

PEMBINA PARISH PASTORAL CHARGE
353 THORNHILL STREET, MORDEN R6M1M8
Minutes of Leadership Team Meeting
April 17, 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 invited us to choose a card that said something about how we were coming to the meeting. We shared with one another, taking time to build relationships. She then led us in prayer to centre us for our meeting.

3. ATTENDANCE/REGRETS

Rev. Carrie Martens, Nancy Penner, Sharon Deceuninck, Mary Ann McElroy, Leslie Bezte, Susan Ching, Lesley Andrew (M & P rep)

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was accepted by consensus with the additions under Reports 7.1 Finance of a Stewardship and Finance proposal; under New Business of items 8.1 membership/ transfer and 8.2 space heater in choir room.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion: To approve the minutes of the meeting held March 13, 2023 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings. Moved by Nancy Penner. Seconded by Leslie Bezte.

CARRIED.

6. BUSINESS ARISING/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 BEQUEST POLICY

Editing is needed to the **Pembina Parish Pastoral Charge Policy for Bequests.**

-Our church welcomes and encourages donations, bequests and charitable gifts, edited to read Our church welcomes and encourages bequests.

- All donations greater than \$1000.00 will be recognized with a plaque to our donation board , edited to read All bequests will be recognized in a donation book.

-All bequests are recognized, amount is never mentioned. A letter of appreciation and invitation to a service of worship honoring the gift received is sent to the family of the deceased giver.

Action: Susan Ching will edit the letter of appreciation and invitation.

-Information regarding how bequests can be made and options should be included in this policy.

-Discussion regarding Allocation of Bequest Gifts as to where the bequests are best allocated for the benefit of Pembina Parish. To discourage specific bequests, for an example an organ, that may never be put to use.

-Stewardship and Finance interest group will be asked to review the endowment fund.

-Criteria for Accepting Real Estate. **Action:** Nancy Penner will seek information from Henry Penner.

6.2 RENTAL FEES

-Mary Ann spoke to the office manager at the Alliance Church regarding procedure about collecting a damage deposit. They collect by either a cheque which is held until the event is over, or an E-transfer of funds that is refunded and appears as an in and out value.

- Kitchen rental will increase to \$30.00 an hour.

-The damage deposit will increase to \$300.00. This will apply to frequent users and ongoing renters and will be collected in the form of an undated cheque. Rentals that involve large groups of people or high risk/impact will also be asked for a damage deposit.

Action: Lesley Andrew will notify Laurie of these changes.

-Earl Gardiner was seeking clarification regarding the future vision of the present CEU space. The ongoing vision is to seek a long term renter.

Action: Leslie Bezte will speak with Earl about the continuation of this vision.

6.3 CHURCH DIRECTORY

-Pat Gibson is willing to help out with this project. Thornhill UCW is willing to assist her with communications/phone calls.

-Plan to have all photos ready before summer so Laurie can prepare them for distribution during her summer work time.

-The directory will be in the form of a spiral bound, recyclable book.

-Raina Teigrob is offering to do the photography. This could happen after church service in both St. Paul's and Zion Calvin. Photographs will be taken of members in a care facility.

-Contact information and a letter of consent will need to be signed by all congregants submitting photos.

Action: Carrie will speak to Pat Gibson and Raina Teigrob regarding this project.

6.4 SQUARE TERMINAL

Mary Ann spoke to Laurie regarding the use of a square terminal. Laurie would be the primary holder of the device and it would be available on a sign out basis for church groups using it. An option menu can be created to reflect the various groups using the terminal, for example, soup and pie. A daily report of transactions is available to Laurie providing the payee, for example, ticket sales. In the case of a donation, a receipt can be printed and placed in an offering envelope with the giver's information in order that a receipt for income tax purposes can be sent.

Action: Nancy will submit an application to the opportunity fund for the purchase of a square terminal.

7. REPORTS

7.1 FINANCE

Nancy Penner presented a detailed Comparative Income Statement, Actual and Budgeted from Jan 1, 2023 to March 31, 2023. We are under budget on expenses after the first quarter. The amount of givings covered salaries but fell short on our other expenses. Other revenue income from Sasha our renter, we can claim back half of our GST, and the interest from the endowment fund. There will not be a choir fundraiser planned for spring. Rentals and fundraisers are needed as income sources.

Earl Gardiner submitted a proposal for the creation of a Stewardship and Finance Committee (interest group) of Pembina Parish. No constitutional changes would be involved. Earl would be happy to lead this group focused on how we finance Pembina Parish, and put together a team of 3-4 members including a rep from Zion Calvin. This interest group would oversee budget preparation and planning as it relates to sources of revenue, long term debt, and reporting on monthly financial activities.

Motion: To approve the creation of a Stewardship/Finance interest group to follow through with this proposal. Moved by Susan Ching. Seconded by Lesley Andrew. **CARRIED.**

Action: Leslie Bezte will speak to Earl about the approval to form this interest group and the communication of same to the congregation.

7.2 Minister Report

Inside

As communicated earlier by email Karen and Glenn Dyck have decided to end participation in our parish. Carrie has communicated our sadness about this, and also invited conversation. At this point, she has not heard back from them. Folks have heard that they are attending another local congregation where their children attend.

