

**WOLFVILLE AREA INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

**Wednesday 10 December 2008**

**7:30 pm**

**Manning Memorial Chapel**

1. Meeting called to order by President, Gary Dunfield. Agenda circulated. Additions made to agenda viz: *Reports of Special Relief Committee* and the *AEC Report*. Moved KC/NC that Agenda be adopted as amended. Motion carried

Present: Neil Cloghesy, Gene Trites, Allison Trites, Keith Churchill, Peter MacInnes, Gary Dunfield, Helen Whidden, Maurice Tugwell, Nancy Burbidge, Ann Watson, Liz Vermeulen, David Garrett, Diana Shelley, (13)

Absent with regrets: Tim McFarland

2. DEVOTIONS

Gary Dunfield read from “The Upside Down Kingdom” by Donald Kraybill In the Incarnation the spiritual worlds intersected and became inextricably bound. In WAICC we should see all that we do as relevant and related whether social or spiritual.

3 MINUTES

Moved AAT/HW that Minutes of meeting of 14 November 2008 be accepted as circulated... Motion carried.

4. CORRESPONDENCE:/COMMUNICATIONS

(a) Letters of thanks from Wolfville Home and School and the VP of Wolfville School for the contribution to their Breakfast Programme. Maurice read a letter from Judy Tufts which he suggested was typical of many he received. Judy wrote expressing thanks for the work of the Wolfville Food Bank

(b) Neil gave an update on the Juan Ramirez situation as follows: Neil and David Garrett met recently with Juan’s wife Dara. Yet another application has been filed with the Immigration Department and it is now “being processed”... Lee Cohen is working on the case and he has some concern that due to the complexity of the case, particularly in its initial stages, the process will continue to be slow and that the outcome is uncertain. Bishop Susan Moxley and Archbishop Mancini have been asked to support the application with a request that they direct their letters of support to Lee Cohen. It was suggested that support from leaders in other denominations should be obtained if possible. Members volunteered to look into this. Neil explained that a *Postcard Campaign* was also being organized – an idea wherein people pose next to a life-sized picture of Juan and the resulting picture is turned into a postcard. The post cards will be sent to Peter McKay

## 5. TREASURER'S REPORT

Maurice distributed copies of his report showing a balance-on-hand in operating account on 8 December 2008 of \$23,220.86. Maurice noted that he is awaiting word from Maggie Kennie re school supplies. He will be putting money into a GIC early in the New Year... Adoption of Treasurer's Report moved by MT/LV. Motion carried.

Maurice has received a letter from Brenda Newcomb of L.E. Shaw School noting that they have an extreme need for financial help for both their Breakfast and Lunch Programmes. It was moved by MT/LV that \$1,000.00 be sent to L. E. Shaw School. Motion carried.

## 6 OLD BUSINESS

(a) Habitat for Humanity – A Founding Meeting is to take place on Sunday 14 December at 2 pm in Berwick United Church. Gary and Penni Burrell plan to attend. Anyone else who is interested is welcome.

(b) Further to request for funds for Breakfast Programme from Gaspereau, Port Williams and Wolfville Schools, Maurice reported that \$1,000.00 has been sent to each school.

## 7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) Clergy Committee – no report.

(b) Food Bank Committee

Nancy Burbidge reported that things continue to go well. With the approach of the Christmas season, local support has been overwhelming. She noted an acute need for plastic bags and for any cloth bags that people might be willing to donate. Marybeth Miles who has been client coordinator for the Food Bank since its beginning and was telephone answering person for WAICC for food vouchers programme and other emergency relief for many years prior to that has indicated her intention to retire in April. Nancy suggested that the system needs to be looked at and perhaps reorganized. The Food Bank Management Committee will discuss and bring in recommendations by February 2009.

Food Hamper programme is in progress. Collection of items is underway and distribution will take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> December. There was some discussion re cash donations received from local businesses etc. and it was felt that these should be banked and then, when applicable, used to purchase the items such as turkeys for which they were donated. Maurice noted that he customarily sent letters of thanks to donors in every case.

Code of Ethics – The Code of Ethics for the Wolfville and Area Food Bank was prepared by a sub-committee of the FBMC and passed by that committee. Subsequently it was circulated to the WAICC membership. The Friends have submitted a document in which they make several recommendations for changes. Peter McInnes explained that the feeling of the Friends was that food banks should not become an institution but rather should function as a stop-gap measure in the process of elimination of hunger. Governments should not be allowed to rely on food banks and lobbying is essential in an effort to ELIMINATE poverty.

