

**Association of Dundas Churches**  
**Minutes**  
**September 28, 2023**  
**2:00 pm**  
**Christ Church Flamborough**

**Present:**

Dundas Baptist -  
Christ Church Flamborough - Rosemary Horsewood  
Highland Hills Faith Community - Dorothy Bartalos, Rev. Peg Turner, Rev. Ian McPhee  
Mountainside Church -  
St. James Anglican - Norma Coe (Chair), Rev. Leslie Gerlof, Anne Washinton.  
St. Paul's United - Rev. Jim Cairney, Ellen Danciu, Mary Anne Tangney  
Salvation Army - Johnathan Miedema

**Regrets:**

Wayne Poole (Highland Hills Faith Community), Rev. Edwin Anderson (Dundas Baptist), Naomi (Christ Church Flamborough),

1. **Opening:** Chair Norma Coe welcomed all back from the summer break. A warm welcome was extended to the new St. Paul's United Lay Representative, Ellen Danciu. Thank you to Christ Church Flamborough for hosting us. Rev. Jim Cairney opened our meeting with prayer. The Land on which we met was acknowledged by Anne Washington.
2. **Minutes:** The minutes of our last meeting on June 22, 2023 was circulated prior to this meeting. No errors or admissions were stated. *\*\* Motion to approve the Association of Dundas Churches (ADC) minutes of June 22, 2023. (Mary Anne Tangney/Dorothy Bartalos). Carried.*
3. **Business Arising:**
  - Cactus Festival - (August 17 - 20, 2023) An Ecumenical Service was held outside at Highland Hills Faith Community (formerly St. Mark's United Church). Good attendance (approx. 176) on a beautiful August Sunday (Aug. 19). The theme was 'Creation & Community'. Three 'clowns' handed out promotional leaflets at the Cactus Festival Parade!! (Kudos to the clowns!). Ideas for next year - same: Ecumenical Service (people liked worshipping together!). In Parade: Tandem bikes 'working together' as churches! ADC members carrying the huge banner(s) we possess stored at St. Paul's (not necessarily a float every yr!). At the service, some messages written on 'leaves' with the question: 'What would you like ADC to do in/for the Dundas Community?'  
Responses were:
    - Care for the environment - 6
    - Outreach to the Community (dinners/homelessness) - 18
    - Children & youth - 10
    - More collaboration on worship & gatherings like this - 25
    - (Generic) - Love & care for others - 32
    - "Leaf it to God"
    - Hold 'mission festival to support all the missions in Dundas - 1

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**4. Updated Reports:**

- Treasurers Report - Peg Turner (Treasurer) reports the Cactus Festival brought in \$775. and the T-shirt costs were \$600. A couple XL are left. The total balance of the ADC Account at BMO is \$1449.95. *\*\* Motion to approve the Treasurers Report (Peg Turner/ Leslie Gerlofs). Carried.*
- Climate Action Team (CAT) - Anne Washington reminded us that in June 2023, the CAT Team declared themselves 'on hold' until further direction of the larger ADC Team. Two members (Anne W., Wayne P.) were willing to pursue a 'Community Forum' in collaboration with Dundas Works & Action 13 (local climate groups). Both parties were approached as well as speaker, Linda Lukasik (appointed Climate Action Lead) & are willing to participate. This forum would possibly take place in the Spring, 2024. Focus: 'Where is the City of Hamilton with Its Climate Action Plan' Discussion - Does ADC want to move forward with this Community Forum? *\*\* Move that ADC host an event in Dundas in the Spring of 2024 with the purpose of informing the community about Hamilton's Climate Action Plan. (Anne Washington/Leslie Gerlofs). Carried.*
- Ministerial - Leslie Gerlofs reported that the Ministerial group discussed the 'mission' of ADC & ways to serve our community of Dundas. We need to prioritize and become stronger together. Ministerial felt that ADC could take some direction from the Ecumenical Service 'leaves' (see list above)..enhancing the Monday Night dinners? or changing the way each church handles it's charitable givings when asked for assistance - many hand out metro cards, etc. Leslie asked the question: "How do we set people up for success?" *\*\* Possibly our churches coordinate &/or collaborate with our local Dundas Community Services, who know the circumstances of many Dundas Citizens who we also serve. We need to involve our individual churches Outreach people. \*\*(See DCS below). Noted that any changes to the way things are done must be communicated well to the public. This conversation will continue.*
- Routes Youth Services - Rosemary Horsewood tells us that Routes is up and fully operating with new staffing, after a long on-line presence during the pandemic! The average age is 12 years and the summer brought many new youth. a Youth Resilience worker has been added to staff. The popular babysitting course has returned and is fully booked. October 16 is the annual fundraiser Metal Drive.
- Truth & Reconciliation - National Day - Sept. 30, 2023 - Rosemary Horsewood reminded all to wear their 'orange' shirts on Saturday, Sept 30 (this Saturday). Proceeds from Orange shirts go to 'Inspire' to support Indigenous Education.
  - A Blanket Exercise will take place at Highland Hills Faith Community at 9:30 - 1:00 on Sept. 30, facilitated by Rev. Val Kerr, Retired ArchDeacon for Truth & Reconciliation & Indigenous Matters. All are invited!
  - 'Listening to Residential School Survivors' will be held at St. Paul's United Church on Sat. Oct. 7 from 11:00 to 2:00 pm - Pre-registration is required.

