



# MacNeill Baptist Church

Semi Annual Meeting - 2019

Date		June 5 2019		
Time/Location		7:30pm – 9:30pm/ Parlour		
<b>Agenda Items</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Notes/Discussion</b>	<b>ACTION (s)</b>	<b>Lead</b>
	7:30	Welcome/Hymn		Garth/All

## Number Attending: 26

**Regrets:** Ray, Glenys, Barb R, Margaret S, Olga, Jon P, Liz C, Nancy T, Martina S, John S, David and Candace Jones, Gary F

## Approval of Annual Meeting Minutes

- Feb 3 2019- moved John D, seconded Helen W- all in favour

## Moderators Report- Garth

- Report back from NHA Meeting

Many thanks to Heather, Lynn and Bob for attending the meeting with Garth.

Meeting ended up being more about process than content of the motion. The participants were split about 50/50 pro and con the NHA motion. We were surprised that we are not alone in our views, which illustrated the need to participate in meetings with our area churches so we can have a voice at the table.

## Reports from Staff

### Report of the Worship Coordinator- Garry

Planning Team: Leanne Tees, Sonia Rogers, Mary Fleming; Preachers team Ray Hobbs, Jennifer Nettleton, Paula Papky, Bob Bond and Garry Blinch (and Bob Tees as a semi-regular visiting preacher) + Leaders and readers

So much planning and work goes into every service:

- Lent was a rich time of learning under the theme "This still room".
- Easter is always a high point but even more so this year with the Baptism. Before Easter weekend we hosted the Maundy Thursday which was well received.
- We have refined, over a couple of months, how each week's leader opens the service, seeking to make it welcoming and a clear transition from the gathering and greeting friends when we enter the building to a call to worship
- Working with WUC & St. C's, here is the schedule of shared summer services:
  - June 30, July 7 and 14th – St C's
  - July 21, 28 and August 4th – WUC
  - August 11, 18 & 25 – MacNeill
- It was great to have Sue Carr on Mother's day May 12th and learn more about her and the work of 541 Barton Street Eatery

- The team is keenly working on a new Creation liturgy for the fall that begins on the second Sunday of September, the 8th.

There was some discussion around end of scripture reading phrase. Also around Pastoral prayer.

- **Report of the Pastoral Care Coordinator- Garry**

Team: Beverly Woods, Heather Hobbs, Olga Jenkins, David Jones, Feli Toledo, Clair Gosselin, Bruce Papky

Some of the ways and places that I and the team were involved in pastoral care ministry:

- As a team, we keep each other informed whenever needs become known; we connect in person or by phone, card or email
- I have, on a couple of occasions, had coffee with newer people, deepening their connection with MacNeill
- I had the privilege of doing the baptism that took place at Easter
- An important part of our work as a team is on-going support for those who know grief and for those whose health is challenging or other challenges that life brings
- I seek to connect with any visitors we have, and notice that many here at MacNeill really engage new people in conversation. One of the families who joined us for a time visited several Westdale churches and then continued here because of the friendliness.
- Making hospital visits is something I do and also to keep our three chaplains informed
- Connecting with Westdale churches is both a pastoral care matter and a Worship coordinator matter; it is always good to connect with the folks we share ministry with.

Garry spoke with Leanne Friesen from Mount Hamilton Baptist, who was very much against the NHA motion. Garry will try to reach out to meet with the Hamilton Baptist community.

Grace Lutheran is sold, and will be looking for a place for a service. Only looking for space, not to join.

**Report of the Music Director- Leanne**

No report was offered.

**Financial Report- Gary P (see attached)**

Discussion- Request for post-dated cheques for the summer. Balanced budget at the moment. Thanks to Gary and Jon Purdy.

