

**PEMBINA PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
Teleconference Call, Wednesday, November 4, 2020 5:00PM**

Pembina Parish is a caring Christian community, welcoming all people to join in our journey of celebrating God's presence, sharing our gifts locally and globally, while exploring our faith.

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**CALL to ORDER** at 5:02PM

**ATTENDANCE via teleconference:** Brian Saunderson, Kathryn Luger, Leslie Bezte, Louise Gardiner, Margot Craig, Esther Rothenburger, Karen Dyck, Lynne Sanderson and guests Roxanne LeBlanc, Karen Ching, Susan Ching, Fay Carruthers and Rev Carrie Martens.

**OPENING WORSHIP** - Brian Saunderson opened with prayer.

**BUSINESS ARISING/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- 1. Changes to Provincial orders affecting Worship, Gatherings and Rental Protocols –** Leslie Bezte outlined the changes to the provincial orders dated November 2, 2020 and in effect until November 15, 2020. In summary:
  - a)** Indoor gatherings must be 5 or less people (Order 1(1)). This means that all meetings in the parish of >5 people may not be held in person.
  - b)** Gatherings may be more than 5 if the number of persons does not exceed 30% of the usual capacity **and** the area can be physically divided to have no more than 5 persons per area **and** persons in each area do not come in close proximity with person from another area (Order 1(2)). This means that Laurie Wiebe may have a visitor in the office **while** a music teacher has 4 or less students in the library and **while** a meeting of 5 or less people is occurring in the 1-2-3- room as long as these separate groups do not come into contact with each other. So if a music teacher wants to teach an ensemble in the library with 4 students, he/she **may not** also walk into the narthex to teach his/her other 4 students as this would contravene Order 1(2)).
  - c)** The facility must not rent or reserve the facility for a gathering that would contravene order 1 (Order 2(1)). This means that we cannot rent the space to the yoga instructor if the class size is over 5 persons.
  - d)** Churches may hold worship service as long as the number of people attending does not exceed 20% capacity (Order 19(1)). This means only 60 persons may attend worship at St Paul's. Leslie was not sure of the capacity at Zion Calvin so needed clarification before stating the reduced capacity there now. Kathryn Luger and Karen Ching thought the normal capacity was 75 so this would equate to 15 persons under the new restrictions.

Brian Saunderson clarified that yoga will not be starting while these orders are in place. Karen Ching shared that Zion Calvin Sunday school will not be starting up November 8<sup>th</sup> as planned but they hope to start at the beginning of Advent on November 29th. Roxanne LeBlanc offered

that now that schools are having more cases St Paul's Sunday school teachers feel it would be negligent to start Sunday school at this time. They hope to start November 29th as well. Discussion ensued around suspending church and/or closing the buildings. Should we be having church services when we cannot visit others and other businesses are shutting down? We all feel comfortable with the protocols in place. We could continue to hold worship and let people decide if they want to attend. With the rise of cases in the province we have seen the number of attendees decline at both churches. We could keep the status quo so there is no confusion as to when services start up again; we could keep the rentals going as long as they observed all the health restriction guidelines.

Fay Carruthers suggested that the soloists be farther away from the front pews. Going forward we will have soloists sit and sing in the choir loft.

Rev Carrie Martens asked how non-attending congregants were getting their spiritual needs met. Susan Ching reported that News and Notes and Bread for the Journey go out weekly. Also the recording of services is underway for uploading to YouTube.

Carrie also asked what if more people than are allowed show up for her first service? Leslie Bezte notified that we keep track of numbers and we will have to turn people away if the numbers are over the limit.

**Motion:**

**MOVED BY** Louise Gardiner **SECONDED BY** Karen Dyck that we continue to have worship services without Sunday school and update our protocols to reflect the current provincial and regional orders. **CARRIED**

Roxanne LeBlanc asked if the timing for the resumption of Sunday school will be up to the Sunday school teachers. No, Leadership Team will address this at the November 18 Leadership Team Meeting. Rev Carrie Martens offered that there is a new United Church "Go" curriculum that offers new materials and virtual Sunday school options such as "Children's Time" via video. Kathryn Luger wondered how guest ministers, readers and worship committee service leaders feel about conducting worship during red level restriction times. Susan Ching advised that all pulpit supply are given the option to proceed or not and that Worship Interest Group will just do what they have to do.

**CLOSING WORHSIP** - Lynne Sanderson closed in prayer.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN** at 5:53PM

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**Chairperson**

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**Recording Secretary**