

Greenbank/ Seagrave Joint Session Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 22, 2025, at 2 p.m. Greenbank Church

Attendance

Seagrave: Betty Lou Beacock (Clerk), Linda Buscher, and Darlene Hallet, Supervisor
Reverend Anne Meredith

Greenbank: Barb Ward (Clerk) Margaret Ann Lamb, Wilma Smith, Carla Puckrin,
Patrick Dwyer, and Minister Ian Wilgus

Ministers: Supervisor Reverend Anne Meredith and Minister Ian Wilgus

Regrets: Hilary Balmer, Betty Somerville, Wendy Hudgins

- Note: As part of the Clerk responsibility (alternating) Betty Lou from Seagrave made up the Agenda for Jan. 22 Session meeting
- Call to order and welcome Barb Ward at 2:16pm
- Minister Ian led opening prayer
- Pat Dwyer volunteered to take minutes for the meeting
- Adoption of Agenda for this meeting moved by Wilma, seconded by M. Ann, carried
- Adoption of Minutes from Nov. 21, 2024 Meeting, moved by Carla, seconded by Darlene, carried
- Old Business, tabled items and Updates
 - Taking up offering at Greenbank will be discussed at local board meeting
 - Seagrave has been passing their plate
- **Greenbank Affirming Update by Patrick**
 - CNOY: We are hosting the Coldest Night of the Year at Greenbank United Church on Saturday, February 22 at 1pm to 5pm. Please join our team, the Greenbank Walkers, as we raise money for an important cause in our community. Alternatively, donate to the team and join us for the walk. Refreshments will be available at the church for any person who is interested in participating. Please contact Pat Dwyer if you have questions.
 - PIE Day Shepherd's Pie Fundraiser: The Affirming Committee is once again selling shepherd's pies for PIE Day to fundraise for the annual Affirming Scholarship for Port Perry High School. Last year we were able

to present one student with a \$500 scholarship to aid them in their postsecondary education. To purchase pies, use the link in the e-blast or contact Pat Dwyer. We hope for another successful year.

- PIE Day Dinner at Greenbank United Church: On Friday, March 14 from 6pm to 8pm, the Affirming committee is hosting a PIE Day dinner to celebrate being Public, Intentional, and Explicit together with the community.
 - We are serving shepherd's pie created by the PPHS culinary program, pizza (pie) for children, salad, and dessert. Save the date on your calendars, and we will share ticket information soon.
- Sunday School Updates: Pat had no updates to share but reported that Sunday School is going well.
- **Quin Mo Lac Summer Registration has begun. This year they celebrate 75 Years of Camping with a Purpose. I have information if someone needs any.**
 - Men's breakfast club usually sponsors two kids
 - Children who went last year really loved it
- World Day of Prayer is being hosted by Sunderland this year. Info, invitation and date to follow.
 - First Friday in March usually
- **Planning for upcoming dates: Study Group, 5 weeks in February**
 - Harry Potter and Sacred Text podcasts – over five Sundays starting in February
 - Alternating between Tuesday evening and Sunday afternoon to make it accessible
 - 1pm on Sundays
 - 7pm on Tuesdays
 - Maximum 90 minutes – can be shorter
 - Google Speaker in office so people can listen to it during the group
 - No requirement to have read Harry Potter
 - Do not need to attend all – come when you can
- **Upcoming Dates for Services**
 - Jan.26: 3rd Sunday after Epiphany – Seagrave