**Board Reports**

**Report from the CE Board– Heather H**

**Membership:** Anne Blinch, Barbara Ridley, Heather Hobbs (Chair), Margaret Springle, Nancy Douglas

**1. Bible Quest** We continue to offer two BQ classes in spite of low numbers. Generally, the curriculum matches the theme of each worship service. We performed an evaluation of the current curricular material: Seasons of the Spirit, and took the decision to continue with this. We are so grateful to our team of faithful teachers. Many thanks to Jessica Purdy our intrepid Bible Quest Coordinator, who organizes the roster and generally supports the BQ program. She stepped down from this role for a while during her recent health

**2. Bread for the Body/Food for the Soul:** Adult studies

- Initiated a second study series on **Climate Change: Challenge and Response** for the season of Lent into Easter
- Simple shared supper
- Between 18 & 22 attendees each session
- Format of podcasts and discussion
- We went 'high tech' and found a way to show excellent informative podcasts on a large screen
- Also, expert speakers from within and without MacNeill
- Thanks to Gary Purdy who served as ongoing resource person
- The lending library remained available in the narthex.
- Initiated a Pledge Box. This time we were not asking for pledges of money but rather pledges of action & commitment that we as individuals would personally make to the environment. The results were announced at the final session and a list of the pledges made by our congregation were presented in a recent worship bulletin.
- It became clear that there is much that each of us can do to 'draw down' carbon emissions and make a difference, and it was also clear that many MacNeill members feel very passionately about this issue.

**3. Youth Focused Services.** The CE Board is pleased to support and help organize services which involve the participation of our young people. Such a service took place on January 27 and another is planned for June 9 (Pentecost Sunday). Our deepest thanks to Leanne Tees as she is an active participant in initiating and planning such services and also often thoughtfully includes the children outside of these special designated services.

**4. Camperships**

Each year the CE Board budget contains an amount to support camperships to Camp Kwasind. This year we are able to provide camperships to four of our youth.

**5. June Picnic.** This year, in view of the celebratory lunch which took place on June 2 and which was provided by Jessica, Jon, Jordan & Jaxon, it was decided not to organize another lunch in June. The CE Board was happy to provide the cake and Ice-cream for the Purdy lunch.

**6. Welcome Back Lunch.** Planned for either Sunday 15 or 22.

June 9- breakfast served for youth who will be participating in the service. Need a clean-up person at 10:30 am. Also need another CE member needed.

**Report from Deacons-** Mary F and Sonia

The Deacons meets monthly plus the Council and Semi-annual meetings of the church boards and we always seem to have a full agenda. For a small congregation we generate a lot of work. We were pleased to welcome David Jones back to our Board of Deacons in February.

Much discussion has centered on the Niagara Hamilton Association (NHA) "Advisory Team on Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec (CBOQ) Identity and Beliefs". Four members of MacNeill Church, Bob and Lynn Bond, Heather Hobbs and Garth Greaves, attended the NHA meeting to respond to the motion generated by Welland Baptist Church. By all reports this was the best attended association meeting in years. Those who attended to oppose the motion did make an impact and the motion was tabled until BCOQ Convention in June. The concern is that since the CBOQ has incorporated, decisions are made at a corporate level and it is difficult to get information. Our feeling is that this issue needs to be discussed openly among delegates and representatives of local congregations. A committee is being formed at the NHA level to explore diverse views and the possibility of being together.

At MacNeill, a committee led by Deacon Bob Bond has been formed with representatives from each of the boards, including Barb Ridley, C.E., Gini Cale, Management and Beverly Leslie, Outreach, to discuss our response to the motion and to make recommendations as to how MacNeill will respond to this movement within the Convention going forward.

**Benevolent Fund Report:** Sonia R

January Balance	1679.64
Givings: Jan-June	400.00
Disbursements: Food vouchers	300.00
June Balance	1779.64

**Communion Services:** We have received feedback about Communion Services and missing the practice of passing the elements through the congregation rather than going forward to receive the bread and juice. The deacons find it very personally meaningful to serve the elements to people as an act of service and care. Also we have few board members so preparation and clean-up is easier for us. We like the movement of the congregation participation and like the idea of passing a blessing with each participant. It was expressed that we could allow for a multiplicity of approaches so that no voice is overlooked. Since it is an important symbol to eat together we will be passing the elements on World Wide Communion Sunday and will look for other opportunities to serve communion in a meaningful way.

Due to illness we have been working to fill the preaching roster and we are grateful to Paula Papky, Garry Blinch and guest preacher Bob Tees who have stepped forward with extra help.

It is surprising to Sonia and I how much thought, planning and detail go into providing our rich Sunday services each week. We would like to acknowledge the creative response of music director Leanne Tees who in partnership with our Worship Co-ordinator Garry Blinch and the preacher of the day put together our excellent worship services every week. They are always meaningful, thoughtful and current and we are grateful for their collaboration and effort.

