

**WESLEY-KNOX UNITED CHURCH**  
Spiritual Life Committee Meeting  
Thursday, September 2, 2021 at 7:00 PM

**MINUTES**

The meeting took place online via Zoom due to the coronavirus pandemic restrictions.

**Present:** Mike Beck (*Interim Chair*), Kathey Coates (*Secretary*), Mallory Brennan (*Zoom Facilitator*), Dan Leaver, Vivienne Wardle, Lynda Laskey (*Leadership Liaison*), and Glen Pearson

**Regrets:** Liz Dunlop, Cindy Milne-Wren, Karen Schuessler, Jason Taylor, Jane Roy, and Sheila Carson

**Devotional Reading:** Vivienne Wardle

- 1. Past Meeting Minutes for Approval:** There was only one change to the minutes of the August 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. The correct spelling of the new custodian's surname should be "Brophy" instead of "Brody".

**2. Past Services:**

Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>:           **Worship Team:** Chris Mortlock (LLWL), Dan Leaver  
                          **Music Team:** Karen Schuessler, Richard Yake (*Hymn Leader*)  
                          **Special Music:** Senior Choir & Mysterium Choir (*new recorded virtual video*)

Aug. 8<sup>th</sup>:           **Worship Team:** Chris Mortlock (LLWL), Dan Leaver, Alex Walker  
                          **Music Team:** Karen Schuessler, Bill Jacklin (*Hymn Leader*)

Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>:          **Worship Team:** Dave Lumley, Rev. Ken Taylor, Dan Leaver  
                          **Music Team:** Karen Schuessler, Richard Yake

Aug. 22<sup>nd</sup>:          **Worship Team:** Chris Mortlock (LLWL), Dan Leaver, Jen Paterson  
                          **Music Team:** Karen Schuessler, Sheila Carson (*Hymn Leader*)

Aug. 29<sup>th</sup>:          **Worship Team:** Rev. Pirie Mitchell, Dan Leaver, Lorraine Jardine  
                          **Music Team:** Karen Schuessler, Rev. Pirie Mitchell (*soloist*)

**Comments:**      -Aug. 8<sup>th</sup> -just over 45 people for the first in-person worship service  
                          -Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> -only 30 people attended church  
                          -Aug. 29<sup>th</sup> -60 people attended Rev. Pirie Mitchell's last service  
                          -everyone is enjoying the social gathering in the parking lot following the church service

**3. Upcoming Services / Pulpit Supply:**

Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>:           Glen Pearson, **Reader:** Helen Campbell, **Worship Leader:** Sheila Carson  
Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>:          Glen Pearson, **Reader:** Jane Walker, **Worship Leader:** Cathie Banks  
Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>:          Glen Pearson, **Reader:** EJ Lamb, **Worship Leader:** Richard Yake  
Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>:          Glen Pearson, **Reader:** Margo Bettger-Hahn, **Worship Leader:** Jane Roy  
Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>:             Rev. Camillia LaRouche, **Reader:** Lynda Laskey, **Worship Leader:**  
                          Margo Bettger-Hahn

- Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>: Thanksgiving Sunday: Glen Pearson, **Reader:** Hannah Haworth,  
**Worship Leader:** Sheila LeClair
- Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>: Chris Mortlock (LLWL), **Reader:** Sandra Fox
- Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>: Chris Mortlock (LLWL), **Reader:** Jen Paterson
- Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>: Chris Mortlock (LLWL), **Reader:** Michael Cottam

See Sunday to Sunday Planner for details of upcoming services.

- It may be February or March before a permanent full-time minister is hired.
- Have outside speakers come in once a month to speak about occurring society issues and how the congregation can get involved, i.e. Muslim & Indigenous speakers
- Chris Mortlock and Glen Pearson could speak for 2-3 weeks/month
- It was suggested to "interview" Dr. Chris Mackie, Middlesex-London Health Unit regarding the coronavirus pandemic and the importance of vaccination. Topher Beck will contact to Dr. Mackie about a possible date.
- It was suggested to have a "Collective Grieving Service" once the pandemic has resolved.
- Create a letter to send to the various church committees to ask them to run a worship service, as well as provide a speaker. Vivienne will create the letter, and Mike will email the letter to each Committee Chair. The Committee Chairs are listed on the church web site.
- Leadership Council should speak to the congregation on a regular basis to keep the congregation informed about the Search Committee progress for an interim supply minister and the hiring of the full-time permanent minister.

#### 4. Reopening Committee Report: Vivienne Wardle

- The church reopened for in-person worship services on August 8, 2021.
- Mallory Brennan and Vivienne Wardle will be the greeters for September instead of Ron & Linda Olson.
- September 5<sup>th</sup> is "Freezie Day".
- September 12<sup>th</sup> is "Welcome Back Sunday" with a carnival and a few surprises. There will be ice cream.
- September 19<sup>th</sup> is the start of Sunday School and Youth Quest. Cindy Milne-Wren is the Youth Quest Leader.
- September 26<sup>th</sup> worship service will have a guest cellist, Helen Kopec (Atlanta Symphony).
- The Reopening Committee are trying to find way to get people to attend in-person worship services. One of the suggestions is to have Brian Dalton take pictures of the congregation wearing their masks and socially distanced in church to show that it is safe to attend worship services.
- Another suggestion is to interview a congregant to ask why they attend church. *"I watch the service online, but I enjoy coming to the in-person church service because ...."*
- Due to COVID, it is difficult to provide rides to worship services.
- Need to develop a pandemic funeral service protocol.

