

MUSIC UNITED AGM

April 23, 2020 – Zoom Conference

In attendance: Jason Locke, Karen Segrave, Layton Peck, David Goodwin, Joshua Zentner Barrett, Wendy Fraser, Clayton Braybrook, Bruce Harding, Kim Allen-McGill, Debbie Fingas, Lloyd MacLean, Sartu Mohamed, Brenda McLay, Fred Graham

Guests: Amy Crawford
Cheryl Harding
Kevin Parks

Mike McCormick	- Trinity-St. Andrew's UC, Renfrew, ON
Heather Fyffe	- Gibson Memorial UC, Fredericton, NB
Mitchell Wright	- McKay UC, Ottawa, ON
Donna Corbett	- Sharon-Hope UC, Sharon, ON
Pat Mayberry	- Ottawa, ON
Dawn Duncliffe	- Dunbarton-Fairport UC, Pickering, ON
Ruth Scott-Balog	- Forest UC, Forest, ON
Fiona Evison	- Central-Westside UC, Owen Sound, ON
Louise Elder	- Trinity UC, Summerside, PEI
Ken Hassell	- Orchard Valley UC, New Minas, NS

1. Welcome, Territorial Acknowledgement, and introductions

– Thank you, Jason Locke and Bruce Harding

2. Greeting from Head Office

– Thank you, Amy Crawford

3. Opening prayer – Thank you, Isla Grady, Chair of Hospitality, Islington United Church, Etobicoke, ON

4. **Motion:** to extend voting privileges to all members in attendance for today's meeting - Moved by Brenda McLay; seconded by Kim Allen-McGill

Motion passed

5. Adoption of the Agenda as amended - Moved by Dave Goodwin; Seconded by Clayton

Motion passed

6. Adoption of the Minutes from AGM 2019 - Passed by consensus

7. Business arising from minutes:

- a.) MU as an Affirming Ministry – Subcommittee: Jason, Kim and Layton
- No significant change – top of priority list for 2020
- b.) Visioning to be tabled to a 2 hour Zoom conference: date to be decided
- c.) Mission statement was rewritten in order to include parameters for Affirming Ministry

8. Reports from the Executive:

a. Chair's Report – Jason Locke

Greetings dear friends – both old and new – how fortunate I feel today to be chairing the Annual General Meeting for Music United. It is my sincere pleasure to Zoom among such esteemed colleagues and ‘take care of business’, as it were, with you.

I am especially pleased to welcome so many guests onto the call today. I think we would likely all agree that our future AGMs should continue to incorporate technology so that we can welcome interest and growth, community and ideas from across the country.

As I begin to reflect this afternoon, I would be remiss if I did not start at the outset by offering my most sincere gratitude for the work of the Music United Executive. You have worked tirelessly this year – philosophizing and wordsmithing, dreaming and visioning – to see this organization continue to grow. And this is not always an easy job. In particular, I wish to recognize Brenda McLay (Vice Chair), who has endured my (sometimes long!) phone calls and questions and self-doubt and has kept me on the straight-and-narrow. I will write the Moderator at once and request for her the title: St. Brenda of the Near North. Brenda – you are a fantastically gifted, gracious and grounded presence among us. In the not-so-distant future, I look forward to returning this support!

2019-2020 has been a year of ups and downs. We said thank-you to Beth Maitland as she moved off of the MU executive and we welcomed Dave Goodwin as a new and enthusiastic convenor from Alberta. Then, in the fall season, we suffered the sudden and tragic loss of Terry Head, long time convenor, past chair and friend – what a terrible loss. One of the holes I feel in the cancelation of Music Matters 2020 is that we will not get to honour Terry at this year's conference in the ways we would have liked to. In this moment, I wish to pause for 30 seconds to mark, with silence, this beautiful soul who is missing from our circle.

