

PEMBINA PARISH PASTORAL CHARGE
353 THORNHILL STREET, MORDEN R6M1M8
Minutes of Leadership Team Meeting
May 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 7:06 pm

2. OPENING WORSHIP

Hats – what are the hats you wear?

Wearing lots of hats can be a sign of the gifts we can share with the world and we are grateful for all the gifts that people around the table share. But we acknowledge that wearing many hats can also be exhausting and confusing. One of our tasks is to discern our hats, which are ours to wear, and which belong to others. Ultimately, we are created in the image of God and sacred regardless of our hats or accomplishments.

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 addition under New Business of Co-Op Gift card fundraiser.

Action: Mary Ann will ask Laurie to include a list of all interest groups on the agenda for the next meeting.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion: To approve the minutes of the meeting held April 17, 2023 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings. Moved by Leslie Bezte. Seconded by Lesley Andrew.

CARRIED.

6. BUSINESS ARISING/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 BEQUEST POLICY

Susan Ching will continue to edit the Thanksgiving and Invitation Pembina Parish Pastoral Charge letter as more clarification and corrections are needed.

Discussion as to whether Carrie is the most appropriate person to send the letter of Thanksgiving and Invitation.

Action: Carrie will contact Vicky Nelson at United Church HUB regarding how to handle.

Discussion regarding options to recognize bequests in place of a plaque on a memory board; a donor book or a memory tree?

Action: Mary Ann will notify Laurie with the changes to the Pembina Parish Pastoral Charge Policy for Bequests per previous meeting April 17, 2023.

7. REPORTS

7.1 FINANCE

Nancy Penner presented a detailed Comparative Income Statement, Actual and Budgeted from January 1, 2023 to April 30, 2023.

As the reports show we are behind in our giving when compared to budget by \$81,600.

We are over budget on the expense side by \$3,562.

Nancy has been working with the Finance Committee to address the short fall in giving.

We have to recognize our givers have gone from 202 to 161. From the AGM the numbers that were shared stated that we need to give \$116 per month per giver (household) to meet budget.

Earl Gardiner is working on setting up a stewardship interest group that should be finalized this week and hopefully they can meet next week.

The preliminary focus of the group will be to identify some communication with the congregations as to our financial situation and to positively create awareness of the need at this time. We will focus on using PAR to meet our shortfall and some creative fundraising opportunities. These may only occur down the road. We want to be upbeat but stress the immediate need.

There were a few items Nancy commented on:

1. This is M&P's area but we are in need of someone to mow the lawn. Nancy would like to find someone or a couple of people to volunteer to do this job for this season. Nancy will work with Earl to work on this. We can cover the cost of Mel for the mows he has completed to date.
2. Laurie has asked to reduce her hours to save us the expense of her salary. Nancy is disappointed this was approved by leadership, but knows this is under M&P's jurisdiction.
3. If we can ask Fay if the piano repairs can be delayed that would be welcomed.
4. Nancy has not applied to the Opportunity Fund for the Square Terminal for selling tickets. Will push the expense to a later date.
5. Bruce and Earl have been looking into the roof repairs and hopefully we won't have a huge bill but there will be some work that will need to be done.
6. We may need to reach out to our members when we need help .. lawn mowing, repairs around the church and other issues as they arise.

Discussion that the piano repairs may be an item the Opportunity Fund could provide funding for.

7.2 MINISTER REPORT

Inside

We're entering a season of memorial services. We celebrated the life of Dorothy Gower at St. Paul's on May 13th, we will celebrate Bob Jordan at Z-C on May 20th, and Evelyne Holenski on May 27th at Wiebes chapel. We have also had communication for a graveside service in June and an interment in July. We're also entering into the "end of the year" type services where we move into warmer weather, long weekends, summer schedules, end of Sunday school, the regional council meetings etc. It's a time when there is a fair amount of relaxed energy in the church, if not on fields.

And our photo directory is so far, a booming success and the process is just getting started. Pat and Louise are trekking near and far to make sure there is no senior left out of the directory who wants to be in it. Both have said the experience has been wonderful and they are making so many good connections with folks who can't attend our services. So much love and care is going into the process and folks are feeling it. The point of our directory was to help us connect and know one another and it is beautiful to see that we are meeting that goal through the way we chose to go about creating the directory.

Outside

In terms of outside engagement, the P+J action group had a good first meeting as that new entity. There were a wide range of conversations including the Moosehide campaign to stand up against violence toward indigenous and non-indigenous women and children, book banning, pride, climate change, and Indigenous Peoples Day celebrations in Morden on June 24th. Actions planned are;

- A letter to the South Central Regional Library Board to express support in the face of the challenges they experiencing around book banning and defunding.
- waiting to hear from some folks from Pembina Fellowship about the opportunity to join them as they speak to various city councils about climate action.
- a sign-making event at St. Paul's on June 9 7pm to make colorful pride signs for the Pride parade in Morden on June 10. We've invited a host of other churches who are affirming or on the journey to join us so we can find solidarity as allies.
- a popsicle/water refill station at the park for after the Pride March.
- some members will also be doing a bit of decorating at St. Paul's for Pride Month and folks at Z-C are also imagining possibilities there.

