

Health Cabinet Minutes, March 25, 2021

Attending: Pastor Ronnie Smith, Heddi Gregor, Sirkka Taylor, Marie Blair, Elizabeth Johns

Absent: Shakura Persaud (you were there in spirit)

1. Opening Devotion – Heddi Gregor (thank you)
2. Progress and distribution of Easter cards –

All cards have been taken care of 

3. Finalizing Healing Service Details-
 - a. Pastor Ronnie confirms that all the roles are in place. He has sent out the final liturgy, and he has prayerfully set aside any symbolic replication of the laying on of hands or anointing of oil at this time. Note – this could be revisited should we be required to run an online service in the future (precedent the ash crosses of the Ash Wednesday service) as discussed initially,
 - b. Heddi has sent in her recorded prayers,
 - c. Sirkka will be AM the following Sunday,
 - d. Marie will stay after the meeting to record the readings with Pastor Ronnie,
4. WCCM – Christian Meditation (contact person Marilyn Metcalfe, deacon, St. George’s Anglican Church, Pickering Village) –
 - a. Elizabeth will reconnect with Marilyn to see if there is any ongoing meditation meeting in lieu of the Tuesday nights at St. Georges that we could adapt into our own venue, with her guidance.
 - b. Elizabeth and Sirkka will explore the WCCM website together to see if any workshops or information would be useful and interesting to the Health Cabinet, the Intercessors or congregation.
 - c. Heddi said that she had been involved with Christian Meditation in Ajax for many years, and Elizabeth explained that Pastor Beth Wagschal had introduced the discipline and the organization to Peace during her ministry at Peace. Some Peace members had participated with Heddi, Pastor Beth, or on their own with workshops and events offered by the WCCM chapter in Durham and Toronto.
5. Heddi’s telephone ministry-
 - a. Heddi mentioned that her telephone ministry had revealed a congregant who was having a difficult time during COVID, and Pastor Ronnie said he would follow up with her. She is on the phone list for all Health Cabinet members to contact, and we could all give a friendly phone call. She should be receiving an Easter card from a younger person at Peace.
 - b. Heddi continues to contact people in the congregation by phone-2 on a regular basis.
6. Public Health information regarding vaccines in Durham –
 - a. Sirkka has offered to send a press release to Rosie with information about how to find sources of vaccine, appropriate ages, and how to register – as well as the offer to facilitate driving if necessary.
 - b. Sirkka has very kindly offered to drive people to vaccination appointments.

- c. Elizabeth said that it was possible to also find drivers in other ways as necessary, and to make such an announcement in the newsletter is a good idea.
- d. When asked her opinion, Heddi felt that this direct health approach through the newsletter was appropriate at this time.

7. Possible future activity

- a. Pastor Ronnie concerned that the visioning continues at council level, generally.
- b. Pastor Ronnie has no particular vision for the Health Cabinet currently.
- c. Despite Heddi's retirement, her ministry has not retired since she built the ministry and trained others in that ministry – the structure remains the same. It is necessary to see, under Pandemic circumstances and the aftermath which aspects of that structure will be viable.
- d. The Health Cabinet should do its own visioning to share with the church at an appropriate time:
 - i. Sirkka suggested making a list of past ministries under the Health Cabinet and discuss their viability in the present.
 - ii. What is the relationship between the pastor and the health cabinet now that we do not have the deaconess/RN intermediary?
 - iii. How do we establish an understanding of the pastoral assistance role played out between pastor and congregation?
 - iv. Some of the ministry in place before COVID is ongoing- intercessors, visiting, telephoning, general communication with HC members and congregants.
 - v. We will pray over this during the next month and bring ideas to the table at the next meeting.

8. Re-establishing contact with the chaplain of Ajax/Pickering Hospital – Lakeridge...

- a. Marie Blair volunteered to touch base with the chaplain.

9. Online therapeutic communication training workshops – a refresher for former members and open to any congregation member?

- a. Pastor mentioned that David Maginley would be offering a meeting for Peace congregants the Wednesday before Easter, and that would be a good time to ask if he offers any workshops appropriate for this type of spiritual development for our cabinet.
- b. Elizabeth will continue to seek inspiration from the Synod website or contact someone at Synod level about Lay training in pastoral care or compassionate communication.
- c. A thought that comes to mind while typing these minutes that was hovering in the periphery of my mind during this part of the meeting was a study guide in compassionate communication Heddi introduced to us some years back – and if there is an updated version, we could have periodic study groups and at least study through the book to inspire further direction (it was small).

10. Touching base with intercessors -

- a. Remembering that intercessory prayer is a large part of what we have to develop our relationship with God at this time, we agreed that gathering the intercessors for support and inspiration was important.
- b. A date will be set for May at the next meeting.
- c. Elizabeth requested that Pastor Ronnie be instrumental in a spiritual development mentorship of the group.

- d. Traditionally this role has been played by clergy (not necessarily the minister of Peace) as strong spiritual and theological guidance. During these times, this role is even more important. With a focus on the devotional aspect of intercessors.

Task List with Timelines:

Task	Person	TimeLine
Phoning the troubled parishioner	Pastor and everyone	As guided by prayer and situation
Exploring the WCCM website resources	Sirkka and Elizabeth	Tentatively the next meeting for an initial report
A vaccination report for the newsletter	Sirkka	By the next newsletter deadline (if possible)
Contacting Marilyn Metcalfe	Elizabeth	By the next meeting
Contacting the hospital chaplain	Marie	By the next meeting
Researching lay pastoral care training guides	Elizabeth	By the next meeting
Intercessor gathering date/agenda	Pastor and everything through prayer	To discuss at the next meeting
Intercessor prayer list update	Elizabeth	By Easter
Ask David Maginley about workshops	Elizabeth	Wednesday before Easter during his session at Peace

11. A date was set for the next meeting: April 29 at 4PM

12. Closing Devotion: Pastor Ronnie

WAIFS AND STRAYS:

- i. *the Lenten Devotion booklets arrived late, unfortunately, but more than 3 weeks of readings were available to recipients.*
- a. *Elizabeth hand delivered to those (without internet) who had house mailboxes.*
 - b. *Kateryna was to have mailed the remaining devotions to those (without internet) who lived in homes or condos – no follow through with Kateryna, but I pray this happened.*
 - c. *Was this paid out of the Health Cabinet budget? (record keeping)*