FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH – DECKERVILLE
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October 23, 2022

To: Presbytery of Lake Huron, Committee of Ministry
Subject: Covenant with Commissioned Ruling Elder – Bonnie Rapson

The Session of FPC Deckerville met on Thursday, October 20th with Rev. Leigh Holder present as Moderator and a quorum of the session. The following is an excerpt from that meeting:

A motion was made to amend the contract previously signed and sent to COM to say "hours required should have read 35 hours a month, not 35 hours a week with compensation being $700 monthly". The motion carried with full approval of the Session.

Please let us know if this takes care of the question of hours / compensation that COM had so this contact can be approved.

In Christ,

Deb Coverdill

Deb Coverdill
Clerk of Session

October 17,2022

Committee on Ministry,

This letter is being written to you on behalf of the members/Session of First Presbyterian Church of Deckerville. We understand that our covenant with Bonnie Rapson was brought to you for your approval. We also understand that there was some discrepancy in the hourly and monthly rate.

We realize that it is your duty as a committee to make sure these covenants are written correctly and make sure church leaders are taken care of.... However, we also hope that you realize how little assistance we have had from Presbytery in finding a person willing to serve in a small rural church. We have asked for help and we've received none. We have even gone so far as calling the previous Presbyter and asking for old sermons to deliver ourselves. He never followed through with any help.

A portion of your committee's job is to take care of congregants. When the pandemic began we were very proactive and began conducting zoom worship services. We reached out to aid our community in dealing with loneliness, food shortages for our local families, and offering support to our local front line workers. Our small congregation did this and will continue to do mission work.

What is Presbytery and the Committee on Ministry doing to support the small rural churches?

WE contacted Bonnie Rapson on our own and made this agreement together. We do not feel you should have the right to delay this process. A simple telephone call would have cleared this minor mistake.
Small churches in the rural areas are STRUGGLING! Let's not add to the stress.

First Presbyterian Church
of Deckerville