Our first Good Friday Storytelling event went very well. We had twelve children and thirteen adults participate and good feedback about the event. We also had good feedback for our Good Friday evening service.

Huge thanks to Susan Ching for stepping in to help on Easter Sunday when Carrie's cold got in the way. She was grateful that we were still able to have a good worship service, with communion, and baptise Joanna Dueck at St. Paul's. We did have to postpone welcoming Bev and John Murray as John got covid leading up to Easter Sunday. Carrie is hoping we can reschedule for Pentecost.

In terms of pastoral care, Cathy Sandercock has been working hard at looking after our visitation program. In the process, many UCC folks have been "found" who were not on our lists anywhere. Suddenly we need quite a few more visitors, particularly men. So, the work of creating a sustainable community of care continues.

Outside

Thanks to all for the valuable conversation around renting to the Arts Council on Pride weekend in June. While that particular weekend didn't seem like it would work for us, Carrie is glad that we are committed to continued support of the 2SLGBTQ+ community in our area.

Related to the Drag Brunch event, Carrie had a request to speak with the United Church in Steinbach about our experience as they seek to be affirming in similar ways in their community. We also received a letter of thanks and encouragement from the Toronto United Mennonite Church on PIE day.

Our Peace and Justice Action Group hopes to meet early May to discern how to continue the work of affirm more broadly in our community.

Upside down

Thanks to our Sunday school who led Holy Humour Sunday when Carrie was on holidays. Opportunities for them to lead worship are always valuable. Carrie hopes we can mentor more of the kids into leadership in worship in the future.

Our book study concluded on March 29th. We had about 14-18 people out each week and ended with walking the Labyrinth.

7.3 Ministry and Personnel Committee

M & P met last week via zoom due to bad weather. Carol Burton is a new member replacing Karen Dyck.

M & P will send a card of thanks to Glenn and Karen Dyck for their time, attention and care given to serving Pembina Parish. Due to their departure, a building and property person is needed.

Our new caretakers Mel & Sheila are doing a great job. There was an issue with water drainage from the roof and water was visible on the CEU interior wall.

Josiah Teigrob is doing a great job as sound person.

The pastoral care visitations are going well. Looking for more male visitors. Carrie expressed concern, stating that pastoral care visitation is not within the mandate of M & P.

Laurie is seeking ongoing education opportunities.

7.4 Zion-Calvin

ZC is alive and kicking. Some serious discussion has occurred regarding future viability of the congregation. We have a core group of members determined to maintain a presence – especially for the energetic Sunday School we have.

Humour Sunday (April 16th) was led by Karen Ching. It was boisterous and energetic and fun. Jokes shared and children actively involved. People out of their comfort zones wearing pyjamas and clothing inside out. We even had an 80-year-old dressed as a skateboarder.

April 11, 2023 – Darlingford Community Wide Meeting – Karen Ching attended on behalf of ZC. She talked about our regular Sunday services and our space that is available for use/rental.

Future Planning

- May 20/23 – funeral for Bob Jordan - service at ZC, lunch at hall to be catered by ZC women
- Mid-June: Community Pancake Breakfast – What can we do to add to the day?
- Mid-July: Darlingford Heritage Days – Need ideas for this-Settler's Tea?
- Rendezvous cancelled so no opportunity there for involvement.
- Darlingford 125th in 2024, so we need a way to honour that.
- UCC 100th in 2025, so that will also call for celebration.

On a serious note:

- Closure of Rock Lake Summer Bible camp is disheartening. Bob Luger went to meeting on April 16th on behalf of ZC.
- Dissolution of Darlingford UCW needs to be put into motion. Only 2-3 members left and no meetings have been occurring. There is a process. Where do we start?

Action: Susan will contact Esther Rotherberger regarding the process of the dissolution of Darlingford UCW.

7.5 Worship Interest Group

Currently the Worship Interest Group is comprised of Myrna Mayor, Karen Ching, Leslie Bezte, Louise Gardiner, and Carrie. At this point, Carrie is still the acting chair.

Summer worship – WIG will be meeting on May 18th to finalize plans for Summer Worship based on feedback from the surveys we distributed. There will likely be some changes to our worship schedule, but it looks like worship will continue to be on Sundays.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Membership/Transfer

Membership/transfer request of Katheryne Lumgair from St. Paul's to Brandon Trinity United Church.

Motion: To affirm transfer of membership for Katheryne Lumgair. Moved by Leslie Bezte. Seconded by Nancy Penner. **Carried.**

8.2 Space heater in choir room

It was brought to our attention by Leslie Bezte that the space heater in the choir room is not being turned off when the room is no longer in use.

Action: Lesley Andrew will talk to Laurie about putting a sign on the heater and to Mel to make sure the heater is not left on when the room is vacant.

Action: Nancy will mention this to the barnswallows group.

9. CORRESPONDENCE AND THANK-YOU CARDS

10. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, May 17 2023 @ 7:00 pm at St Paul's

11. CLOSING WORSHIP

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

12. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Agreement to close the meeting at 10:17 pm.