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- Promotion/Communications - Social Media is so important to advertise our events. Churches have their individual social media. Rev. Mike Deed set up an ADC Facebook page when he served in Dundas. **ACTION:** Jonathan Miedema offered to connect with Mike Deed for ADC Facebook and report back next meeting. Dundas Facebook page was also suggested (very popular locally).
- Dundas Community Services - ADC Representative on the DCS Board is Mary Anne Tangney - she briefly reviewed the programs offered by DCS and the fact that 52 years ago, it was ADC who came together to first initiate Community Services for the town of Dundas.
- At this difficult time of high inflation, food insecurity and a crisis of adequate housing (homelessness), both DCS and the Churches are witnessing much greater need in our community and the greater City. Discussion: How do we work closer with the DCS staff? Proposal: Clergy, ADC Representatives & Outreach persons from each church meet with DCS Executive Director, Melanie Barlow for noon lunch & 'conversation' on Thursday, Nov. 2 at St. Paul's United Church (29 Park St. W.). **ACTION:** Norma C. & Mary Anne T. will arrange lunch (numbers from each church will be gathered 2 weeks prior). Invitation will be extended to DCS Exec. Dir. (Mary Anne).

### 5. New Business:

- Future Meeting Locations & Time - ADC met today at 2:00 pm and members thought this was good (compared to our 7:00 pm meetings of the past)
- We will meet at 1:00 pm at our next meeting (October 26) at Dundas Baptist Church (Norma Coe will call Rev. Edwin Anderson to confirm).
- Nov. 23rd @ 1:00 at St James Anglican Church.
- Executive Meeting will be held soon - At the call of the Chair - Norma Coe; Wayne Poole - Vice Chair; Peg Turner - Treasurer; Mary Anne Tangney - Secretary.
- Next Meeting: Jonathan Miedema, Regional Director of Spiritual Care will explain the structure of Salvation Army ie - Food bank & Family Services and the Shelter system

### 6. Announcements:

- Blanket Exercise with Val Kerr - September 30 at 9:30 - 1:00 @ Highland Hills Faith Community
- Concert: Steve Bell - Oct. 25 @ 7:00 pm - St. James Anglican - tickets \$25
- Monthly Movie Nights - Oct. 25, Nov. 27, Dec. 20 (featuring 'Women Talking', 'Whale', 'Barbie' respectively) at 7:30 pm at Highland Hills Faith Community - Conversation to follow.
- Valley Town Breakfast (every Saturday 8:30 - 10:30) St. Paul's United (new menu).

9. **Adjournment:** Jonathan Meidema closed the meeting with prayer. Motion to adjourn at 3:40 pm (Ian McPhee)

\*\*\* **NEXT MEETING - OCT. 26, 2023 AT DUNDAS BAPTIST CHURCH AT 1:00 PM**

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