

Feb 28 2021

MODERATOR'S Comments

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the Moderator.

Thank you to each of the Board Members. Jean Braithwaite, Kevin Doran, Lois Fagan who are Members at Large, Marion Waldron, Treasurer Pastor Craig and the Committee chairs: Barbara Lake, Chair of Deacons, John Riley Chair of Management. Glen Houghton Chair of Nominating Committee. Jean Speaks for CE&O.

Special Thanks to Valerie Milligan who prepares and distributes the Minutes of our meetings

How do we adequately thank Pastor Craig, Iwan Jenkins, Sam Khiatani, Niran Oyedemi, John Riley, Camilo Vega and David Yu for their amazing skills; for providing us with meaningful worship services each Sunday. We thank them from the bottom of our hearts. THANK YOU!

The Board has held 5 meetings since we were elected in October. October 26, November 4, November 30, January 25, and February 22.

I want to tell you about four areas.

- Plan to Protect
- MBC web site
- Board and Committee processes
- Social issue learning opportunities

Plan to Protect

On your behalf I want to thank Debbie Moolman for her work on the Plan to Protect over the last few years. As you know Debbie moved to the Salt Spring Island recently.

I am pleased to tell you that Niran and Funke Oyedemi have volunteered to be the Administrative leaders for the program. And that Laura Rowe and Kimberly have agreed to take on the Training of Volunteers. All four are taking the web-based Plan to Protect courses for certification for these positions. Thank you Funke, Niran, Laura and Kimberly. Thanks to Ruth Currie will continue as Hall monitor and continue helping Gihanni keep the records.

Jean Braithwaite is the point person on the Board providing a link with the Plan to Protect team.

We want to be ready to re-open our programs. So updating and training for volunteers will likely start in the Spring.

MBC Web Site

Lois Fagan is the point person on the board for the website. Lois will work with Alexandra to ensure the Members area is current and informative.

Board and Committee Processes. HOW THINGS ARE DONE

About 18 months ago Karen Soltau asked Kevin Doran, Valerie and me to search out MBC policies and update them. We had several meetings and gathered many documents, some very old. and then Covid, stopped us. During this COVID time, with time on my hands, I tried to pull them together and sort them by committees. A new document has been prepared. The purpose is to provide consistency and transparency. No longer should you have to go find John or Marion or Alexandra to find out where something is. This manual will tell you how things are done and where to find the information.

Each committee chair and staff provided information, reviewed drafts, and gave feedback. Marion Waldron's experience and tenure enabled her to provide concise information. For example, if you want to know how bills are paid or how the staff receive their pay, Go to the manual.

Thank you to all who provided input especially Marion Waldron and Lois Fagan. Lois is an expert editor.

The manual will be in the members area of website and in the Café. Please have a look at it and please use it. There is space at the end for suggested updates.

Social Issues

Every day each of us face the social concerns of our community. CBC, CNN ensures that we are aware of the pain and hurts that abounds in society at large. But it is not just "OUT THERE". It happens in our own Markham every day. Our kids face troubling issues every day in class, in their relationships, in their own experiences. Perhaps you have experienced such issues at work.

MBC is a caring place. Shouldn't MBC be a place where kids can hear adults learning and discussing these issues, whether they be indigenous people living without clean water, Human trafficking, Black people being profiled by the police, or an LGBTQ person trying to find their way.

We are encouraging you to join the conversation. The starting place is a CBOQ series of **four** one-hour Zoom sessions, called "**Journeying Together**". This is about Racism and the Church. The web site has been provided in the weekly communication. Please take an hour once per month to watch it.

We have added two extra conversational opportunities, so that as the MBC family we can talk about the issue of racism. Asking ourselves,

- How do I react to the information provided?
- How do I welcome people who are different from me?
- How do I listen to what they are feeling? Do I really hear their worries and fears?
- How do I care or support someone who is exposed to racism and hurting?
- How do I protect people from being hurt at MBC ?

Please join these conversations. Encourage your children and youth to join in and participate in the conversation. We need to hear them. Let them know we do not have all the answers but were not afraid to talk about the issues that we all face.