



**WOW Town Hall Meeting via Zoom: Questions/Comments/Chat Notes**  
**Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 1 pm – 2:30 pm**

**AGENDA**

Orientation to Zoom

Acknowledgement of the Land: President Gary Clark

Opening Devotion: President Gary Clark

Advice for Communities of Faith

- Pastoral Relations and Employment Concerns: Diane Blanchard, Minister, Pastoral Relations
- Community of Faith Meetings, Finances, Other Concerns: John Neff, Minister, Congregational Support and Mission
- Supporting Giving: Dave Jagger, Stewardship and Gifts Officer
- May Regional Meeting & General Council Update: Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Executive Minister

Kevin Steeper, Pastoral Support Minister, is available to ministry personnel during this period of time by email and phone, 1-833-236-0280 ext. 8.

**WOWRC TOWN HALL CHAT NOTES (171 participants)**

**Buildings/Money/Staff concerns**

From JACK's iPad : IF OUR CHURCHES ARE CLOSED CAN THE ONLY PERSON ENTERING THEM BE SOMEONE FOR INSURANCE INSPECTION PURPOSES ONLY.

From Joan Silcox-Smith : The buildings are closed but our ministry and hearts are open.

From Michele : On the question of essential services, my understanding is that this is relevant for face-to-face contact but that on-line was still available to any organization.

From Greg Smith-Young : That's correct Michele. From the Ontario Government's list of services: "This does not preclude the provision of work and services by entities not on this list either online, by telephone or by mail/delivery. Note that teleworking and online commerce are permitted at all times for all businesses."

From Susan : My understanding from the Office of Vocation is that the UCC's lead lawyer is preparing a statement to congregations about Covid-19-engineered layoffs possibly being grounds for wrongful dismissal suits. Shouldn't this be clarified before you create a template for layoff letters?

From Diane Blanchard : Susan, the template for laying off was with regard to lay employees, not ministry personnel

From Susan : Thanks for the clarification, Diane.

From Rev. Jenn Hind-Urquhart : What about churches without reserved funds?

From Kate : Do congregations need to seek permission to use these funds? I thought we had to contact you, John

From Rev. Jenn Hind-Urquhart : Why is the United church of canada not giving money outright to communities of faith who need it ..The UCC has money

From Felicia : I echo Rev. Jenn Hind-Urquhart's question: Why can't money from the Regional Council or TUCC be used to supplement congregations who need it? I'm thinking especially of small rural congregations who were already struggling before COVIC-19. Thanks for considering this!

From Rev. Jenn Hind-Urquhart : Getting a loan to pay staff is brutal - Where is all the UCC Money !!

From Gord Dunbar : Jenn and Felicia, remember that with the new structure of the United Church, we actually have far less money available than before. For example, we have about one third the staff from the previous structure at the Regional level. As well, the national level is up for further cuts to "live within our means."

From Doug Hayward : E-transfer are another way, if it available

From Felicia : Yes E-transfer is available at Emmanuel United in Waterloo. I suggested this to my treasurer in Erin and she is checking into it. No fee as with CanadaHelps.

From Gail : is that email: PAR@unitedchurch.ca

From Mary Boland : CIBC does not allow us to use E-transfer

From sonjavandehoef-fraser : Was there a hyphen in there: PAR@United-Church.ca

From Nancy Knowles : CanadaHelps fees are very high

From Gail : funny, because our CIBC bank does!

From Andrea Allan : Felica, Arthur, and Jenn, we at Westminster accept e-transfer... I can put you in contact with our treasurer if you'd like

From Doug Hayward : So every bank may be different so homework required

From candicebist : Which bank allows email transfers? And does anyone have a bank that allows email transfers from the church for payments when the cheques are double signed?

From Felicia : Andrea, I know that Jenn's church already has this.

From Jane Sullivan : I think we bank with TD and we do e-transfers at Creemore

From Paul Warder : Royal Bank accepts e-transfers and you can pay bills and people electronically.

From Mary Boland : Gail which branch of CIBC does use e-transfer

From Jane Sullivan : but email transfers to pay the bills I'm not sure, when you have to have two signers

From Greg Smith-Young : I'm wondering if it depends what particular type of account a church has, not so much which bank they bank with?

From Jane Sullivan : Greg that sounds plausible!

From Greg Smith-Young : Accounts that allow sending and receiving e-transfers might have higher service charges, which might be worth it.

From Gail : It cost our church \$40 to set up a separate e-transfer account: donations@knoxayr.ca

From Jane Sullivan : How about multipoint charges?

From Jane Sullivan : I mean, our email is together, but our churches have their own accounts

From sonjavandehoef-fraser : Thank you!

13:42:46 From Greg Smith-Young : Thanks Dave.