This year special planning was directed toward the joint Community Worship for the New Year, Maundy Thursday, the Easter Sunday Baptism Service and now our focus is directed toward a special emphasis in September on Creation in response to the C.E. 'Bread for the Body' education on climate change. We are also discussing the Anniversary Service for October.

Since Louise Adnams left, people are missing the symbols on the communion table that link to the morning worship. The thought is that this should not be an onerous task but considered part of the

planning. We are inviting suggestions and ideas and as yet we do not have anyone on the team with that artistic eye. One member of the congregation has given us a suggestion for our Creation theme.

Of special note we welcomed 5 new members to our congregation this year, 2 by Baptism; Erin Anderson and Sophie Williams and 3 by request; Gini Cale, co-chair of the Management Board and John Douglas, Co-chair of Management board and Nancy Douglas, member of CE. We like to keep our new members busy. We are grateful for their talents and support.

Finally, on the theme of welcoming, I would like to thank our team of ushers who put up the entrance sign and greet our members and guests at the door every Sunday morning. Their duties include welcoming but also locking the side door at the beginning of worship, presiding over requests in the prayer book, ringing the church bell, counting the congregants for fire safety, collecting and presenting the offering and the Wesley Grocery Basket. We are grateful for their devotion.

This summer our shared services will be at MacNeill on August 11<sup>th</sup>, Bob Bond preacher, August 18<sup>th</sup>, Garry Blinch preacher and August 25<sup>th</sup>, Paula Papky preacher.

**Discussion-** several people enjoy communion from the communal cup. Variety is important to keeping worship fresh. All voices need to be honoured and respected.

#### **Report from Board of Management-** John D

This year we were joined by two new members in Gini Cale and Gary Fleming  
Gini has taken on the role of co-chair and the communication and coordination role with our custodian Sandy Palin.

Focus has been on:

New roof finished

Continually upgrading the facility

Issues with the kitchen fridge! It has been replaced so generously by Jean Pritchard in honour of her mother.... Kathleen Pritchard.

Gas stove issues

Changing out our lighting for LED when necessary

New contract with the MSU daycare that could under pressure with new this fall voluntary student fees. We are closely monitoring this with Debbie Thomson the day care manager.

Our lawn maintenance is being taken care of by the husband of our Syrian newcomer family Ahmad Alatmeh (Landscaping Company)

We are always working on new rental opportunities.- Grace Lutheran, Movie shoot

Same stuff, different year! Thanks to Sandy for a job well done.

#### **Report from Outreach-** Lynn B

- May 12<sup>th</sup> was Solidary Sunday and our guest speaker was Sue Carr from 541 Barton Street who gave an inspirational message. At coffee time we raised \$246.25 for their button jar. The cheque was sent along with a thank you card from the congregation.

- Thanks to Gary cheques were sent to:

- McMaster Campus Ministries Council \$350.00

- Y.M.C.A. \$250.00

- C.B.M. \$225.00
- Micah House Refugee Reception Services Inc. \$250.00
- Mission Services Hamilton \$175.00
- Living Rock Ministries \$150.00
- Camp Kwasind \$162.50
- Oneida Baptist Camp \$162.50

- Received a thank you from McMaster Campus Ministries Council for our gift.

Motion to accept reports from Boards- moved by Gini Cale, seconded by Anne Blinch- all in favour

### Adhoc Committee Reports

- **Newcomer Committee- Al Palin**

Our Newcomer family is becoming increasingly Canadianized. It is easy now to have a conversation with any of them. Randa has completed level 3 English, even Sham, now in Junior Kindergarten is learning English. When they first arrived in Canada the government misspelled their name, Alalmeh. They have been able to have this officially corrected to Al Atmeh. On Tuesday the family celebrated Eid, the end of a month of fasting during Ramadan.

Ahmad has completed the in-class studies of professional trucking with high marks. He was unable to pass the driving test. He attempted the test again this week, but backing a big rig into tight spaces was too difficult." In the meantime, our Board of Management has hired Ahmad to provide lawn care for MacNeill and he is doing an excellent job for us. The attempt to recover the earnings which his employer is refusing to pay is ongoing. Walter Mulkewich from Burlington Baptist Church is pursuing this through the courts.

