

PEMBINA PARISH PASTORAL CHARGE
353 THORNHILL STREET, MORDEN MB, R6M 1M8
Minutes of Leadership Team Meeting
Monday March 11th, 2024 7:00 p.m.

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

1. CALL to ORDER at 7:02 pm.

Rev. Carrie acted as chair for this meeting until the point where restructuring was discussed.

2. OPENING WORSHIP

Rev. Carrie opened our meeting with worship. She reflected on the power of naming griefs/losses and joys/blessings sharing from the process at the Annual Meeting. Rev. Carrie ended worship with prayer.

3. ATTENDANCE/REGRETS

Rev. Carrie Martens, Bruce Shewfelt, Leslie Bezte, Susan Ching, Mary Ann McElroy
Regrets: Cindy Dick, Earl Gardiner, Kathy Menzies (M&P rep)

4. REORGANISATION/ELECTIONS

As happens every year after our Annual meeting, we gather as a new Leadership Team and have the task of reorganization.

The following nominations were put forth:

- a. Chair Person - Susan Ching
- b. Vice-Chair - Leslie Bezte
- c. Secretary - Mary Ann McElroy
- d. Treasurer - Earl Gardiner

MOTION: To accept the slate of officers. Moved by Bruce Shewfelt. Seconded by Mary Ann McElroy. **CARRIED.**

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved by consensus, with the move of item 9.a. Garbage Bins at St. Paul's (rent bigger bin from MWM?) to the parking lot; and the item 9c. Summary from Annual Meeting to be tabled to the next meeting. Item 9a. will become April Newsletter, and all other entries shifted due to the removal of item 9c. Item 9g. Motion Sensor Light will be added.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the meeting held February 12, 2024 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Moved by Leslie Bezte. Seconded by Mary Ann McElroy. **CARRIED.**

7. BUSINESS ARISING/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

8. REPORTS

8.1. Finance

Bruce Shewfelt read the fiancée report submitted by Earl Gardiner.

Earl submitted a Statement of Income and Expenses for the period ending Feb 29, 2024 (excluding all of the Restricted Funds). The actual deficit is \$-9,854, compared to the expected deficit of \$-14,670 for the end of February. The major reasons for the positive variance so far are: 1) there are no maintenance or repairs charged yet for St. Paul's; and 2) the Interest Groups have incurred very little expense compared to their budget. The givings are slightly below what we projected, but higher than this time last year.

Regarding the Restricted Funds, there is \$8,888 in the Zion Fund, \$60,498 in the Restricted Opportunity Fund, \$13,106 in the Restricted To Be Spent Fund, and a deficit of \$78,581 in the St. Paul's Building Fund. There are approximately \$23,000 of pledges to come in against this shortfall over the next 2 years. When this money comes in and recorded into the Building Fund, it is then transferred to Operating to pay off the debt it has with Operating. Once the pledges are in, this will leave an amount of \$55,000 to raise to pay off the renovation costs.

8.2. BUDGET ACTION GROUP (BAG)

Report was given by Bruce Shewfelt.

An addition to the website is underway to add a color building plan/rental rates and a hover over photos. An Event Center at St. Paul's United leaflet has been printed and will be distributed to businesses, the City of Morden, School Divisions, etc.

Cathy Lone will be in contact with the house group leaders regarding her suggestions of having the Sunday morning greeters be stationed at the building entrance, in order to assist "newcomers" to understand building layout, coffee location, any other needs. Cathy requested additional copies of the Parish Directory and name tags be made available to greeters and congregants, encouraging people to meet and greet each other.

Upcoming fundraisers are in the planning stages. Cheryl Peters is proposing a pop up for vendors for April 13, 2024. Cathy Lone will be in contact with Mel and Laurie about these plans.

Cathy Lone has approached St. Paul's United choir and the Douglas Kuhl School of Music regarding a spring concert. The option of a Mother's Day tea is being considered.

Cathy Lone will be in touch with Lori Willcocks regarding the Co-op gift card fundraiser. A suggestion was made to have this fundraiser earlier in the year.

The lease with Finer Spirit is going well, other than a few minor issues such as clean up.

The stairway has been removed and the building permit closed. The new sink was put on hold.

