



**Minutes
Parkminster United Church
Church Council**

**Tuesday, April 27, 2021 – 7:00 pm
via Zoom Video Conferencing**

God is calling us to be an evolving community of faith inspired to embrace our future as we:

- *Deepen our commitment to each other*
- *Nurture our spiritual vitality and growth*
- *Live a life of loving influence in the world*

Council Members		
Rev. Heather Power	Kathy Shortt – Past Chair	Sue MacQueen – Trustees
Jennifer Allan – Chair	Richard Jackson – Secretary	Doris Jakobsh – Community
Deb Siertsema – Vice-Chair	Karen Schertzberg – M&P Chair	Sheila Rule – Connections
		Sandi McMullen – Development
Guests		
Bert Blackburn – C-19 WG	Barb Leask Wynne – C-19 WG	Carolyn Machin – C-19 WG
Franceen Wagner – C-19 WG	Neil Murray – Music Director	
Regrets		
Rev. Joe Gaspar	Gregg King – Treasurer	

1. Opening Prayer & Lighting of Candle – Reverend Heather

2. Approval of Agenda

The Chair, Jennifer Allan, discussed the need for a special meeting just one week following the April 20th Council meeting, during which Council had passed a motion indicating *THAT neither readers nor soloists be permitted to record in the Sanctuary until a date dictated by easing of the government’s health regulations.*

Council was asked reconvene to discuss this item following a concern expressed by our music director, Neil Murray, as to his working conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic. On this occasion, we wanted to include members of the COVID-19 working group and Neil in this discussion to ensure all voices were heard.

Because this is a Council meeting, the Chair indicated that only Council members may vote, which excluded Ministers, staff, the Chair, and non-Council members of the COVID-19 working group.

With that background and those conditions, the Chair proposed the **Motion**: THAT the agenda be approved. Moved by Kathy Shortt; seconded by Karen Schertzberg. **Passed.**

3. Approach to Minutes

While there was agreement that a simple note about the need for this meeting might be added to the minutes from the April 20th Council meeting, it was subsequently concluded that this meeting constituted a full Council meeting requiring its own Minutes in order to reverse any previous motion.



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4. Situation and Background

Background

By way of background, Council decided on April 20th and advised Neil on April 21st that:

1. Council's decision was based on the spirit of caution that the direction from medical officers of health and the regulations and announced on April 16th require everyone to remain at home except for specified purposes, such as going to the grocery store or pharmacy, accessing health care services (including getting vaccinated), for outdoor exercise, or for work that cannot be done remotely.
2. The Stay-at-Home order is in place until May 5, 2021, as the province continues to deal with the impacts of COVID-19. This order was extended 2 weeks on April 16th to May 20th. Consequently, Council's motion of April 20th would otherwise remain in place until May 20th.

Impact on Neil

- On April 23, Neil provided his feedback in an email to Jennifer as Chair, Rev. Heather, Rev. Joe, Rob MacQueen (M&P) and Shelley Mutton (Worship and Music).
- On April 24, the same group met to hear Neil's concerns and discuss possible options.
- From there it was determined it best to engage Council and the COVID-19 Working Group.
- The Chair thanked Neil for advising us of the impact Council's decision had on him. Council needs to make decisions based on complete information, which is why it reconvened.
- Neil's email was made available to those in attendance prior to this special meeting.
- In a nutshell, Council and the COVID-19 Working Group now understand how challenged Neil is in arranging weekly recordings virtually. Council now appreciates that using the sanctuary to record soloists both lightens Neil's load and engages some of those in our music program who aren't comfortable recording at home. In addition, other churches (with similarly vibrant music programs) are still recording in their sanctuaries.
- The Chair explained that one option explored with Neil during the Saturday meeting (April 24th) was to use our library/archive of music videos that are already made, at least for the period of this shutdown.

Discussion

In the discussion that followed, there was general agreement that, as a Council, we had reacted in the spirit of caution without being aware of Neil's needs and preferences. It was noted that for some soloists, singing in the sanctuary is very spiritual and can be an act of pastoral care. Given the extra work required to prepare music remotely, all agreed that having soloists participate in recordings in the sanctuary is safe when fewer than 10 people are present and within the spirit of the directions the regulations announced on April 16th.

Motion: THAT we allow recording in the Sanctuary for soloists with accompaniment. Moved by Doris Jakobsh; seconded by Sheila Rule. **Passed.**



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Further discussion occurred as to whether it was therefore appropriate to allow readers to also record in the Sanctuary. For consistency and the same reasons as the previous motion, this too met with the approval of all.

Motion: THAT readers are also allowed to record in the Sanctuary. Moved by Sue MacQueen; seconded by Sandi McMullen. **Passed.**

5. **Closing Statement** – Reverend Heather
6. **Next meeting** – May 18, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.