<<PAUSE>>

Many of us in the circle are carrying heavy burdens: family, health and church concerns; and of course there have been many wonderful moments as well: worship services, concerts, kitchen parties and recitals along the way. As musicians, we hold joy in one hand and sorrow in the other; we bring hope and beauty and love into the lives of those around us despite the challenges around us.

And now, look at us: April 23rd, 2020 – learning how to live and worship in radically different ways than we did just a few months ago. Zoom worship, virtual choirs, new apps and ideas, live-streamed services with empty pews. We dig deep in the face of perhaps the greatest health crisis in our lifetime to raise our cries of lament, offer songs of praise and hymns of hope. We are a resilient people: YOU are resilient. And as I said, when offering the eulogy at Terry's funeral: “your ministry matters. Your work is important. This calling – to bring music and beauty into the world – is essential.” Absolutely essential.

And all the more in the wake of one of the most devastating acts of gun violence in our nation's history. Our hearts and our love are drawn to our siblings in Nova Scotia as they learn how to sing through the terrible suffering and loss felt by so many. Lord, have mercy.

And so, in the shadow of tragedy, in the wake of loss and health concerns and global pandemic, our work goes on, and on, and on. It always has - - and it always will.

This year we re-shaped our Mission Statement, we have continued to have an increased profile through online platforms, we are involved in developing a new music resource to be released in 2025, the Musicians Handbook is closer than ever to being finished and we planned an entire conference which we will still get to offer in the Spring of 2021 at Islington United Church.

We have also had discussion around where we are going organizationally – a topic which our past chair, Layton Peck, raised in last year's report from the chair. I was excited for us to tackle this, in person, at this year's Music Matters conference. I was excited at the prospect of looking more deeply into how we, the executive of Music United, can adapt and adjust to become even more efficient and nimble as we move into the future. Alas – a delay. I am hoping that the extra time we have to vision forward will give us just a little more room to breathe in time with the Spirit, so that she can awaken in us dreams and ideas and fresh direction for our future. I am going to suggest that we dedicate the bulk of May and June's Zoom meeting to this very discussion. Let's dig in, work together and find our way forward, together.

What a year this has been. And the year ahead will certainly have additional challenges. We do not know when we will be able to see life return to some sense of normalcy. We do not know when the large group ban will be lifted and when it will be safe for communities to worship together again. It is more important than ever to reach out to the musicians around us to share words of encouragement and support. Whatever we have on our plates in these upcoming months, I would like to challenge each of you to send one or two emails a week to music directors or music ministers at an arms-length from you – perhaps in the next municipality over; or maybe just a couple kilometers down the street. You don't even have to know them - - just a short email. How are you doing? Are you holding up ok? Caring words can go a long way. Let's exercise the ministry of care for one another by reaching the arms of Music United around even more people who could, perhaps, really use support at this time.

I have been sad this week. Normally I would be seeing so many of you at the Music Matters conference this weekend. You are a gifted group - - and fun to be with each year. I cherish the weekends that we have spent together and feel grateful for Fred Graham's invitation to be the convenor for the Toronto Region a number of years ago. I am looking forward to a grand gathering in 2021. Until then, may the Spirit sustain you and bring inspiration. And may we, together, be united in our work to bring support to the musicians of the United Church of Canada.

b. **Financial and Oxford Fund** – Sartu

Proposal to Joint Grants Committee from the Oxford Music Fund Committee

History

Winnipeg Presbytery established The Oxford United Church Endowment Fund in December 2002 with a gift of \$58,599.71 representing a portion of the proceeds of the closing of Oxford United Church in Winnipeg.

Oxford United Church was a congregation in Winnipeg, Manitoba, founded in 1953 in the days of Church Expansion. Its life and witness was as a neighbourhood church offering C.E.

programmes, community

& mission outreach, fellowship, and creative worship and music. Throughout its 49 years, music contributed to the very heartbeat of the community - with many musicals staged, and always significant music leadership for worship!

As one of four United Churches in the River Heights area, Oxford became caught within the demographic realities of increasing dollars, high expectations of themselves as a faith community and decreasing number of volunteers able to commit to that witness.