13:43:23 From Michiko Bown-Kai : I'm taking notes from the meeting here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1s-STZ-MpS6ppB74XehL75nkh24CuUeLWcKmmmbU0LJEA/edit?usp=sharing>

From John Neff : <https://www.united-church.ca/leadership/church-administration/technology-support-grants-pastoral-charges-and-community-ministries>

From Greg Smith-Young : Jane, use white candles and photoshop them? ;)

From Mary Boland : from Mary - what I am hearing ministers cannot work in church office as well?

From sonjavandehoef-fraser : Thank you!

From Jane Sullivan : Greg LOL!!!

From Chris Fickling : or melt purple crayons and coat them ;)

From Greg Smith-Young : Very helpful C-A.

From Felicia : Who can I be in touch with regarding building use? We house a radio station of the Emergency Broadcast system....there are some from our AA group who say their meetings are essential. I'll need advice.

From Randy Banks : Did I actually hear that we cannot livestream from the church building?

From Judy M - Elora United : that's what was said, Randy

From susancole : Cheryl, will the cease on using church buildings (digital worship from the sanctuary) be in effect for this Sunday March 29?

From Nancy Denham : can you record it from another location, like the ministers back yard

From Greg Smith-Young : We can record from elsewhere, such as our private home or backyard. From the government's statement: "This does not preclude the provision of work and services by entities not on this list either online, by telephone or by mail/delivery. Note that teleworking and online commerce are permitted at all times for all businesses.

From Robert Williams : If the church has been closed completely for 2 weeks already, does the custodian need to wear personal protective equipment when cleaning the building or checking for security

From Gail : Shouldn't the cleaner NOT be in the building? Isn't that a violation too?

From Thérèse Samuel : Custodian still might be bringing virus in to building, and should take precautions for her own safety. if you touch then wash hands, what you touched might still be contaminated.

From Randy Banks : Pretty hard to come by protective equipment at this time.

From Greg Smith-Young : Good point Randy. And it should be reserved for health care folks.

From Randy Banks : Protective equipment is needed by hospitals not empty churches.

Kara McCluskie : I too have had concern about the cross contamination Susan Cole when sending to folks. Some are suggesting to not lick envelopes but to seal them with scotch tape.

From Greg Smith-Young : Canada Post FAQs

[https://www.canadapost.ca/web/en/kb/details.page?article=coronavirus\\_faq&cattype=kb&cat=general\\_inquiries&subcat=generalinformation](https://www.canadapost.ca/web/en/kb/details.page?article=coronavirus_faq&cattype=kb&cat=general_inquiries&subcat=generalinformation)

From Jane Sullivan : see Canada Post for stuff about mail...

From susancole : Thanks Jane.

From Rod Coates : Question is best answered by local health unit, not us. :)

From Dave Jagger : seal envelopes with a damp cloth or a melting ice cube. no licking!

From Nancy Knowles : self-sticking envelopes...easy

## **Technology**

From Felicia : Free Zoom is available for more than 40 minutes! My Erin Ministerial just had an hour long meeting yesterday. They are waiving this at Zoom!

From Dave Jagger : there is a discount of %0% I believe through TechSoup through Buying United.

From Gail : The cost for zoom PRO or a month at a time is \$20 per month - that might be a cheaper option for some churches to pay as you go.

From Lyn Workman and Harold Walton : Did he say "tech soup"

From Judy M - Elora United : Techsoup is great

From Thérèse Samuel : Zoom has removed the option to call in by phone with a Basic account. You now need Pro to phone in.

From Chris Fickling : <https://www.techsoupcanada.ca/>

From Nancy Denham : tech soup allows many options for software like Microsoft office

From Dave Jagger (Stewardship & Gifts Officer, [djagger@united-church.ca](mailto:djagger@united-church.ca)) : here's the buying united link for video conferencing <https://buyingunited.net/video-conferencing>

From John Neff : TechSoup Canada – Zoom Pro-plan- 1-year-subscription.

Technology Support Grants for Pastoral Charges and Community Ministries

Buying United.ca - technology

From Lyn Workman and Harold Walton : Could we perhaps have a sample letter, Dave?

## Funerals

From THELMA KUDELKA : What should our protocols be surrounding funerals? As a lay person should we not attend funeral visitations or services?

From Greg Smith-Young : I have a question re: funerals.

From Tanya Cameron : There was direction about funerals sent out today: <https://www.united-church.ca/news/moderator-asks-funerals-be-delayed>

From susancole : We still have little understanding of the virus and whether or not it can be transferred by those handling the mail between when you put it in the mail box and it gets delivered.

From Kate : It still allows committals

From Dave Jagger : "I ask you to think very carefully about the risk inherent in even a committal service with a small group present; none of us wants to damage another's health. We may need to focus on pastoral care without liturgical support." pulled from Moderator's note this morning.

From Dave Jagger : <https://www.united-church.ca/news/moderator-asks-funerals-be-delayed>

From John Neff : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1OCZRann8w>

## Sharing of Ideas

From John Neff : How is your community of faith staying connected as a worshipping community, and as a caring community during this time?

