refunded the amount they paid?
From DulibanSusan : Yes

Financial/Staff Concerns

From ND MacPherson : What about in memorium funds?
From John Neff : https://www.united-in-learning.com/index.php/webinars/recordings
From Larry McLaren : Can the manse be used as collateral on a line of credit?
From C-A : In terms of In Memoriam funds, it depends if they were donated for a specific purpose or if that is an internal designation by the governing body, i.e. any funds received through a funeral home will be placed in this account. That is an internal restriction the governing body could alter. It depends entirely whether the gift was designated for a specific purpose when given.
From Lynne Allin : Manse money are the funds that congregations can now access without prior approval for their ADP payroll, when approved by the congregations board/council
From Lynne Allin : The use of memorial funds depends on whether it was designated for a specific purpose by the giver (perhaps in a will) or by the congregation itself. If there are "restrictions" on the use of memorial funds that were set up by the congregation, the governing body can make changes to its use.
From Larry McLaren : Can a manse be used as collateral -similar to using our own home?
From Doreen Hewitson : Great question @Larry McLaren
From Lynne Allin : Any investments can be used as collateral for a line of credit
From John Neff : I note that there may be participants here from other regions than Antler River Watershed Regional Council. Please note that the motions passed to access restricted funds are

different in each region. Please make sure you are accessing your regional Covenant Commission decision regarding access to restricted funds.
From Lynne Allin : Each regional council has different approaches. In ARW we have approved the use of manse funds for ADP payroll for March and April. This is not a loan from the funds. Moving forward the covenant commission will consider whether to extend this or make changes to make it a loan as needed.
From Brian Jackson : do churches qualify as small businesses?
From Lynne Allin : We are waiting to find out if we are included with small businesses

From Richard : Several questions about staff: !) Are staff able to work at the church? 2) Custodial Staff if they can't work in the building, can they complete outside maintenance? 3) Could volunteers complete outside work? 4) I believe we can broadcast worship from the church with minimal staff, observing separation. 5) Do we handle contract staff the same as salaried staff (i.e., our music director is contracted for the year; our custodian and secretary are salaried)? Thinking layoff vs other options. Perhaps these are better in an email, but I'm sure others have similar questions.
From Diane Blanchard : If you are unsure whether your staff members are contractors or employees, this will help you:
From John Neff : https://commons.united-church.ca/Documents/Communications,%20Publications%20and%20Media/Publications/Connex/connex_2013_issue34_xtra.pdf

Technology/Stewardship
From John Neff : https://www.techsoupcanada.ca/en/zoom/product/zoom-meetings-pro-plan-bundle-1-year-subscription-%E2%80%93-access-to-discounted-rates
From John Neff : https://www.united-church.ca/leadership/church-administration/technology-support-grants-pastoral-charges-and-community-ministries
From Kenji Marui : If there's only one host for Zoom, it's cheaper to buy through Zoom itself. Two or more hosts is cheaper through TechSoup but you'll need your CRA charity number to start an account.
From John Neff : http://buyingunited.ca/technology/

From John Neff : rcambourne@united-church.ca
From Marie : Canada Helps is not equipped for churches in a pastoral charge with the same charitable number. Only one account per charitable number.
From DulibanSusan : Rose Cambourne
From Kim MacGowan : Please clarify if we are able to enter the church for our online service? How many people can be involved with that? (Riverside United, London)
From DulibanSusan : Rose's address UCC, 8 Switzer St., New Lowell, ON L0M 1N0
From DulibanSusan : djagger@united-church.ca
From Marie : Canada Helps charges 4% for process the donations
From Sadekie Lyttle-Forbes : @Marie for some 4% of something is better than no donations
From Kim MacGowan : We received a $25,000. anonymous donation to help!, Riverside United, London - a huge help and blessing
From Diane Blanchard : How awesome for Riverside!
From Lynne Allin : Canada Helps fee drops to 3.5% if you update to the full fundraising account. It costs nothing to do this.

Buildings/Streaming Worship Services
From Tanya Cameron : https://www.united-church.ca/news/clarification-ontario-churches-can-stream-worship-their-buildings?fbclid=IwAR3n-9gJJhKgoGwygvBcgQG2_b0L6Pf9SAs5-GcCR9sQZQdffeXiqGocloU

From Diane Blanchard : My understanding is that a minimal number of people, observing physical distance, are allowed to broadcast a worship service from the church building. Otherwise it should be closed as a worksite.
From Dave Thomas : Looking for the best way to stream worship service on Sunday to our congregation, either from the minister's home or the sanctuary.
From John Neff : https://www.facebook.com/groups/arwrcucc/
From cherylbolton : Is there a way to share a powerpoint in a Video format?
From John Neff : Online Worship Spaces
https://edgeucc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/00d5083bcaff4120863a8badb2d0928a

