

PEMBINA PARISH PASTORAL CHARGE
353 THORNHILL STREET, MORDEN R6M1M8
Minutes of Leadership Team Meeting
Aug. 22, 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 7:05 pm

2. OPENING WORSHIP

Rev. Carrie began our meeting with worship: Who is God for us?

Our church focus is in the written word. Originally these stories would have been told and then written down, including something called illumination. The images we did have became iconic and really fixed our imaginations about the divine. Yet God is anything but fixed, so the images we use for and about God matter.

We as a group turned to images in The Peace Table and completed the phrase God is.....and later shared these words.

Carrie closed in prayer asking God to remind us of who he is, granting us love for his people , wisdom for our work and good humour in the midst of it all.

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 Business Arising/Unfinished Business of 6b. Bequest letter, 6c. Church Picnic and, under New Business, of items 8d. Replacement of Flooring and 8e. Fall Newsletter.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion: To approve the minutes of the meeting held June 20, 2023 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings. Moved by Lesley Andrew. Seconded by Nancy Penner.

CARRIED.

6. BUSINESS ARISING/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6a. OUTDOOR CAMERA - ST. PAUL'S

Lesley Andrew reported her research into different security camera options including a trail camera, trigger blinking light camera, blink video doorbell and others. We discussed the purpose of having security devices in place, whether for security of the building, vandalism of property or deterrence. Prices ranged from a video doorbell at \$67.97, to a six camera system and security program at \$599.00. With any security system would come the responsibility of monitoring the system or receiving alarms and notifications. A decision was made to put a trail camera idea on hold and instead pursue the option of motion sensor lights for both security and safety of those entering/exiting the church building after dark.

Action: Lesley Andrew will speak to Earl Gardiner and Bruce Shewfelt about the purchase and placement of motion censored lighting at the front entrance, near the parking lot on the east side and at the north entrance door of the building. She will provide a quote.

6b. BEQUEST LETTER

Susan Ching has been editing the letter of Thanksgiving and Invitation Pembina Parish Pastoral Charge. It is a recommendation of Prairie to Pine that the minister should sign and send this letter to the family of the benefactor. The gift will be recognized in a service of worship. Mentioning the identity of the benefactor is optional to the family and bequest amounts will remain confidential.

Action: Susan Ching will remove the water mark and submit this updated letter to Laurie.

6c. CHURCH PICNIC

Lesley Andrew and Leslie Bezte will organize the Pembina Parish picnic to be held Sunday Sep.10, 2023 at the grounds of the Morden Research Station. Outdoor service will include the blessing of the backpacks followed by a hotdog and potluck finger food lunch, and games. Rain location will be indoors at St. Paul's United.

Blessing of the backpacks will also be part of the worship service at Zion-Calvin on Sunday, Sep. 17th for those unable to attend the Parish picnic.

Action: Lesley Andrew will ask Laurie to include picnic in news and notes.

7. REPORTS

7.1 FINANCE

Nancy Penner presented a detailed Comparative Income Statement, Actual and Budgeted from January 1, 2023 to July 31, 2023.

Expenses are less than last year to this date in 2022. Givings are also down compared to this date in 2022.

There was an estate bequest made in August towards the building fund. We are able to make an additional payment towards our mortgage annually.

Audited statements have come back and the accountant is extremely complimentary about finance records submitted by Laurie.

Property taxes have been paid for both Zion-Calvin and St.Paul's.

Co-op gift card fundraiser raised \$5,640.00.

7.2 MINISTRY REPORT

Rev. Carrie will be meeting with Carol Burton from M&P for her annual evaluation conversation.

Inside

Kathryn Luger, Laurie and Rev. Carrie have been meeting this summer to update our Duty of Care policy that works at protecting children, youth, vulnerable persons, and volunteers in our church. They are close to a draft that can be discussed with Sunday school, Visitation, and M+P. Susan Ching, Laurie, and Rev. Carrie have met to do rewrites to our funeral and wedding policies. WIG added input to these some time ago, and all they really need at this point is clarification on details regarding what we are able to offer and when.

Since our last meeting, Rev. Carrie has done an interment for Velda Currie, which had been delayed by family from her service last October. Rev.Carrie attended the memorial event for Rick McElroy, and officiated a memorial service for Janette Phillips.

Rev. Carrie also wondered if we might want to pay attention to the changes happening with Covid-19. As more information becomes available, the Covid Response Team may want to meet to see if any recommendations need to be made for health and safety.

Outside

During August it was our turn to provide worship for Tabor Home and we did so digitally as we have for the past couple of years. Most churches have returned to offering worship in-person at Tabor. We haven't yet done that due to the new requirement of sending 4-6 extra volunteers to bring all the residents to worship. WIG is discussing possibilities with the human resources we have available on a Sunday morning as well as having some conversations about what is most meaningful for residents at Tabor.

Some forms of outreach are easier than others. There has been an increase of folks contacting the church with issues of food security and housing. Office staff feel ill-equipped to offer support. Laurie and Rev. Carrie are curious if we might consider some options for help we could provide from within the church, as well as advocacy in town for services.

Upside Down

Confirmation Camp – running this week. 4 youth attended on the first day, 3 the rest of the week. Lots of fun has been had exploring the Bible and prayer, and they have come up with some focus challenges for the parish for the season of creation as well as a cool challenge fundraiser – a reuse, recycle, upcycle fashion and dessert evening. Rev. Carrie wondered about Leadership interest in pursuing this fundraiser idea with this confirmation group.

