

**UNITED WELCOME GROUP MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2015**

10:30 a.m.

Christ United, Lyn

Present: Rev. Wendy MacLean, Co-Chair
David Bremner, Co-Chair
Diane Daub, Secretary
Rev. Kimberly Heath
Rev. Heather Froats
Catherine Clow
Joan Tallon
Eileen Doner
Linda James
Carolyn Matheson
Lynne Gardiner
Harvey Loyst

Invited Guest: Ron Zajak, News Reporter

The meeting was called to order at 10:34 a.m. by Rev. MacLean.

1.0 Opening Prayer by Rev. Heath and welcome by Rev. MacLean.

2.0 Agenda: Approved as presented.

3.0 City Steering Committee Update:

Rev. Heath reported on the meeting held earlier this week. The committee is comprised of representatives from churches and several community agencies within and outside the City boundaries. There are three target groups within the committee as a whole - fundraising, sponsorship and settlement. A capital campaign is underway with a planned reception for known larger donors in the community, followed by a public promotion for donations to the community fund. As meetings progress, more information will be available on the acquisition to these funds.

The next community open meeting will be held on November 16th at 4:00 p.m. at the fire hall and will offer training.

4.0 Previous Minutes, October 22, 2015:

Diane noted clarification to page 1, last para, last line, to read:

“...or until the family is financially able to care for themselves within the first year.”

5.0 Business arising from previous minutes:

5.1 Financial Coordinator -

Joanne Pearce has agreed to take on this task, with the request that funds flow through Wall Street to facilitate the accounting process. Although transfer of funds will be made to the community fund, it was recommended this group retain some autonomy with immediate access for expenses. It was also pointed out that contributors may wish to assign their donation directly to the families/ individuals selected by this group.

Donation cheques will be made payable to Wall Street United Church indicating United Welcome as the recipient budget line.

5.1.1 Financial Obligations -

It was questioned whether financial feasibility must be verified. Because this group is working under the umbrella of the United Church of Canada as a Sponsorship Agreement Holder, should we fail to have sufficient funds available, it becomes the responsibility of the UCC; whereas a group of 5 or community groups must prove funds are or will be available. Many items will be obtained via “in kind” donations and already have offers of furniture. Storage for these items is needed and the City is looking for a large storage area.

With the recent federal government announcement to bring 25,000 refugees to Canada by year-end, the process may become less restrictive.

5.2 Forms Preparation Coordinator -

Alex Heath has been working with Ahmad Khadra to gather information to bring the Ayman family to Brockville. It is critical to get the Ayman family name to the government advising they have identified sponsorship. Forms completion requires much detail with clearly defined wording. Alex has agreed to assist with this; however, needs someone to work with him.

Action: Send name(s) to Diane by Monday.

5.3 BVOR Selection -

There was discussion on the type and number to select, (family, individuals, single parent, vulnerable women, LGBT orientation). It was noted housing someone as a boarder would be less expensive and would provide support towards independence. From the list dated October 13th, the following were suggested;

VOR 177 - 32 year old female, “woman at risk”

VOR 274 - 33 year old female, “woman at risk with 4 children”

VOR 447 - 31 year old single male, Urgency high.

VOR 188 - family with 3 children looking for francophone community outside Quebec

It was agreed the priority will be (1) woman at risk with children and (2) single woman at risk and/or LGBT.

Action: Carolyn Matheson and Linda James will review the list in detail and make a recommendation at the next meeting. Any member of this group can send their suggestions to Carolyn.

Action: Diane will send the new BVOR list to members upon receipt from UCC.

6.0 New Business:

6.1 Contact person with Ahmad Khadra -

Alex Heath will continue his contact with Ahmad for forms completion and Rev. Wendy will give support and keep him up to date on progress by this group.

6.2 Contact person with UCC Sponsorship Program -

Rev. Kim will continue in this capacity.

6.3 Publicity Coordinator -

The degree of publicity just prior to and on arrival will be at the wish of the Ayman family. At this time it is uncertain what/how much publicity is needed.

Action: Harvey Loyst agreed to this task.

United Welcome Group Meeting,
November 4, 2015

Church members are requesting information and offering “in kind” donations. It was suggested a generic pamphlet is prepared for distribution in the churches.

Action: Diane and Harvey

Pictures of the Ayman family will be sent with these minutes.

Action: Diane

It was agreed each church will post a list for people to indicate what furnishings/items they can donate with these listings submitted to Diane to create a data base.

Action: One representative from each church to post a sign up list and give to Diane at following meetings to create the data base.

7.0 Additional Resources:

7.1 Lifeline Syria Sponsorship Handbook -

This 90 page resource book prepared by Ryerson University student researchers is a comprehensive go-to from prior to arrival to what happens after celebration. Printed copies for those without e-mail will be made available at the next meeting.

Action: Diane

7.2 Study of Islam -

Eileen reported that the UCC has developed a Study of Islam which was held at Wall Street some time ago. It was suggested this be offered again and open to the community.

Action: Eileen

Action: Carolyn will look into the availability of a speaker at St. Lawrence College.

8.0 Next meeting date: Thursday, November 19th at 10:0 a.m.

Our thanks to Rev. Wendy and Christ Church Lyn for providing the location and coffee.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m. with a closing prayer.

Task	Assigned to
Suggested name(s) for forms coordinator assistant to Diane by Monday, Nov 9	Any member
Review BVOR List & make recommendation at next meeting	Carolyn and Linda
BVOR list preference to Carolyn	Any member
Send new BVOR list to members upon receipt from UCC.	Diane
Publicity required	Harvey
Develop generic pamphlet	Harvey and Diane
Furnishings/item donation sign-up sheet	Representative from each church
Provide listing to Diane at next meeting	Representative from each church
Lifeline Syria Handbook printed copies for those without e-mail	Diane
Study of Islam	Eileen
Speaker from SLC	Carolyn