**Minutes**

**Special Council Meeting**

**July 25, 2023**

Present: Kevin Collins (Chair), Rev Norm Seli (Minister), Susan-Jane Bynoe (Worship), Kathy Coats (Finance), Elizabeth Clarke (Trustees), Fran Crabe (UCW), Brian Kalanda (Property), Pam Lock (Regional Representative/Outreach), Jeanette May (M&P), Barb Measures (Worship), Gary Norris (Treasurer), Judy Olson (Secretary), Barbara Rutherford (Facilities)

**Call to Order**

Kevin Collins

 The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.

**Potential Amalgamation with Forest Grove United Church**

Jeanette May

* An Exploratory Committee consisting of Bill Watson, Val Winters and Jeanette May was struck at the July 4, 2023 Council Meeting to begin preliminary discussions with Forest Grove United Church regarding a potential amalgamation with Jubilee.
* The Jubilee and Forest Grove Exploratory Committees met on July 17 and a discussion was held reviewing each church’s history, culture and values. Forest Grove concluded that their values were in alignment with Jubilee.
* The Jubilee representatives expressed their excitement about the Grove Music School and saw the potential for it to be a community outreach program for Jubilee.
* There was discussion around the importance of developing a sense of community between the two congregations, which might be accomplished through concerts, dinners, and visits to worship at both churches.
* Based on the many positive aspects of this first meeting, all were in agreement to recommend to their respective Councils that an Amalgamation Committee of six individuals from each congregation be struck to commence discussions about amalgamating the two communities of faith.
* It was suggested that the Amalgamation Committee be comprised of individuals who have skills with financial, legal, business, social issues, human resources, and previous amalgamation experience, to represent Jubilee in these discussions.
* Bill Watson, Val Winters and Jeanette May offered to continue on the Amalgamation Committee, so Council was asked to select the remaining three members for the committee.
* The following names were submitted as potential candidates for Council to consider for the remaining three positions on the Amalgamation Committee:

Kathy Coats, John Moses, John Sharp, Barbara Rutherford, Jeannie Elgie-Watson

* Rev Norm clarified that the Regional Council will have to approve the Amalgamation Agreement, and both communities of faith will have to indicate their approval through a congregational vote

 *Moved by Jeanette May and seconded by Gary Norris that Jubilee Council strike an Amalgamation Committee with six representatives to meet with representatives of Forest Grove United Church with a view to determining whether an amalgamation agreement agreeable to both parties can be reached.*

 *Carried*

*Moved by**Rev Norm Seli and seconded by Barbara Rutherford that Council empower the Exploratory Committee to add three additional members at their discretion to create the Amalgamation Committee to work with Forest Grove United Church on an Amalgamation Agreement.*

 *Carried*

Forest Grove will announce to their congregation on July 30 their intention to begin discussions with Jubilee regarding amalgamation. Jubilee Council decided to announce to Jubilee’s community of faith through the Saturday, July 29 email blast and during the July 30 Sunday service that amalgamation discussions with Forest Grove United Church will be commencing.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.