

MINUTES for LLWL Forum Meeting – Wednesday, February 27, 2024 (7pm on Zoom)

Attending: Cathy Gradante, Chery McMurray, Paul Kneebone, Karen Bates, Nancy Payne
Regrets/Missing: Susan Pleasance, Tanna Edwards, Lisa Norman

Started at 7pm, concluded by 8pm.

Welcome – Cathy

Opening Prayer & Land Acknowledgement – Paul

Minutes of the January Meeting

(Motion to approve by: Paul Kneebone / 2nd by: Nancy Payne)

Business Arising: if any – None.

LLWL Network – update from last gathering, if any. Couple items that Nancy introduced as follow-up:

- 1) LLWL relationship with their home community of faith minister. From feedback at the last LLWL Network meeting, a relationship or non-relationship, and everything in-between. Is such a relationship something we want to encourage and foster? A LLWL should be at their home church Sunday service more than just once a year. Is there any expected mentorship involved? It will vary by minister and congregation – nothing is defined or spelled out in either the LLWL Handbook or any other UCC document. It does fall under minister's pastoral care, as LLWL's primary relationship is with their home congregation --- and LLWL is a member of that congregation. It includes LLWL touching base more than once a year for required one pulpit supply in home community of faith. No hard and fast rules for all this. A LLWL being somewhere else most Sundays is not really the intent of being a LLWL --- it defined as "occasional." Afterall, we are sponsored and supported by your home congregation, and minister. The minister is the first point of contact, and part of their role in duty for care, as a member of that community of faith.
- 2) Updating the LLWL Handbook. It needs to be updated to better reflect the definition of Pulpit Supply, as well as the new 2024 rate and mileage fee. All attending Forum members tonight agree on discussion, as recorded by Nancy. Now it will go to the next CST meeting in March (introduced by Cheryl as part of her monthly LLWL report) for approval and then up the chain to Assembly of Elders. Proposed wording to add to the LLWL handbook under the Payment section (along with an update to 2024 rates):
"If a faith community cancels its service because of inclement weather, the LLWL does not receive payment regardless of whether material has already been prepared. If the LLWL is unable to lead worship because of illness, hazardous road conditions or for any other reason, but provides a full liturgy that is read by a member of the congregation, the LLWL should be paid in full for the work involved."

Plus, edited wording for definition of Pulpit Supply (“Pulpit Supply” vs. “Sunday Pulpit Supply”), so it includes other services such as Good Friday, Christmas Eve, etc.).

- 3) Discussion about ECORC Assembly of Elders recent decision to eliminate most of the ECORC website on all the “Network” tab on ECORC website. Nancy and Paul will work to submit new (and very brief) content for our LLWL Network page to Karen Wilson.

New Business:

- Spring Learning Event – May 4th /location- TBD/Preaching with Authenticity – finding your voice – sermon prep, etc. We still need to decide on a location. Maybe Trinity UC in Cobourg? Faith UC in Courtice? Cathy will make a few phone calls. Somewhere centrally geographically located for ease-of-access.
- LLWL Handbook – “Original Work” – issues with regard to plagiarism. Some LLWLs in our region and elsewhere are reworking sermons on *Working Preacher* website, or other sources. If you include quotes, etc., give credit (source material) in your message. Our policy is very clear. Christine Jerrett (in charge of UinL LLWL course of study) and Cathy talked --- certainly will be stressed even more so in their course of study. There is a concern. It is a matter of trusting your own voice --- we individually are called to speak from our own heart. If not your own content, you will tend to stumble over at least certain words, in a slightly different tone of voice... Different than simply quoting someone during message and giving proper credit when doing so. Cathy will mention it at the next LLWL event, and follow-up with a letter to everyone. Also, if you bring fraudulent material into your message, you’re putting everyone in that congregation at risk. Especially these days with life streaming. It can be viewed months afterwards and determined if it is original content.
- Resignation – Cheryl McMurray is resigning from the LLWL Forum. She has truly enjoyed her time integrally involved with ECORC’s reconstituted LLWL Forum since mid-2021. She will be there with us until the end of June, including the next Gathering event in June. The present Forum members expressed their appreciation for all her contributions as both ordained minister, and a LLWL.

Other business – if any:

- Matter of duplicate (and out-of-date) copies of old version (2022) LLWL Handbook posted on ECORC website (under “Policies” tab). Nancy & Paul will work with Karen Wilson to make sure only the latest LLWL Handbook version is included in the 2-3 places it is located.
- 100th anniversary for the UCC – from June 24th this year until a year later. Cathy met with ministers in her area at Bridgenorth UC about possible events, dates, etc.

Next Meeting – Wednesday, April 17th – 7pm on Zoom. Randomly decide on the first 10 interviews this year, etc. --- once everyone has submitted their before-March 31st documentation to Paul.