Nancy emphasized that the Code of Ethics was for the Food Bank. She feels that there can be a division of labour with the Food Bank working towards the alleviation of hunger while ongoing lobbying of governments working towards the elimination of hunger could be part of the mandate of WAICC and of the member churches where they so desired. After considerable discussion it was agreed that the sub-committee which had been responsible for the original Code of Ethics would take the suggestions under consideration and report back at the February meeting of WAICC. Anyone having any further suggestions is asked to get in touch with one of the committee members - Nancy Burbidge, Pat Hawes or Diana Shelley.

(c) Programme Committee

Keith Churchill reported that the Public Forum had been a success. Excellent participants and participation with Bruce Matthews doing a very good job as moderator: It was particularly helpful that he had a good knowledge of the university and of the audience. The committee was extremely pleased with the attendance. Obviously holding the event on campus paid off as there was a good number of students, faculty and other Acadia personal in the audience in addition to members of the Wolfville and wider communities. There were, however, some disappointments as far as the set-up and facilities were concerned. There seemed to have been a failure in communications. After some confusion over the use of the Fountain Commons (the first choice of the committee) it was agreed to hold the event in the auditorium of the Irving Centre. However, the university apparently understood that the booking of the Irving Centre was for seven o'clock in the morning and coffee/tea was served accordingly at 8:30 am. The sound system was booked prior to the event but did not materialize. The reason for this omission remains a mystery. The folks from physical plant were there at 6:30 pm to set up tables and chairs etc. on the platform and clearly had been notified of the booking for 7 pm. The committee has drafted a letter to be sent to Acadia in which they suggest clearer guidelines for booking and confirmation in writing once the booking has been made.

(d) Special Relief Committee

Neil noted that the committee had met several months ago and discussed how best to handle requests for emergency assistance with heating, electricity, medication, etc. There was some discussion as to how this assistance can best be dispensed and its availability made known to the appropriate people. Neil will bring to the February meeting a document on procedures with respect to assistance with special needs. It was further agreed that at each meeting of the WAICC committee the Treasurer would give a breakdown of disbursements according to categories e.g., fuel, rent, medication, etc.

(e) AEC Report

David Garrett reported on the Annual Meeting of AEC which he had attended on Saturday 10th May in Mahone Bay. The keynote speaker, Robin Standnyk gave an excellent presentation (copies of presentation were distributed and one is attached with the Minutes). Her topic was Housing for the Elderly. David felt she would be a very appropriate person to consider for a future WAICC programme particularly in the light of a proposed follow-up to the housing programme held last spring.

## 8. NEWS OF MEMBERS

- (a) St. John's Cornwallis – special Advent service held and preparations for Christmas celebrations underway. Collection for Christmas hamper programme, Mission to Seafarers and Young Offenders at Waterville also being undertaken
- (b) Port Williams Baptist – Dinner in celebration of 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary held in November was a great success. Rev'd Gordon DeLong and the Rev'd Donald Jackson are being made Pastors Emeriti. Recent Advent wreath making workshop was very successful
- (c) St. John's Horton – Monthly celebration of 190<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to be marked with Pot Luck lunch some time in December. Selection Committee for new Rector well up to schedule. Collections for Mission to Seafarers and Waterville Young Offenders in progress
- (d) Wolfville Baptist – Joint children's' Christmas party was celebrated on 7<sup>th</sup> December and "Seniors Tea" held on 6<sup>th</sup> of December
- (e) St. Andrew's United – A service for the Longest Night of the Year will take place on the 21<sup>st</sup> December
- (c) Greenwich – Regular monthly programme with Horton Music department will take form of Christmas programme next Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> December.
- (d) St. Francis – Christmas preparations underway. A Christmas tree bearing cards indicating needs of some of the families or individuals in the parish has been erected at the church. Parishioners may take a card and purchase or procure the item on it to be given to a needy person or family.

There being no further business, adjournment moved by Maurice Tugwell

Meeting closed with prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Trites and Diana Shelley  
Secretaries

Next Meeting will take place on  
Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> January 2009  
At 7:30 pm  
in Manning Chapel Library