From Nancy Knowles : Besides doing a YouTube service, I am sending out a song a day - something inspirational, or joyful, or thoughtful. In addition, we have a phone tree going so that everyone in the church gets called every 5-7 days to check in.

From Mary Boland : from Mary - sending our daily letters. have a caring team of 3 plus myself calling people on a regular basis.

From Mary Boland : am also streaming a service on the Sundays

From Gail : One thing that no-one has mentioned yet is that we are asking folks from our church to send it photos of what they are doing at home e.g. reading, playing cards etc. I am putting a slide show together to send out to everyone by email. They are talking on the phone, but it is good to see each other.

From THELMA KUDELKA : The most important people that we have to stay connected with are the elderly and we should all have at least three to five that we should be keeping in contact with at least twice a week.

From Nancy Knowles : Great idea, Gail

From Mary Boland : I called the nursing and retirement homes and they have agreed to print off the letters and copy off the sermon and distribute to the resident members there.

From Jane Sullivan : I'm doing regular Mailchimps - also Zoom and FB live worship. I'm asking people to send images that are triggered by the reading of the passion, so our Palm/Passion "pageant" will be dramatic readings with the pictures on a slide show to accompany. I'm bummed that I can't film my children's stories though

From Heather Leffler : Rockwood and Stone are two small congregations. We have set up circles of care. I called each active household and ask them to contact another household once a week by phone or email. This means that everyone who chose to participate makes a call and receives a call.

From Jane Sullivan : I was building a kind of a Zen garden...maybe I'll sneak in after dark and snake it out of there...

From Laurie : At Exeter United Church I have members of my Leadership Team and my Spiritual Care Visitors who each have a list of names of congregations members to contact and connect with them to maintain community on an ongoing basis. I have called this group Spiritual Care Connectors and given them a template about how they can effectively connect. Thanks goes to Greg Smith-Young for the prompt on this via Facebook.

From Mary Boland : from Mary - lots of great ideas. thanks for sharing.

From Gail : Yes, worship can be recorded anywhere. As the weather gets nicer, I plan to lead it outside on my garden. I am reminded of the Voices United hymn; The church is wherever God's people are ..."

After all, Jesus preached from boats, mountains, beaches, and rarely in a temple

From Andrea Allan : To add to what others are doing, something that hasn't been mentioned yet. I approached all of our families with children and youth and asked if they would mind sending a card or 2 or 3 to the single folks in our congregation who would be struggling now. I got such a great response that I started giving out older couples who could also use extra support, and 1 person in particular without family, internet, or computer I gave to 5 families!

From Andrea Allan : I have also moved away from Facebook and been posting videos to our (newly created) YouTube channel as I found many folks in our congregation did not have facebook

From Deb Bell : Great idea!

From Nancy Knowles : Yes, we've found that YouTube channel is used so much more than Facebook

From Kathy Douglas : Please continue to consider and put in place Duty of Care in all you do with folks on phone and on line and on Zoom. If you wish to chat about this...be in touch with me  
KDouglas@united-church.ca

From sonjavandehoef-fraser : Yes! Exactly!

From Andrea Allan : What a great way to support folks Sonja

From Judy Zarubick : remember to get licenses to stream and sing

From Jane Sullivan : We have a pretty good group of folks that don't own a computer = I've been vexing over how to reach them. Kids sending cards is a good idea!

From sonjavandehoef-fraser : I've sent out an email to the congregation about going "live" on Facebook and appealed to my congregation to find ways to join. I was encouraged that 5 of our most senior members reached out to grandkids and they were connected by Sunday and able to join in. Very encouraging to see that folks are willing to think outside the box and challenge themselves to figure this out!

From Sandra McLauchlan-Abuja : We are no longer hosting A.A. there is a website for A.A. on line. Leaders of our groups were very understanding and have formed a buddy system or more time with their sponsors on the phone.

From Mary Elizabeth665 305 487 : Richard Bott also posts great prayers on his facebook page each day.

From Andrea Allan : Looking for the Moderator's Zoom spaces? (Pinned post)

(The room will be open for conversation in the Zoom chat box - or just making sure we've got technical details worked out - 15 minutes before the gathering officially begins.)

Ministry Personnel prayer gathering - EVERY DAY, 9am PDT / Noon EDT / 1:30 NDT -

<https://zoom.us/j/350685135>

ModCon Online (plus) - WEDNESDAY to MONDAY, 4pm PDT / 7pm EDT / 8:30pm NDT -

<https://zoom.us/j/592865212>

Weekly Worship Gathering - TUESDAYS, 4pm PDT / 7pm EDT / 8:30pm NDT -

<https://zoom.us/j/430370956>

From Sandra McLauchlan-Abuja : Thank you to our WOW staff for this very informative and sincere zoom meeting . Wonderful meeting this way.

From Heather Leffler : Thank you Gary and our staff for this valuable information and the work you are doing to support us

From Mary Elizabeth665 305 487: really appreciate the live voices