Sasha, the renter of the upstairs space, will be leaving in April, 2024. Earl, Bruce and Ryan will proceed to market the available space. Dena Gillis is currently renting a space on the second floor.

A stewardship drive is being planned for April, 2024 with the goal of erasing the planned deficit.

Financial updates and a weekly giving challenge based on deficit and number of givers will be presented.

A table will be set up after Sunday morning worship at St. Paul's April 14, 21 and 28

to encourage congregants to sign up for PAR or to increase their PAR givings. This will be communicated in News and Notes, the April Newsletter, and presented at Sunday morning worship at St. Paul's.

A stewardship drive is being planned for May 2024, regarding the St. Paul's Building Fund. A mailout

with a complete update on the Building Fund and mortgage status will go to all those who have pledged. This same Building Fund update and request will appear in News and Notes and the Newsletter for all those not having made pledges.

Bruce will contact Vicki Nelson to gather resources from the United Church of Canada regarding the promotion of endowments.

8.3. Minister Report

Inside – Caring

Rev. Carrie continues to sense good energy within Pembina Parish, as people inquire about how to donate, where to get a directory and how to join. A steady trickle of people are finding our Community of Faith to be a good place to be.

Rev. Carrie had the opportunity to share communion with a group of 12 from 3 denominations at Legion House in February.

Outside – Sharing

We had the opportunity to be present to our larger community as CBC highlighted the commitment of our faith community and Sandy Plett with Mennonite Church MB to addressing climate change, which was great. We also had opportunity to highlight the forming of PCAN, the Pembina Climate Action Network.

PJ Action group is preparing for PIE Day on March 14th with a PIE/pie party being organized by Betty Dong. The group will provide some educational materials and a colourful space in which to publicly celebrate the rainbow community and our commitment to being Public, Intentional, and Explicit about our support. This is needed.

Betty and Rev. Carrie had the opportunity to fill out their annual report for Affirm United and were pleased to see how many opportunities they had to expand themselves in terms of being affirming and working toward Peace and Justice in 2023. They named the drag rental and the opportunity to be a positive presence, PIE Day worship and dessert, the book study *See No Stranger* by Valarie Kaur, Pride sign making/decorations/Pride March, walking in the Truth and Reconciliation Day Healing Walk, and the Climate Webinar and Climate Vigil as highlights.

Upside Down – Exploring

There was a good group out for the Xplore Webinar on the war in Gaza (30, with 3 participating from home). A number are joining us from Morden Mennonite, Pembina Fellowship and St. Thomas Anglican. So many United Church folks are participating that Gareth Neufeld of St. Augustine United in Wpg is inviting us to a further Zoom conversation at the conclusion of the webinar.

Our Lent book study continues to be a good space of learning and story sharing as we look at Mark Yaconelli's book *Between the Listening and the Telling*. (About 20 participants.)

8.4. Ministry and Personnel Committee

No report.

8.5. Zion-Calvin

With regards to PIE Day, it was decided that Zion-Calvin would do their best to support the efforts at St. Paul's. Contact was made with Rev Melanie Kauppila at Manitou regarding supports for 2SLBTQ+

students in the Manitou area. As well, we looked at joining a morning coffee program in Darlingford. Both ideas were set aside for now.

Karen Ching, our SS leader has been away for 2 weeks. Jennifer Ching-Faux took over the first Sunday, while the children remained in the sanctuary this past Sunday. There are a few children from our SS singing in the Manitou Festival of the Arts in late April, under the leadership of Myra Amy-McElroy. As well the children will be performing in the Borderline Choir concert.

Several options were looked at, but manpower for the Darlingford 125th celebrations is limited, so Zion Calvin will be spearheading the lunch at the Memorial Service (July 14th) in Darlingford. There will be a quilt show held in the church building on the Saturday afternoon (July 13).

8.6. Worship Interest Group

Leslie Bezte reported.

Pembina Parish will provide 2 church services at Tabor Home, May 5, 2024 and October 20, 2024.

Leslie has approached the choir members to help out.

Communion will be part of the Easter Sunday worship services.

Rev. Carrie will be leading us through Holy Week following the gospel of Mark.

8.7 INTEREST GROUPS

8.7.1. Sunday School

Leslie Bezte gave report.