It is also important to note that with the rise in protests against the rainbow community that has been growing over the past couple of years, we should be prepared to see some vandalism of our Pride decorations.

Upside down

We'll be having a confirmation camp in Morden the week of August 21st in response to some requests. Due to so many conflicting schedules during the year, we will try out a confirmation class model that is more of a day camp with informal faith exploration.

7.3 MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Report given by Lesley Andrew.

Prairie to Pine offered a Zoom course reviewing Policy, Procedures and Practices to assist members of M & P. Lesley and Carol Burton participated in this course. This course offered information, suggestions and requirements that need to be followed up on. Focus was given to good communication between staff members and congregation.

M & P will put a notice in News & Notes regularly to introduce it's members and to invite parishioners to submit bouquets and concerns.

M & P will be working on annual reviews.

Office administration hours have been reduced as a result of Laurie's proposal to do so.

Carpets in the foyer and room#1 will be cleaned Jun 20,2023.

M & P has been recruiting coverage for the time Laurie will be away this summer.

An important date to celebrate, Carrie's first anniversary of being admitted to the United Church of Canada on Jun 26.

MEL AND SHEILA TO CUT GRASS AT ST.PAULS

Doug Penner will no longer be mowing the church grass. Our church custodians, Mel and Sheila Worms, may be interested in taking on this job. Our cost is \$40.00 per cut. Lesley spoke to Laurie about typing up a simple contract. To reduce some of our expenditures, it was agreed to find someone(s) to volunteer to mow.

7.4 ZION-CALVIN

Susan Ching reported. Susan contacted Esther Rothenburger regarding the dissolution of Darlingford

UCW. According to Esther, there was no special procedure done when the St.Paul's UCW was dissolved. There are procedures to be followed such as notifying regional or district UCW giving 6 months notice and a reason for the closure request. A motion needs to be entered in the minutes and, along with the annual report, should be submitted to Regional UCW. Dispersements need to be submitted to the CRA.
Action: Susan will continue to investigate the UCW closure procedure. She will also seek out as many Darlingford UCW members as possible, particularly those with account access/ signing authority.

Zion-Calvin will have a meeting in June, 2023. Details will be in News and Notes as well as the Pembina Parish and Darlingford information sites.

5. WORSHIP INTEREST GROUP

Louise Gardiner is the new chair of WIG. Carrie has let her know that if there are things she wants to have shared here, she can attend if she wants, or send info through Leslie or Carrie.

WIG will be meeting on May 18th to finalize plans for Summer Worship based on feedback from the surveys we distributed. At this point it is looking like we will do worship at Z-C in July and St. Paul's in August.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 RENTAL DISCOUNT REQUEST

Angel has booked the Sanctuary for Choir Camp Aug. 28 to Sep. 1. The cost would be \$1250. Angel is asking for a discount.

Motion: To offer Angel a rate of \$750.00 for the rental of the sanctuary and the use of the piano from Aug. 28, 2023 to Sep. 1, 2023. Moved by Lesley Andrew. Seconded by Leslie Bezte.

CARRIED.

8.2 CHURCH PICNIC DISCUSSION

Discussion about the possibility of a Parish wide picnic or event in the fall to coincide with back to Sunday School and the blessing of the backpacks.

Item sent to parking lot as an agenda item for next meeting in Jun, 2023.

Action: Leslie Bezte will speak to the Sunday School about organizing this event.

8.3 DECIDE IF MEETING IN SUMMER

Leadership Team will meet in Jun, 2023 and then again in Aug, 2023.

8.4 ANNUAL REVIEW OF MISSION AND VISION

Long term planning regarding our mission and vision for the next 5 years, how we will live out our church year. This could be in the form of a one day retreat on a Saturday in August. Stewardship and Finance interest group will be informed of our mission and vision plans for their financial planning purposes.

8.5 NANCY TO REPORT ON ST.PAUL'S ROOF

St. Paul's Church building sustained some water damage in the spring due to ice in the gutters and water back-up. The roof was repaired in 2019 so this may be a warranty type claim. Bruce Shewfelt is in contact with the roofers and awaiting an estimate for the repairs to be done this summer or fall.

8.6 CO-OP GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER

Action: Lesley Andrew will be in touch with Lori Willcocks about the co-op card fundraiser.

9. CORRESPONDENCE AND THANK YOU CARDS

Leslie Bezte will send a thank you card to Faye and Angel. They will both be acknowledged this Sunday church service in Joys and Concerns.

10. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, June 20 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 9:56 pm.