Oxford members spent a significant time exploring ways to move into a healthier witness, and in 2002 courageously chose to close as a congregation and find new church homes in which to carry out their ministries.

As a part of the faithful witness of this congregation, it requested that Presbytery approve the use of its funds to support two outreach ministries, new church development, the Mission & Service of the Church as well as music ministry.

The establishment of this Oxford United Church Endowment Fund to support education for music ministry is in recognition of the music, the choirs, and the musicians that led this community of faith in its praise of God through the many changing scenes of our shared life.

Purpose

The purpose of the Fund is to support of training of individuals for music leadership and music ministry within the United Church of Canada through Music United (formerly UCCAM).

Current Context

Over the past 17 years, congregations have had less and less money to spend on professional development for its leadership including for musicians. This decline in spending coupled with the restructuring of the Church and the uncertainty about availability of funding for grants to support continuing education for church musicians, has led to increased applications to the Oxford Fund.

Administration

Currently, the Oxford United Church Endowment Fund grants at a rate of 3.5% of the average balance of the Fund over the prior two years. For example, the grant amount available in 2019 is based on the average balance of the Fund over 2017 and 2018.

At December 31, 2018, the Fund had a balanced of \$148,170. The total grant amount available in 2019 is \$5,395.

Proposal

That the granting rate for the Oxford Music Fund be increased to 6%.

Details

The 2019 grant amount available would become \$9,248 enabling grants in the fall of 2019 of up to \$3,853. Any monies not used in granting would stay in the Fund and result in an increase the balance of the Fund. As grants are calculated based on the average balance of funds over the prior two years (e.g. 2017 and 2018 for grants made in 2019), any of the available grant not used would result in a higher year-end balance and grant the following year.

The Oxford Music Fund Committee will monitor their use of the Fund and if a granting rate of 6% is consistently too high – i.e. the Committee does not award the entire grant amount in a number of years – they will provide a revised proposal to this Committee.

REPORT ON THE OXFORD UNITED CHURCH ENDOWMENT

Date: April 2020

2019 Fund Activity This report covers the time period of January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019.

Summary:

Balance January 1, 2019 \$148,590.44
Revenues Donations \$ 0.00
Unrealized Income (gain/loss) \$25,306.82
Revenue Total \$25,306.82
Expenses Grants \$ 5,605.00
Administrative Fees \$ 2,427.62
Expense Total \$ 8,032.62
Closing Balance \$165,864.64

If you have any questions please contact Sarah Charters at 1-866-340-8223 or at scharters@united-church.ca

2018

Description	Amount
MUSIC MATTERS	\$ 600.00
MUSIC MATTERS	\$ 750.00
Annual Hymn Society in St. Louis, MO	\$ 600.00

MUSIC MATTERS	\$ 270.00
2018 Summer Academy and The Harlem International Festival	\$ 750.00
Music That Makes Community	\$ 600.00
TOTAL	\$3,570.00

2019

Description	Amount
Music Matters	\$ 660.00
Music Matters	\$ 660.00
SCIM Workshop	\$ 750.00
Music Matters	\$ 90.00
SCIM Workshop	\$ 600.00
Music Matters	\$ 300.00
SCIM Workshop	\$ 550.00
Annual Hymn Society	\$ 750.00
Cadence A Capella Bootcamp	\$ 548.00
Westminster Conducting Institute	\$ 750.00
Summer Institute of Church Music	\$ 497.00
CANC PIN\$ 27494	-\$ 550.00
TOTAL	\$5,605.00

c. **Communication Report** – Made verbally by Bruce Harding
(Report not received)

9. Ongoing Projects:

- i. Sing 2025 Hymn Resource – update – Subcommittee: Lloyd, Bruce

Greetings and best wishes to all of Music United as we continue to proceed through uncharted waters in so many ways.