The Sunday School is preparing to celebrate Holy Humour Sunday on April 17, 2024.

A letter of request was submitted by Sunday School leader Erin Pazmandy. She is reaching out to the Leadership Team to help seek out 2 more Sunday School volunteers as there are currently only 2, with Roxanne focusing on establishing a youth program. Rev. Carrie suggested a reorganization of the Sunday School format to reduce the work load and draw in new volunteers. There are plenty of resources and content available. An open house was suggested.

ACTION: Leslie will connect with Roxanne and Erin. Leslie will make the congregation aware of the need for Sunday School leaders.

8.7.2. Choir

Leslie Bezte reported.

The choir will continue to sing every other Sunday until May, 2024, including Easter Sunday. The choir is not prepared to have a Spring Concert this year. Instead, a Mother's Day Tea is being planned with the choir providing musical entertainment during this event. It was thought that the Douglas Kuhl School of Music may be involved.

ACTION: Leslie will be approaching the choir for a commitment to this event.

8.7.3. Outreach

Mary Ann reported that the last soup and dessert lunch held on February 16, 2024 was successful. The next lunch will be this Friday, March 15, 2024.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9a. April Newsletter

The deadline for the newsletter is April 8, 2024.

ACTION: Susan will submit an introduction of the members of the new Leadership Team. A photo will be taken at our next meeting and submitted as well.

9b. New cheques signatories

MOTION: To remove Nancy Penner as a cheque signatory, and add Earl Gardiner and Brian Saunderson. Moved by Bruce Shewfelt. Seconded by Leslie Bezte. **CARRIED.**

9c. Transfers of membership to St. Paul's: Kari Unger, Brian Unger, Declan Unger, Zachary Unger and Jody Oakes

MOTION: To approve the transfer of membership of Kari Unger, Brian Unger, Declan Unger and Zachary Unger (Declan and Zachary transferred as baptized, not confirmed) from St. Andrew's United Church Manitou LaRiviere Pastoral Charge to St. Paul's Pembina Parish. Moved by Leslie Bezte. Seconded by Bruce Shewfelt. **CARRIED.**

MOTION: To approve the transfer of membership of Jody Oakes from Miami Pastoral Charge to St. Paul's Pembina Parish. Moved by Bruce Shewfelt. Seconded by Leslie Bezte. **CARRIED.**

9d. Reaffirmation of faith: Elaine Ward, Don Dyck

MOTION: To approve the reaffirmation of faith of Elaine Ward and Don Dyck. Moved by Leslie Bezte. Seconded by Mary Ann McElroy. **CARRIED.**

9e. Baptism: Emma Braun, Carly Braun (blessing)

MOTION: To approve the baptism of Emma Braun and Carly Braun (blessing). Moved by Mary Ann McElroy. Seconded by Bruce Shewfelt. **CARRIED.**

9f. New sandwich board outdoors at St. Paul's (details of quotes will be available at the meeting)

Three quotes were received for a new outdoor sandwich board for St. Paul's.

ACTION: Susan Ching will seek clarification from Laurie.

ACTION: Bruce will present to BAG as an Opportunity Fund expense.

9g. Motion Sensor Light

ACTION: Susan Ching will send a request to BAG regarding another outdoor motion sensor light to be installed closer to the front of the building.

10. CORRESPONDENCE and Thank-you cards

A notice was received from the Rock Lake United Church Camp regarding their annual meeting to be held April 14, 2024 in Crystal City. This notice was forwarded to Bob Luger, our Rock Lake Camp rep.

ACTION: Susan Ching will contact Sharon Deceuninck regarding the Rock Lake Camp survey results.

Staff concerns were discussed regarding receiving e-mails or phone calls of a harrassing nature (hate mail). How best to handle these situations, should documentation be kept and hard copies filed in the office? Staff should feel free to discuss these concerns with Leadership or M&P.

ACTION: Susan Ching will contact the City of Morden Police Service (Brad Neduzak) as to their recommendations.

11. NEXT MEETING(s) DATE: TBA

ACTION: Susan Ching will send an e-mail to all Leadership Team members to determine which weekday will best accomodate everyone.

12. CLOSING WORSHIP

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

13. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Agreement to close the meeting at 9:45 pm.