

**PEMBINA PARISH PASTORAL CHARGE**  
**353 THORNHILL STREET, MORDEN R6M1M8**  
**Minutes of Leadership Team Meeting**  
**December 13, 2023 7:00pm**

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER** at 7:04 pm.

**2. OPENING WORSHIP**

Rev. Carrie led our meeting with worship.

Rev. Carrie invited us to reflect on who we are as a church much as we would reflect on the lives of those we have loved. We were to pretend we were planning a funeral for our parish and share our favorite memories. What is the legacy we are leaving our community as a church? This exercise was not to prepare us for dying, rather to prepare us to live well and with awareness now.

So many wait until it is too late to do this sort of reflection.

Rev. Carrie ended opening worship with a prayer.

**3. ATTENDANCE/REGRETS**

Rev. Carrie Martens, Nancy Penner, Sharon Deceuninck, Mary Ann McElroy, Leslie Bezte, Lesley Andrew (M & P rep), Susan Ching. Guests: Earl Gardiner and Bruce Shewfelt representing Stewardship and Finance (BAG).

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was accepted by consensus with the addition under New Business of item 8.4 Trustee Invitation and 8.5 Signing Authority.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of the meeting held November 1, 2023 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings. Moved by Lesley Andrew. Seconded by Susan Ching. **CARRIED.**

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of the special meeting held November 27, 2023 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings, with the revision of the meeting title to read Minutes of Special Leadership Team Meeting. Moved by Lesley Andrew. Seconded by Susan Ching. **CARRIED.**

**6. BUSINESS ARISING/UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**7. REPORTS**

**7.1 FINANCE/STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE (BAG)**

**Motion:** That \$15,000.00 be transferred from the Zion-Calvin building fund to Pembina Parish's general operation fund. Moved by Susan Ching. Seconded by Leslie Bezte. **CARRIED.**

Earl Gardiner was in attendance to present our financial statement for 2023 and a budget plan for 2024. A projected loss deficit from 2023 of \$30,673.00 was reported. **Action:** Earl will put a financial update in this week's News and Notes.

Earl Gardiner and Bruce Shewfelt reported that a signed lease agreement for the CEU space has been submitted by Finer Spirit Tenant Group for a period of 3 years. Their timeline would include necessary renovations to begin in December, 2023 with occupancy scheduled for January 1, 2024. The renovations would be carried out by the renters with Pembina Parish covering material costs. It is the responsibility of the tenants to meet building codes. **Action:** Bruce Shewfelt will check with the City of Morden regarding building zoning by-laws.

Discussion followed regarding the communication of this information to the people of Pembina Parish. **Action:** Earl Gardiner will put a small announcement in this week's News and Notes that the CEU space has been potentially leased by a long term tenant, with more information to follow in January, 2024.

Bruce Shewfelt presented a mock-up of a marketing leaflet to promote our sanctuary space and meeting rooms. The name to appear on this leaflet of Event Center at St. Paul's United was accepted by consensus.

A new Rental Fee Schedule was proposed by Earl Gardiner. This new schedule included rate increases, full and half day rentals and additional rental spaces, as well as discounts for not-for-profit groups. The new St. Paul's United Church Fee Schedule for facility rentals was accepted by consensus.

Some of the concerns arising from this discussion of rentals were:

- \*What is the involvement of our Church employees when it comes to facility rentals?
- \*Who will act as a Church contact should the need arise in the case of any building emergencies during a rental situation?
- \*The concerns from the caretakers regarding clearer start and end times for our renters?
- \*What are the types of events we rent to in terms of our Church policy?

## 7.2 MINISTER REPORT

Inside – Caring

We have had more regular attendance by some of our younger folks at Zion-Calvin, which means our Sunday school over there is humming with 8-13 kids each week.

We have had a number of new folks attending at St. Paul's. We've been getting information and handing out directories as we are able and some of our new folks want to be confirmed or become members.

We are planning for a joint baptism/confirmation/membership celebration service with Zion-Calvin and St. Paul's on January 14th.

Baptism: Alexis Beverley Elaine Hoepfner, Mason Douglas Bruce Hoepfner

Confirmation: Kylie Gayle Pazmandy, Ally Jayné Breiter, Laverne Lovatt, Paul (Jean Paul) Lemire

Reaffirmation of Baptism: Bernie Thiessen

Membership transfer: Debbie Nelson and Judy Elliot

It was also lovely to join folks at Legion House and Homestead South for worship followed by Christmas teas. The residents expressed a lot of gratitude. Thanks go to Myrna Mayor, Cathy Sandercock, and Kathy Menzies who organized and served the tea as well as youth: Kylie Pazmandy, Camryn McGill, and Brenna McPhail who helped with the baking.

Outside - Sharing

In the past two weeks, Rev. Carrie has received appreciation for our online services from one of our members who is homebound, a regularly attending member who has had to miss a few weeks, and from an individual in the broader community who watches regularly and has asked to join us for caroling. So, the online recordings remain an important part of our ministry inside and

outside of our membership.

On Dec. 9, we had a Climate Vigil at St. Paul's hosted by the new ecumenical climate group that is just getting started in our area. Rev. Carrie was leading and also spoke with Robyn Wiebe from Pembina Valley Online. The group is meeting again in January and hopefully will be able to select a name for the group and really get off the ground. The group is taking some direction from ACAN (the Altona Community Action Network) as they have had considerable success in directing their community to greener pastures, so to speak. Hope is that once projects begin to emerge that some of our members will find spaces to use their passions and skills in caring for creation. We also received a thank you and encouragement from the United Church of Canada Network Coordinator, Lori Neale for the event.

