

6. **Summer Student Grant Application**

Karen Tjaden reported that this grant is a Federal fund to employ youth (ages 15-30). We should hear by mid-May if we have been approved. The program has been changed somewhat and will run June 1 – September 30 if needed. More employment opportunities for youth. It is not possible to add another student to our application. There may however be an opportunity to provide volunteer work to a student to enable them to get more benefits.

7. **Crossroads New Business**

7a. **Covid and our Church Community**

Karen Tjaden led a discussion about moving forward. Need to start thinking about steps necessary going forward. What things are we doing now that will stay. It is going to be awhile before we are back to “normal” - fall or later for worship. What about smaller groups. When will the staff be back in the office. What do we miss? What do we continue?

The church is still very active in the community.

The choir will not be back in the choir loft or having practice until the new year at the earliest. When we plan on gathering again – who are we leaving out? People may be fearful and very cautious. What have we learned? How do we move forward in a sustainable way?

Suggestions of using outside meeting spaces, Church in the Wild, small group settings.

Staff will determine when they are comfortable going back to office. Don Lemon has built a plexi glass screen for the reception area.

Will need social distancing signs.

Is this an opportunity to reconfigure space?

We will take direction from public health and look at things like staggering hours if needed.

8. **Crossroads Committee Reports** (with particular focus on reviewing creative ways we can offer our ministry during this time when we are not able to gather in person)

8a. **St. Andrew's report**

Harold Kenyon reported that the board at St. Andrew's met by Conference call earlier this week. The pending sale of the building is currently on hold. There is uncertainty around funding for the daycare. The daycare and members of the board will meet next week.

Financially Elm Creek is okay for now but there is some concern as we go forward having no worship services. They do not do PAR in Elm Creek.

8b. **Ministry & Personnel**

No report

8c. **Worship Committee**

No report

8d. **Ministry Staff**

Harold Kenyon:

We live in interesting times! March 15th was our last face-to-face worship experience. Since then we have been endlessly adapting and learning how to do ministry in new ways. In some ways it feels like a long time and in other ways these past two months have gone by like a blur. We've learned that professional sports are not essential to life and health care aids in personal care homes certainly are. Our priorities have shifted and that perhaps is a good thing.

I can think of many reasons to be thankful in these these changing times.

- I am thankful for the resilience of our communities. In extremely difficult circumstances people have continued to be faithful and generous. People have really pulled together.
- I am thankful for the people I work with and for the lay leaders of our churches and for members who continue to be the church by connecting with neighbours.
- I am very thankful for our leaders in government who have responded to an unprecedented crisis in a coordinated fashion. They have saved many lives and alleviated much hardship by working together at all levels.
- I am thankful for the opportunity to learn a few things that we might never have tried under different circumstances.
- I am thankful for the ministry we share, and for my family, and for the health I enjoy.

Not knowing how long this will all last is frustrating, and I expect that normal will look different for a very long time. We've all been changed by this experience. Together we'll figure out how and when to reopen safely.

I haven't figured out any holidays for 2020, but I expect they will come sometime in the summer. I am attending the Festival of Homiletics in a couple of weeks via livestream.

Karen Tjaden:

More time to practice leadership around our ministry in and with the wider community, exciting to see new leaders emerging and new projects being dreamed into existence by some very determined people who have just been waiting to be asked to share their passion!

Unique opportunity to connect with kids and families weekly, but I remain resistant to learning and using lots of technology!

Grocery Assistance program has received so many generous donations from the wider community and church members. Food Security Working Group has initiated several new creative activities including container gardening.

It is our practice to meet twice a year, in December and June, for a long range planning session. Our next long range planning session will be in June and we would like to include one or more members of Council as we consider what we have been learning about the needs of our congregations and community during this pandemic and how this might change Crossroads ministry focus going forward.

Study Leave – May 11-18 Diakonia of the UCC virtual biennial conference and gathering

I miss being with all of you!

8e. **Crossroads Finance**

Terry Gosnell shared the financial report to April 30, 2020. The \$10,000 in other income is a grant that was received by the steering committee for Carman Wellness Committee – Addressing Poverty. It will be transferred to them once they have their banking set up.

The Stewardship and Finance committee has not met. Usually by this time of year, the review of books has taken place but Terry is going to investigate whether it is okay to skip a year. Betty Park has been on the committee that reviews Annual Reports and she said that the review of the books is not as important as getting the Charity Return done. Terry hopes to have the Charity Return done by May 11th.

Carman United is now set up to receive e-transfers.

8f. **Christian Education**

Karen Tjaden reported that Zoom Sunday School has been going well in both Carman & Elm Creek.

8g. **Pastoral Care**

Susan Wepler reported that the committee has not met. Phone visits have been taking place. Harold Kenyon wondered if it will soon be possible to visit in yards, on patios etc. with social distancing. Lorraine Stevenson noted that there are a lot of very lonely people during this time and it is important to spend 5-10 minutes just showing that we care.

8h. **Mission and Service & Outreach**

Diane Unruh shared that there has been lots of outreach happening over the past months. A \$5000 innovation grant has been applied for through the National Church – Seeds of Hope grant. We should hear by the end of May if we will receive the funds. This money is to explore how to respond to the requests for resources that the church office receives. Some money would be used for training peer support workers. The committee has been involved in the food security working group. Container gardening, bread delivery, vegetable stand are some of the projects that the group is working on. Looking into the food currency program for farmer’s market this summer.

Motion: Susan Wepler/Diane Unruh
“That the Crossroads reports be approved as presented.”

This motion is tabled to September meeting when we have a quorum.

9. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of Crossroads Council will be September 17th at 7:00 p.m.

10. **Carman Business related to Covid 19**

10a. **Access to Carman United in the future**

Discussion about opening the building. It is not time yet. Further discussion will have to happen around sanitizing, distancing, staff safety etc.

11. **Carman Reports**

11a. **Carman Finance**

Terry Gosnell shared reports to end of April. The grocery assistance is an in/out. Community has been very generous. There is no daycare rent for April. Wee Care did not use the space and it was decided to not charge them. There is no catering/rental income for April. Question was asked what percentage of income comes from PAR. Terry will figure out the number. We get about \$7,000 a month through PAR. People donate this way to local, M&S, grocery assistance and WDR.

ADP will be doing paperwork to receive 10% wage subsidy. Lower tax and CPP/EI payments.

A motion was made and carried at the annual meeting to cash GIC # 8 in August. This included the bequest to help with the shingles on United Place.

10b. **Property**

Don Lemon reported that the committee has looked at the lift project and recommends postponing until we are in a better position. The railing has been removed and new one should be ready to install in a couple of weeks.

Betty Park mentioned that a motion was already on the books saying to go ahead and not spend more than \$30,000. Donations have been received towards the project, investments are in place. If we keep putting it off when will we decide is the right time?

Discussion followed. There is over \$14,000 in the memorial fund. Terry previously mentioned the GIC that is due in August.

Following discussion it was decided that the committee will keep looking at options for the lift and will bring a recommendation to the September meeting.

10c. **Hall Committee**

Betty Park had nothing to report as there are no rentals/catering happening at this time.

10d. **Technology Committee**

Karen McGill reported that we have purchased Zoom for business and we have purchased a plan for conference calling. We have added a podcast/streaming license to our music license.

Motion: Lloyd Baker/Terry Gosnell
"That the Carman Committee reports be accepted as presented." Carried.

Karen Tjaden gave a blessing and the meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Julie Ruban McDonald, Chair

Karen McGill, Secretary