- Prayer shawl blessings
- Feb. 2: 4th Sunday after Epiphany – Greenbank
- Feb. 9: 5th Sunday after Epiphany – Seagrave
- February – Black History Month
 - seeking out voices of people who have been marginalized
- March 2: Transfiguration Sunday – Greenbank
- Planning up to Easter
- March 5 – Ash Wednesday at Greenbank at 7pm
 - Re introduction of the New Zealand Lord's Prayer for Lent
- Ian's Continuing Education day, Mar 23 – Seagrave – need Supply
- April 6: Communion at Seagrave with Les Hill
- April 13: Palm Sunday at Greenbank
- April 18 – Good Friday at Seagrave at 7pm
- Ecumenical Friday morning walk in Port Perry at 9:30am
- April 20 – Easter Sunday at Seagrave
- April 20 – Sunrise Service at Bethel Cemetery Greenbank 6:30am. Coffee and breakfast snacks afterwards.
- In May, dedication to new equipment donated to Seagrave church
- Communion dates TBD going forward
- **Greenbank and Seagrave Funeral Policies**
 - Checklist for people to have when booking a funeral or a wedding
 - Things that should be asked, especially with tech needs
 - Should notify minister immediately when a funeral is booked
 - If it's in our building, should let minister know – this should be our policy
 - Should be our minister doing the funeral or in conjunction with someone else
 - Wedding Policy in the building– should also have rules about the logistics/other matters

- Candle lighting at Seagrave – policy discussion on who the candle is lit for. Concerns about missing people who are non-members.
 - People should know why the candle is lit
- Whoever is renting the church, we then know which questions are being asked
 - E.g. do they need livestreaming? Are we doing it or is the funeral home?
- All the pieces part of worship – funeral/wedding are worship services
- Will get volunteers to look at the policy together
- Could consider broader approach for any use of our sanctuary for worship, we have a policy about Minister Ian's presence
 - E.g. our primary worship leader should be consulted for all worship in the sanctuary
 - e.g. First right of refusal to our minister for all services with specifications for wedding and funerals
- committee of Betty Lou, Barb, Wilma, and Minister Ian
- Re introduction of the New Zealand Lord's Prayer for Lent
 - For six Sundays of Lent – held people get to know it
 - Will be available in the e-blast in advance
 - Teach Sunday school kids about it beforehand
 - Jesus Loves Me Hymn for the Sunday School
- Ian's Continuing Education Day: Mar 23 – Seagrave – need supply
 - Darlene will supply
 - Emergency Pastoral Care for that week – Minister Ian will find person to cover that
- Other Business to be added
 - **Antipendia :Darlene**
 - Little Britain United closed in October – had cloths for each of the seasons of church year. Returned to Darlene since she made them.
 - Welcome to Seagrave, Greenbank, or Brooklin
 - Could ask about if we can distribute in ECORC newsletter

- **Betty Lou: Seagrave Session Responsibilities (Antependia/Prayer Shawls/Candle lit for Deaths/Communion Bread)**
 - Antependia stored in basement – need volunteer
 - Looking for help with these jobs
 - People to help identify needs for prayer shawls and ensure they're blessed
 - Identifying when a candle should be lit for death
 - Communion Bread – ask for volunteers from the congregation
 - Could have Communion Stewards similar to Greenbank
 - Idea of having candles lit during prayers of the people or another specific part of the service
 - Ian to follow up with this
- Note from Ian: Connections to Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation
 - Hope to ask them to come for National Indigenous People's Day
 - Ensure we pay an honourarium for coming
- Issue of where minutes are located on the website:
 - Need to ensure it's under Unified Session on the website
- Recognition: Thank you to MA Lamb for many years of dedication on session – term is over
- We are nominating Norma Ferguson for Greenbank position on Session
- Next Meeting Date: April 2 at 2pm
- Closing Prayer by Minister Ian

Greenbank Only Meeting of Session:

- One item to Discuss – the Greenbank Safety Policy for Sunday School
- Confirmed that safety policy was approved in 2020
- Existing policy requires renewal of the police check every 2 years.
 - Motion from Wilma to amend the policy on police checks. Volunteers will now need to renew every five years and sign a declaration to confirm they have no

convictions under the Criminal Code of Canada for which a record suspension has not been granted on an annual basis.

- Motioned by Wilma, seconded by Carla, carried.
- Can finalize wording of the policy and present this to the local board to finalize the changes