Confirmation Camp for Grown ups – to begin this Fall over 5-6 weeks. Dates will be confirmed soon so folks can begin to register.

Opportunity for our congregation to participate in an online course called Hope and Courage: responding to the Climate Crisis as a People of Faith. This course is being taught by Sandy Plett who is a Morden resident, through Canadian Mennonite University which offers special Xplore classes for ministers and congregation members in special topics of interest. This year, they have made it possible to register for the 6-week course as a congregation for \$100, so as many people as want to attend can gather around the same screen. I want to share this with our Peace and Justice Action Group (and the congregation) as an option for us to do together in the St. Paul's sanctuary. The course runs Tuesdays 11-12, Oct. 3-Nov. 7.

7.3 MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

No report was given as M&P have not met since our last meeting.

7.3.1. RESIGNATION OF ANGEL MOK

Rev. Carrie and Sharon Deceuninck have responded to the resignation letter from Angel Mok with thanks and well wishes for her future endeavors. Angel wishes to remain connected to Pembina Parish and possibly offer musical support when needed.

Myra Amy-McElroy would be willing to collaborate on a Christmas event.

Action: Rev. Carrie will approach Margaret Guluck, a choir director from Morris who attends St. Paul's, and Wes Hamm regarding involvement in a Christmas event.

7.4 ZION-CALVIN

Report given by Susan Ching.

Contact has been made with Prairie to Pine regarding the process of dissolving Zion-Calvin UCW. The remaining members agree that this is the most sensible thing to do and are proceeding with the next steps. The hope is to complete the necessary application by end of September and the entire process could be complete by year's end.

Combined summer services at Zion-Calvin held in July went well and were attended by both Zion-Calvin and St. Paul's members.

An informal women's group raised \$ 531.85 at a lunch provided after the Memorial Park Service held in Darlingford July 2, 2023. Outdoor games for the children were organized by Karen McElroy. Lunches

for 2 funerals were provided by this group of women and raised \$500.00.

A games night for the children of Darlingford is being planned.

Security and vandalism is a concern for Zion-Calvin as there is a lot of vandalism occurring in Darlingford.

7.5 WORSHIP INTEREST GROUP

Rev. Carrie reported.

Summer services seemed to go well. Are prepared to do the same next summer.

WIG is prepared to offer worship outdoors on September 10th if we go ahead with a picnic. If not, we will shift to an indoor service including backpack blessings. We have decided to partner with our Sunday School following their new curriculum which goes along with the new Storybook Bibles the families are receiving. So each week we will share the main scripture story and a Psalm in worship.

The group is updating the House Group handbooks for both churches and it will now be standard practice for one member of WIG to give guidance to Communion set up, service, and clean-up so House Groups have a bit more support.

7.6 INTEREST GROUPS

7.6.1. SUNDAY SCHOOL

Rev. Carrie reported that she has reviewed the new Sunday School resources with Roxanne and Erin. The updated Duty of Care Policy will be presented to the Sunday School leaders as it becomes available.

7.6.2. OUTREACH

Dates for soup and pie lunch fundraisers have been booked for this fall.

7.6.3. STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE

Report given by Nancy Penner.

The BAG or Budget Action Group will meet on Sept 14th. They sent out a letter reminding St. Paul's Renovation Fund donors that their pledge amounts in years 3 are only 25% received. A letter was also sent to those donating by PAR to kindly review and perhaps adjust their PAR givings according to cost increases.

7.6.4 CHOIR

Report given by Sharon Deceuninck. The choir is a vital part of our church worship service. With the resignation of choir director Angel Mok, there will be the opportunity for special music.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8a. Rental: Winterfest 2024

The City of Morden has made inquiries about using St.Paul's as a venue for Winterfest 2024. Due to their usage of our space and the clean up required after this event in 2023, this was deemed a high risk event and cause for us to update our rental policy. They used only the CEU space last year. Additional clean up was required by our caretaker.

Action: Mary Ann will ask Laurie regarding this use of space last year, whether it was a rental situation or was our space donated as community outreach to Winterfest.

8b. RECOMMENDATION FROM OPPORTUNITY FUND: PURCHASE OF BIBLES

Bibles have been purchased.

8c. RENTAL REQUEST FROM LAURIE

Laurie would like to run a weekly (Mondays) knit/spin-in at Zion-Calvin starting on Sep 11 (evenings up to snow, then switching to afternoons for winter). Laurie will not be charging folks -instead entry will be free-will donation to the church. Laurie will clean up afterwards. Leadership approved this request.

Action: Mary Ann will let Laurie know that she can go ahead with her plan.

8d. REPLACEMENT OF FLOORING

Lesley Andrew has spoken to Vern's Carpets regarding staining/discoloration of the flooring in the meeting room and toddler room. Vern's Carpets will replace the flooring at no cost to the church. Bruce and Earl are aware of this.

8e. FALL NEWSLETTER

Shannon Holenski approached Laurie about a fall newsletter. Decision was made to forego a fall newsletter, but rather ask Shannon if she would be willing to put together an Advent newsletter.

Action: Mary Ann will let Laurie know of our decision so she may inform Shannon.

9. CORRESPONDENCE AND THANK-YOU CARDS

Thank you letters were mailed to 5 nieces and nephews as surviving members of the estate bequest.

Action: Lesley Andrew will address the resignation of Angel Mok at the next M&P meeting Sep 7, 2023 and prepare a thank you card.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday, Sep 20, 2023 @7:00 pm.

11. CLOSING WORSHIP

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

12. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Agreement to close the meeting at 9:53 pm.