## 5. New Business:

- **Worship Service Recording/Producing Videos:** During John McFall's post-operative recovery, Mallory Brennan will look after recording the weekly worship services. The post-recording production process takes approximately 3 hours. Dan Leaver indicated he will look after uploading the August 29<sup>th</sup> service to YouTube. *(Please note: Since this meeting date, Dan has been putting the video recordings together and uploading them to YouTube while John McFall recovers. The videos are published as soon as they are completed, often midway through the week.)*
- **In-Person Spiritual Life Committee Meetings:** The monthly Spiritual Life Committee meetings will now take place in the church Chapel at 7:00 pm observing the pandemic health guidelines for indoor gatherings.
- **Pulpit Supply Process / Search Committee Update for Long-Term Minister:** Due to John McFall's recent hospitalization, he was unable to update the committee in person. Here is his email report. *"Leadership Council met on Thursday (Aug. 26/21) evening and made the decision not to seek an extension of Pirie's contract. We had talked enough to know that there were significant differences between Leadership Council and Pirie as to the needs of Wesley-Knox. This means that we have a new search starting up for a Supply Minister to bridge the gap until we have a long term minister in place. I know it's confusing as the long-term minister search committee continues its works. There is likely to be a period after October 1 until we get a supply minister. During that time, we will reply on Glen Pearson, Chris Mortlock, pulpit supply, and other LLWLs. There is a policy that an LLWL cannot preach in any given congregation for more than 3 consecutive Sundays in a row. Both Glen and Chris have indicated a willingness to help us through this period. I recently received two lists from the Region: the LLWLs and the Pulpit Supply for the Antler River Watershed Region, which I am attaching to this email. I hope they will help in the planning of worship beyond October 1."*

## 6. Business Arising:

- None

## 7. Other Business:

- **Acting Chair Volunteer Update:** Mike Beck will be the Interim Chair of the Spiritual Life Committee during Liz Dunlop's leave.
- **Effects of Masks on Singing:** Please see the document from Karen Schuessler. The choirs are coming back! Rehearsals will start on September 23, 2021. All choir members are fully vaccinated. The choir will return on Thanksgiving Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup>.

## 8. Devotional / Reflection Reading:

Lynda Laskey has volunteered to do the next devotional reading.

**9. Next Meeting Date:** October 7, 2021 at 7:00 PM in the Chapel, Wesley-Knox United Church.

**10. Closing Prayer:** Dan Leaver

## Effects of Masks on Singing

Hi Choir (Dan copied for Sunday School and Kathey copied for congregational singing. Arlene copied just because she is a central source of general information!),

In my research to determine the best rehearsal length, I found this in-depth study (in the latest ACDA newsletter). Just a bare bones info-bit here. You can read more of the study and findings by the American Chemical Society, published August 27, 2021, here:

<https://pubs.acs.org/doi/full/10.1021/acsenvironau.1c00007>

Major studies have been ongoing throughout the past year and a half and much more is known about how aerosols travel and effect people. The latest recommendation for choral safety is now 50 minutes of rehearsal (to keep the aerosol cloud (the real culprit) small) and 3 feet of distance.

I propose to have Adult Choir rehearsals of 50 minutes of singing—to make it worth people’s time to drive there and park—and a minimum of 6 feet of distance, often 7 or 8 feet. There are three large ceiling fans close to the top of the balcony that will be on, continually breaking up any aerosols that amass. As well, floor fans can be placed behind the top row to further break up aerosols if the ceiling fans are not felt to give enough air movement. I have not checked on this yet, but will do so this weekend.

From the study:

Section 3.1, Paragraph 4: An even more dramatic reduction in jet speed and extent [as opposed to the clarinet] was seen in the case of the singer. The maximum horizontal velocity for singing was 0.78 m s<sup>-1</sup> without a mask and **0.01 m s<sup>-1</sup> with a mask**. [a surgical mask was used for testing]

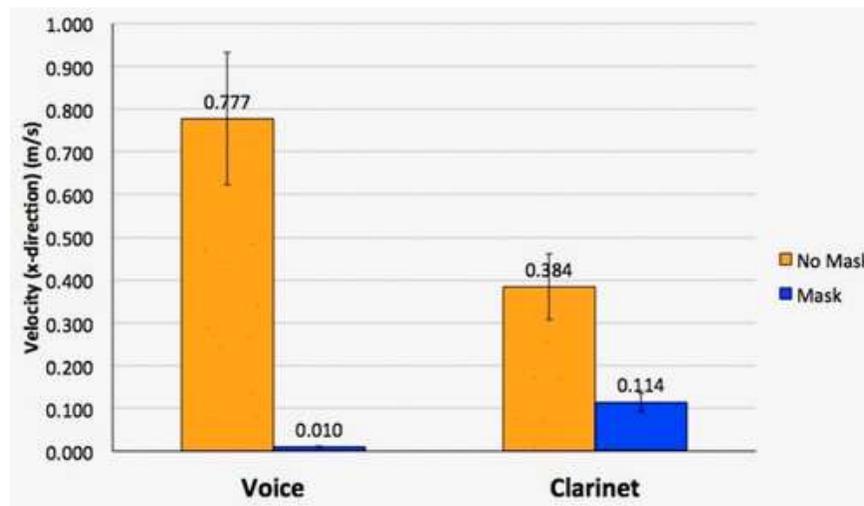


Figure 8. Average horizontal velocities (from schlieren imaging) are drastically reduced with mask.

Also, all available windows will be open for air exchange. As well, there are personal air purifiers on Amazon that you wear around your neck for "smoke, bacteria and virus". I have not researched them yet—that is my next job!

As the world prepares for the return of group singing, there is a lot of updated information out there that is encouraging.

Have a great day!

Karen

KSS — *Sing joy...*

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