Due to the current COVID-19 restraints, our proposed face-to-face meeting in Toronto later this month also had to be cancelled, and instead, we are planning to host a digital meeting (again, through ZOOM) – two 2-hour ZOOM sessions on Monday, April 27 and Tuesday, April 28 (1-3pm EDT both days). This will include full plenary on the 27th, and subcommittees in breakout rooms on the 28th.

So, where did we start? Briefly, in early 2017, a call went out from the Worship Desk for people interested in a project as members of a working group tasked with creating an Ecumenical Hymn Resource. Thanks to the skillful leadership of Alydia Smith (more about Alydia later) and Sartu Mohamed, and through several conference calls over the next year and

a half, we identified our project, SING2025, tying it in with celebration of the centennial of the United Church of Canada, added GC staffers Chris Dumas and Aimee Gavin, and broadened the scope of the project to include *Gathering Online* (our periodical worship resource), with the intention of digitizing and making available online our existing worship resources *Voices United*, *More Voices* and *Nos Voix Unis*, and adding another supplement containing new material. Bruce Harding and I attended the Hymn Society conference in 2018 in St Louis, MO where we connected with Scott Shorney (Hope Publishing) and Michael Silhavy (GIA, now dealing with Alec Harris). A survey was made available through Music United (over 400 responses), Requests for Proposal (RFG) were sent to publishers, Memo of Agreement (MOA) and Style Guide were discussed, and a proposal for General Council Executive (GCE) was prepared. We have been in conversation with the Mennonites who are farther along in publishing a new worship resource than we are, but have some helpful information to share. We are also very pleased that the United Church of Christ has people on our committee. GIA has recognized our unique relationship with that denomination, and will honour our combined numbers in terms of the publishing arrangement. As so much of SING2025 will be digital, including *Gathering Online*, there is a natural tie-in with OneLicense.net. The larger subscription numbers will benefit us in contract fulfilment and revenue generation.

Some surprising developments ensued. Long-time competitors GIA and Hope Publishing became collaborators, and to date, a contract has been signed with GIA, while our GC legal people are reviewing a contract with Hope for engraving. As the GCE meeting drew nearer, we were advised by General Secretary Nora Sanders, with the approval and support of Executive Minister Michael Blair, that rather than submit a proposal seeking funding from GCE, we proceed on our own, assuming the responsibility for fundraising with our own committee. Budgeting for the proposal had come in around \$400,000, so conversations continue with David Armour and Sarah Charters (United Church Foundation). Conference calls every couple of months continued and the Working Group met in Toronto in May/2019. Many of that first group have opted to continue on as members of the Development Team.

Sadly, one member of the group, Terry Head, died unexpectedly last November. Terry was Past Chair of Music United and Minister of Music at First-St Andrews UC in London, ON, and besides being a fine organist and pianist, he was active with several choirs of all ages and also worked with handbells. On a positive note, Hillary Donaldson had a baby in 2019, and very recently, Alydia started a maternity leave following the arrival of 17-month-old Nicholas in her life!

So here we are – spread across the country in pandemic-induced social isolation with many unorganized hours to fill and a huge project in our hands. Myself, in semi-retirement, I have found that I miss the organizing structure that a fulltime job can provide (not to mention the social aspects and the paycheques!), but I look forward to the challenge of organizing my time,

and carving out enough hours to devote to SING2025. We have amassed an amazing Development Team with a wide variety of talents, interests, and experience.

We appreciate the interest and support of Music United, and as time goes on, will be looking to MU members to assist in different ways, including introduction of, and animation of, the new resource.

Lloyd MacLean, Chair SING2025

- Call will go out for new material – it is early yet
 - open for suggestions regarding name for new
- ii. Handbook for Music Ministry – update from Adam Handley through Jason
- it's in the hands of the editors
 - hopefully Rev. Handley will come onto a MU call later this spring

10.Nominations to Executive – Brenda

In light of changes we are currently and continually adapting to as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic, it is recommended that the current executive remain in place for the upcoming year with one vacant position being filled. This will allow for consistency and a continuation of recent efforts made by the organization to rethink its governance model. This work was disrupted in part during February and March, however is expected to continue over the course of the next few months and into next year. It will also allow the Music Matters planning team to make use of plans from 2020 for next year's event considering this year's event was cancelled.

