

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS, March 2, 2021

Dear Congregation of ORLC,

Greetings on behalf of our newly minted Council!

At the AGM a week ago, the election of Council members resulted in two new faces joining the group. (With so much of our official business now happening by Zoom, "faces" tend to be all that anyone sees of anyone else!) Nola Reid and Elizabeth Tribe join Ferd Lamens, Lynne Marand, Stephanie Staus, Kim Hoath and me (Brita Park) around our Zoom-shaped Council "table." That makes 7! Darryl Jones' term was up, and we thank him for his immense contribution to the work of Council these past years.

As new Council, we already had two gatherings. First, we met on February 22nd to elect the "director positions" (Chair: Brita/ Vice- Chair: Nola/ Secretary: Lynne.); to confirm our treasurer Debbie Jones and our financial secretary, Shelley Eberle in their continuing positions; to approve the Minutes of the AGM; and to firm up the monthly meeting times (third Mondays, 7 pm).

Our second Council gathering was Monday, March 1.

Pastor led a short liturgy to formally install us as Council, all by Zoom. Pastor Curtis will be sending individual links to this in the near future.

At the AGM on February 21, it was so good to have 24 members show up "online" plus 2 more phone in. The meeting by Zoom went well, with an efficient support system of host, co- host and " vote counters", to make sure that every participant could hear and be heard, and everyone's vote was counted for each of the 11 Motions. A big thank you to all, to have brought your presence, your patience, your good humour, and your support for the orderly work of the ORLC " household" to the meeting. Our financial situation is "holding its own", with some extra support from both the government and the Synod. The proposed budget for 2021 was accepted at the AGM. Another special thanks goes to so many of the extended ORLC family for recognizing that your monetary support lets us get on with the core purpose of being church.

We strive to support each other in love of God and neighbour; our church exists so that the Good News be proclaimed in Word and in Action.

Currently there are several ways that we as ORLC are able to thoughtfully observe Lent. The Bible Study on the book of Ruth is being led by Pastor Curtis on Wednesday evenings. Being "strangers", and how "strangers" become "family members" is a timely topic. On Tuesday afternoons, there is a book study on "21 Things you may not know about the Indian Act", with participation and leadership from each of four Penticton congregations. All this by Zoom.

And there is another way in which to practice Lenten thoughtfulness...which uses the old technology of writing a card of encouragement. You may all know someone who would be helped by receiving a get-well card, or a 'thinking of you' card at this time.

For example, our friend Fred Von Heyking remains in hospital after a bout of COVID-19. He has since been diagnosed with ALS, and has undergone some surgery to help him breathe on his own. He is still in the intensive care unit and would be warmed by cards of love and support. Some of us are sending a card to him so that he knows we continue to hold him in our prayers. You may want to join in by sending a special card to him. Or you may have someone else who has been on your heart lately. Cards for Fred can be mailed to Fred Von Heyking c/o ICU Department, PRH, 550 Carmi Ave. V2A 3G6. Alternatively, you can drop off a card at the main entrance of the hospital where there is a card drop off.

Sincere good wishes to you all,

Brita Park

(on behalf of ORLC Council)