#### Upside Down - Exploring

For Rev. Carrie as a minister, she is being turned upside down a bit as she is finally getting started with the Prairie to Pine Equity and Diversity Group. They met in November and will be meeting again in January. It's a good learning experience, and she is praying she does not end up the chair! Rev. Carrie has also been asked to participate in a reading club evening through Broadview where they will be discussing some recent articles, including the one that highlighted our area.

**Motion:** To affirm the following :

Baptism: Alexis Beverley Elaine Hoepfner, Mason Douglas Bruce Hoepfner

Confirmation: Kylie Gayle Pazmandy, Ally Jayné Breiter, Laverne Lovatt, Paul (Jean Paul) Lemire

Reaffirmation of Baptism: Bernie Thiessen

Membership transfer: Debbie Nelson and Judy Elliot

Moved by Susan Ching. Seconded by Lesley Andrew. **CARRIED.**

### **7.3. MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Lesley Andrew reported.

Discussion regarding a 2024 salary increase for Rev. Carrie was tabled.

A Christmas staff brunch was enjoyed on December 13, 2023 with 9 in attendance.

On Christmas Eve, there will be 2 services at St. Paul's.

Rev. Carrie will be taking time in lieu between Christmas and New Year, she has 2 1/2 days study time for extra reading.

Laurie will be taking a continuing education course this winter to enhance her work in the office.

Mel assisted Larry Robbins to install a motion sensor light outside on the east wall for better lighting, and remove an older light that was not working and hanging by a thread. It has been a year as of

November 14, 2023 that we hired Mel and Sheila Worms. An annual review will be coming up soon.

Mel and Sheila did express some concerns about extra work for the new rental of the CEU.

Fay Carruthers and Myra Amy-McElroy did a wonderful job of the Christmas concert on December 7, 2023. Appreciation goes to Leslie Bezte for assistance with the piano playing.

A choir director continues to be sought.

There is opportunity for another person to assist with sound.

There has been a concern regarding cleanliness at Zion-Calvin. Leslie has spoken with Bob and Kathryn Luger to get a better understanding, and will continue to follow up with the concern.

### **7.4. ZION-CALVIN**

Susan Ching reported.

A new heater has been purchased for the front entrance and new storm windows to minimize draft.

Money was raised from selling poinsettias and Christmas pudding at the Darlingford craft sale. Offerings from the White Gift service went to the Manitou Christmas Cheer. December 17, 2023 service was led by the Sunday School. There will be no morning service at Zion-Calvin December 24, 2023, but an evening service will be held.

#### **7.5. WORSHIP INTEREST GROUP**

Rev. Carrie gave report.

There will be a Longest Night service held at St. Paul's on December 21, 2023.

A joint service is being planned for January 14, 2024 at St. Paul's with the possibility of a time change for this service.

#### **7.6. INTEREST GROUPS**

##### **7.6.1 SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Leslie Bezte reported.

Both Sunday Schools will be leading the service December 17, 2023.

St. Paul's Sunday School is collecting for Many Hands and Genesis House. Zion-Calvin Sunday School is collecting for Manitou Christmas Cheer.

There will be no Sunday School classes December 24, 2023 or December 31, 2023.

##### **7.6.2. OUTREACH**

Mary Ann McElroy reported that the soup and pie fundraiser held November 17, 2023 raised over \$1,000.00. The cookie walk event held December 8, 2023 raised over \$1,000.00.

##### **7.6.3 CHOIR**

The choir continues to practice as they are singing at the Christmas Eve service at St. Paul's.

#### **8. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **8.1. HISTORICAL ROLE REVIEW**

Non-active members are removed from the role due to a fee charge per active member.

**Motion:** To remove member Margaret Cram from the role for reason a) deceased, and all other members for reason b) non-active. Moved by Leslie Bezte. Seconded by Lesley Andrew. **CARRIED.**

**Action:** Laurie will follow up with Lorraine Baker if she wishes a transfer of membership to another church she is attending.

##### **8.2. UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA 100 YEARS CELEBRATION**

Item sent to parking lot.

##### **8.3. ROCK LAKE BIBLE CAMP**

Rock Lake Bible Camp wishes to survey church congregations for feedback regarding the camp.

**Action:** Sharon will put together a congregational survey for mid January, 2024.

##### **8.4 TRUSTEE INVITATION**

**Action:** Sharon Deceuninck will invite the trustees and elders to our next Leadership Team meeting in January, 2024.

##### **8.5. SIGNING AUTHORITY**

**Motion:** To add Lesley Andrew and Susan Ching as signing authorities to the Pembina Parish account at the Access Credit Union and to remove Fred Mayor from this list. Moved by Nancy Penner. Seconded by Leslie Bezte. **CARRIED.**

**9. CORRESPONDENCE AND THANK- YOU CARDS**

Lesley Andrew sent a thank you card to Larry Robbins for the installation of motion lights.

Lesley Andrew sent a thank you card to Fay Carruthers and Myra Amy-McElroy acknowledging their leadership for the Christmas concert.

Lesley Andrew will send a thank you card to Heather Menzies for the Douglas Kuhl School of Music's involvement in the Christmas concert.

**10. NEXT MEETING DATE**

Monday, January 8, 2024.

**11. CLOSING WORSHIP**

Rev. Carrie closed in prayer. Lord it is night.....

**12. MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Agreement to close the meeting at 10:32 pm.