Upon reviewing the Officers Terms of Reference from the former UCCAM which is Music United's current reference, there is a position of Membership Coordinator that has not been filled for some time. The candidate listed on the roster has been approached and is agreeable to taking on this position. As this position has been vacant, and as the governance model is under review, there is an opportunity to evolve and modernize the Membership Coordinator role. Several potential tasks have been identified:

- Working with convenors to coordinate the development and maintenance of a national database, by region, of the MU membership
- Developing a quarterly email communication/newsletter
- Coordinating contributions to the Gathering publication
- Coordinating with UCCUSA and other UCC partner churches' musicians associations to communicate in two directions.

Comment on Future Governance Considerations not related to this year's roster for nomination.

While the governance structure is under review, it is recommended by this member that 2 additional positions be given consideration for next year's nominations.

1. The addition of one more Member-at-Large (The terms of reference list two positions). Currently Music United has a Member-at-Large and a Member Emeritus.
2. The addition of a position that deals with Marketing/Publicity. The general idea is that this person would be responsible for developing publicity tools for the association and looking at ways to raise the profile of the organization.

The following nominations are respectfully submitted for the Music United Executive for 2020/2021:

Chair:	Jason Locke
Vice-Chair:	Brenda McLay
Past-Chair:	Layton Peck
Secretary-Treasurer:	Karen Segrave
Communications Chair:	Bruce Harding
Program Representative:	Wendy Fraser
Membership Chair:	Josh Zentner-Barrett
Member-at-Large:	Lloyd MacLean
Member Emeritus:	Fred Graham

Motion: That the Nomination Report and the Roster for Nominations to the Music United Executive be approved for the 2020/2021 year. Moved by Brenda and seconded by Bruce

Discussion – should we add in 2nd member-at-large before vote? Consensus that we are in too much flux - historically conveners were separate from executive – this will be decided as part of governance discussions

Motion passed

11. Evaluating Spring changes in 2020 What have been some of the ways we have learned to improvise due to the Pandemic situation?

- ♪ Ken – Minister is recording everything at individual house and posting it on Apple Movie
- ♪ Barbra Goodwin – Minister streaming services – zoom meetings – collective services with different participants collaborating from their own homes
- ♪ Layton – choir rehearsals on-line – has music, choir, soloist and minister
- ♪ Ruth Balog – asked how Zoom rehearsal work – Layton will let her know
- ♪ Jason is recording Piano meditations
- ♪ Brenda – great way to meet – should we have AGM online every year? Responses mostly positive – suggestion to zoom the live meeting – some responses that it would be overwhelming – most positive

12. Next Conferences & AGM

- Music Matters 2021 to be held at Islington United Church, Etobicoke, ON
- Jason Locke to host
- Music Matters 2022 to be held at St Paul's United Church in Thunder Bay, ON
- Dianne Wilcox to host

13. New Business

- ♪ Webinars becomes its own subcommittee (like the MM planning) Current Subcommittee: Bruce, Brenda, and Layton
 - Problem is that we start with an idea, goes to full discussion which fragments and bogs down the idea
 - formal sub-committee to make decisions and get things done
 - subcommittee to report back to Executive
 - webinar planned for May 5th, 12 noon ET
- ♪ Kevin – thank you for support from Nova Scotia – a prayer vigil held yesterday on-line – all churches asked to toll their bells at 6 pm ADT on Friday 24, 2020 – slowly
 - one ring for each life lost

14. Closing Prayer – Thank you, Jason

15. Motion to Adjourn – 1:55 p.m. - Moved by Kim Allen-McGill

Silencing the Song

Choirs of the future?



...and that's not 2 meters apart...