The application to sponsor Ibrahim Al Atmeh was delivered to government at the end of April, now we wait. Occasionally the MacNeill Newcomer Committee will pester government for information about the progress of the application.

There was a comment that Randa and Ahmad's language skills have very much improved. It was suggested that CBC's Go Public might help with the recovery of pay.

- **Advisory Team on CBOQ and Association Identity and Beliefs- Bob B**

Our committee (Bob Bond, Gini Cale, Barb Ridley and Beverly Leslie) have had one meeting in which we established our positions. The goal is to decide direction by the June 2020 CBOQ meeting. NHA will wait on its motion until CBOQ meets. NHA needs to have consultation with its churches in this time of waiting. We must be a voice in this at NHA. Within our group we felt a need to attend to the historic tie to CBOQ (Women of MacNeill, CBM). We don't want to harm those who have roots with CBOQ. But we also don't want to support a position that we don't support generally as a congregation. We will be exploring the Canadian Association of Baptist Freedoms ([www.c-abf.ca](http://www.c-abf.ca)) as a supporting body rather than NHA. Broad conversation will happen and we have time to explore all views.

Predicated by CBOQ decision in 2003 that no ordained minister be allowed to marry LGBTQ+ persons. MacNeill's position has been to try to accommodate same sex marriages by non NHA affiliated pastors with unofficial blessing by MacNeill. NHA motion wants to punish not just the pastor but also the churches involved for this.

Regarding the governance of NHA and CBOQ- mostly the executive is taking control. NHA has been poorly attended and so a few people have had control. CBOQ has deliberately removed control from the churches.

## **New Business**

**1-** Al and Sandy gave thanks to all who supported the **Hamilton Interfaith Peace Group** fundraiser for a boulder to be placed at City Hall.

### **2- Territorial Recognition-** Garth

MacNeill is trying to do a better job of reconciliation. We should be more obvious in our support. We now have a territorial recognition on the website. Garth wishes it to also be in the bulletin each week so that people know our position. Approval for this was given.

Possibly a poster, or plaque in the Narthex should be done. Maybe a retractable sign?- John D, Bev L and Anne Blinch will investigate.

**3- Affirming Recognition-** suggestion was made to also put a rainbow in a public place (our sign? Our website?). Management- will take this on to research what other churches have done.

### **4- MacNeil and CSCA-** John D, Ray, Gary P

The Hamilton chapter of the Canadian Scientific and Christian Affiliation (CSCA) is searching for a place for:

1. Space to hold Christian focussed events.
2. Possible warm and inviting space to act as a drop-In, study area, for students.
3. Center to encourage Christian study and discussion in the Greater Hamilton area.
4. Possible Storage of collections of books (8,000 plus volumes)

We have had initial discussions to see if there is a fit with MacNeill and CSCA.

We are seeking congregational support to further these discussions with the repurposing committee to examine the possibility of entering into a phased in process.

#### Possible Phase 1

Provide space for their board meetings.

Run some small events using the parlour over the spring, summer and fall.

Store some books from their collections ( 2,000)

#### Possible Phase 2

Formalize some further events eg. their Spring and Fall lecture series in the sanctuary (up to 40 people at 6 events)

More events in the parlour for 25-30 people.

Increase storage and display of their book collections.

#### Possible Phase 3

Begin planning of a more specific use space for a warm inviting space for study, discussion and more focussed events. This would include a library type space with digital lookup from the catalogue.

( CSCA would raise funding for this part of the project)

New shared parking for MacNeill could be possible with the Center being built above it. They have funding and are prepared to raise more when it is needed.

These are all just ideas now but they could lead to an excellent opportunity for a possible repurposing of the MacNeill facility.

CSCA have expressed interest in our highly visible and “in the Westdale flow” location and also feel strongly that they partner with and existing congregation to benefit from the synergy of being part of an active faith community!