Sharing of Ideas
From Richard : Two ways we are staying connected with our community of faith are: broadcast worship Sunday mornings using Google hangouts (from church and from home) so it is live and can have the potential for chat. Virtual coffee hour. Secondly, we do have a group of members who are touching base with all our members via phone calls.
From Mark Bellamy : We are using Facebook live to stream worship.
From Doreen Hewitson : I have set up a MailChimp account so that I can email a full worship service to the members each week. I also send "Happy Mail" this way.
From Wendy Noble : Zoom Board meetings and Sunday worship.
From Laura Jo Marzec : Our Choir meets on Thursday using Zoom. We are holding a live Sunday worship using Zoom. We will record and post on our website.
From Matthew Penny : Parish Nurse and I are calling all families.
From Doreen Hewitson : For those not electronically available, I am phoning once a week.
From Johann : Finding Fbook immediate, and very helpful in reaching at collective and personal levels
From Catherine Collins-Barker : connecting by phone, email, real mail, online livestream services from my house through YouTube and Facebook
From Karlene Kimber : Like many we are using Zoom - for Sunday worship, weekly council meetings, weekly coffee hour
From Grace Patterson : Fourth Line is a very small congregation. I have had conversations with some members via phone, text and F/B messenger. A lot are watching online services. Our family has watched St. Andrews United Church -Chatham online thru Facebook live.
From elizabethparsons : Lots of phone calls, activity on Facebook, we are recording a worship for Sunday, Zoom board meetings, daily devotional to my people. - Beth Mt. Brydges Pastoral Charge
From JimH : Taping message from my apartment, putting it on Charge's Facebook page
From Doug Peck : Phoning and posting on facebook.
From Michelle Down : prayers, on-line worship, phone calls, emails, zoom zoom zoom … oh and did I mention … zoom
From Laura Jo Marzec : Also communicating by email and phone
From Matthew Penny : Posting mid-week moments and Sunday worship. Making masks for obstetric wards.
From Karlene Kimber : also connecting by phone, email, facebook
From marymargaretfarrow, Anne Beattie-Stokes : I am sending a daily spiritual practice on Facebook and by e-mail.
From susan h cameron : walking at lunch with my hubby and dog
From Michelle Down : moderators noon time prayer sessions
From Doug Peck : A community member suggested we have a special community facebook group to post performances from people within the community. That's been a source of joy.
From Johann : our online worship via youtube is being really well received and a welcomed new platform for sharing

From Sadekie Lyttle-Forbes : no media for a few hour
From ND MacPherson : Continue contacting one another....
From daryl : coffee check in Monday am
From Wendy Noble : Daily spiritual message shared with congregations
From Laura Jo Marzec : "un plugging" for a few hours and doing something recreational. going for walks.
From Larry McLaren : Weekly emails. Worship together virtually using Richard's service on Sunday morning. Prayer at 7:00 pm each evening by all members. Phone contacts with those who don't have email
From Stephen Elson : Going for walks
From Doreen Hewitson : My granddaughter is living with us...she keeps us present with her. We also have a new puppy which is keeping us busy with training.
From James Evans : GoToMeeting for worship bible study daily fellowship time
From marymargaretfarrow, Anne Beattie-Stokes : We did a virtual toast and prayer dinner.
From daryl : children create bedtime story books using power point and post on fb
From elizabethparsons : Very hard right now, as there are so many phone calls, texts, facebook, zoom and everything seems to take more time to do. My husband and I are making sure that we tap out everyday by a certain time. I have been doing lots of baking. Beth
From Stephen Elson : Playing and doing homework with my grandson
From Catherine Collins-Barker : sleep, doing activities that bring me joy with the family including playing music for our livestream services; sewing, walking, talking with all including aging parents.
From Brian Jackson : cleaning, cleaning, cleaning
From Pat Whitton : Dan has been doing something online for the children and reading bedtime stories as well. Service on line, PC phoning shut ins and all those who are "singles".
From cherylbolton : My seniors really liked the phone call I gave them. As a rural congregation they are really feeling isolated.
From Wendy Noble : Walking the dog every day
From elizabethparsons : Yes!!! - Beth
From Sharon : We are to receive an emergency alert on all cell phones at 2:00 p.m. today.
From Richard : To cope with the difficulties before us: try to disengage from media for a bit each day. It is overwhelming if you try to take it all in. Get outside especially with the great weather.
From Laura Jo Marzec : Doing lots of cooking. Simmering soups. Things I don't usually have time to do
From Johann : the recently introduced CoF DISCERNMENT opportunity has really inspired our members to step forward with gifts we didn't even know until recently that they had!
From ND MacPherson : Greatly appreciate this ZOOM meeting
From cherylbolton : Thank you Joyce, Cheryl Ann and staff! You rock!
From Richard : Thanks to the Regional Staff for trying to make sense of the plethora of information out there.
From Karlene Kimber : Thank you to all our regional staff and volunteers!
From Laura Jo Marzec : Praying for our Regional Staff and for God's wisdom, strength. and peace.
From Doreen Hewitson : Thank you, Joyce, for being the person you are and the President you are, during this time.
From Sharon : Thank you all for your on-going support and encouragement.
From Glenda : Thanks to all regional staff for all their commitment and support. Stay safe.
From johnwoodbridge : Many thanks to the Regional staff for connecting us in such an effective manner. We are not alone. You have reinforced that.
From Catherine Collins-Barker : thanks everyone let us remember the resurrection after the grief which we are now experiencing
From Donna : thanks to Joyce, C-A, staff. Certainty isn't available just now, but comfort and companionship help. Blessings.

From Laura Jo Marzec : Thanks for this time of connection and hope.
From Matthew Penny : Thank you everyone for the information. We need to do this again as things keep changing daily. WE pray all are kept in health and in love. Remember the day of resurrection is coming soon. Blessings
From William Rothernel : Thank you Joyce and all the staff for their assistance at this time .
From Derek Parry : Thank you - everyone - for your input and the leadership for their work and caring.
From Geoffrey Harrison : Thank you for a good meeting
From Del Stewart : Thank you and blessings to our Regional staff.
From JimH : Thank you all for this time together. Blessings.
From Tracy Wygiera : Thank you! Stay safe! Blessings!
From Michelle Down : blessing friends. Thanks to all the staff and volunteers who offered this time of care and support. We are so grateful.
From marymargaretfarrow, Anne Beattie-Stokes : Blessings and virtual hugs to all.
From Bruce Cook : Thank you. Mii-gwech. Bruce