Motion to ask the Repurposing Committee to investigate this opportunity- moved by John D, seconded by Jennifer- all in favour

**Closing Prayer- Garry Blinch**

**Dates to Remember**

Welcome Back Lunch Sept 22 2019

2019/2020 Council Meetings		7:30 – 9:30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sept 18</li> <li>• <b>Nov 20</b></li> <li>• <b>Jan 22, 2020</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Please Note – During the Jan Meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Both councils should to be present.</b></li> <li>- <b>Decide on Reps for New Year</b></li> </ul>	-	
2020 Church Meetings		Annual – Feb 2, 2020		
Executive Committee		Chairs of Board, Finance Clerk, Moderator (Chair)		

**MacNeill Baptist Church**  
**Comparison of Budget to Actual First Five months of 2019**

	Budget 2019	Actual 2019
<b>INCOME</b>		
<b>Operation Income</b>		
Regular Envelope Offering	46,667	45,906
Loose Offering	625	330
<b>Total Offering</b>	<b>47,292</b>	<b>46,236</b>
Interest Income	208	68
MSU Rental Income	9,167	9,036
Other Rental Income	2,083	1,890
Other Income	1,250	-
Designated Budgeted Items	1,667	2,350
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>61,667</b>	<b>59,580</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<b>Deacon's Board</b>		
Worship Coordinator expenses	208	288
Expenses pastoral care	125	-
Music Expenses	167	31
Guest Musicians	-	-
Continuing education music director	-	-
Children's' choir music	83	-
Organ & Piano Maintenance	167	-
Pulpit & Pastoral Supply	3,833	3,800
Flowers & Decorations	42	75
Deacon's and Special Events	83	-
Watch Care Committee	21	-
Worship Needs	-	40
Communication / Promotional	83	-
Convention Delegates	-	-
<b>Total Deacon's Board</b>	<b>5,042</b>	<b>4,234</b>
<b>Christian Education Board</b>		
Campership Expenses	333	-
Church Socials	125	-
Curriculum	208	-
Youth Group	104	-
Adult Bible Study	42	-
Programs & Supplies	42	-
<b>Total Christian Education Board</b>	<b>854</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Management Board</b>		
Postage	83	-
Accounting & Legal	-	-
Insurance	3,958	4,028
Hamilton Fire Control	146	320
Fire alarm monitoring	104	-
Stationary & Office Supplies	208	74
Photocopier	417	549
Computer Expenses	42	167
Building Maintenance	4,583	2,610
Furnace Maintenance	417	-
<b>Total Management Board</b>	<b>9,958</b>	<b>7,747</b>
<b>Financial</b>		
Bank Charges and Interest	292	452
ScotiaBank Loan Interest	83	51
ScotiaBank Loan Payment	2,083	2,083
police checks	-	-
GST/HST	1,250	1,190
<b>Total Financial</b>	<b>3,708</b>	<b>3,777</b>

# MacNeill Baptist Church

## Comparison of Budget to Actual First Five months of 2019

	Budget 2019	Actual 2019
<b>Utilities</b>		
Telephone	521	524
Water & Sewage	1,167	1,097
Electricity	2,500	2,123
Hot Water Heater	125	167
Heat	2,083	3,378
<b>Total Utilities</b>	<b>6,396</b>	<b>7,289</b>
<b>Outreach &amp; Service Board (non operational expense)</b>		
CBOQ	1,125	-
Sharing Way	-	
Discretionary Funds	125	200
Baptist Peace Fellowship	104	
541 Café		246
McMaster Campus Ministries Council	292	350
Phoenix Place	208	250
Micah House	208	250
CBM General	188	225
CBM Partners in Mission	146	-
Children's International Learning	104	-
Mission Services (Hamilton)	146	175
Oneida Baptist Camp	135	163
Camp Kwasind	135	163
Living Rock Ministries	125	150
<b>Total Outreach &amp; Service Board</b>	<b>3,042</b>	<b>2,171</b>
<b>Personnel Expenses</b>		
Worship Coordinator	8,772	8,716
Pastoral Care Coordinator	8,955	8,914
Secretary's Salary	3,496	4,080
Music Director's Contract	7,403	7,199
Caretaker's Contract	3,837	3,952
EI Expense	104	93
Other Personnel Expenses	-	
<b>Total Personnel Expenses</b>	<b>32,566</b>	<b>32,954</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>61,566</b>	<b>58,173</b>
<b>TOTAL SURPLUS (LOSS)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,408</b>

5

