

PEMBINA PARISH PASTORAL CHARGE
353 THORNHILL STREET, MORDEN R6M1M8
Minutes of Leadership Team Meeting
September 20, 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 7:07 pm

2. OPENING WORSHIP

Rev. Carrie began our meeting with worship. What does it mean to be the church?

We explored a bit about what it means to be the church using the United Church's current purpose statement. Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, Daring Justice

A purpose statement means something to those who create it, but unless the rest of us engage it and discover what it means for us, it just becomes a logo and a slogan.

We shared about what Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship and Daring Justice means for us.

We ended worship in prayer.

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. Rental Winterfest 2024 and, under New Business, of items 8c. Fall Supper/New Dishwasher.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion: To approve the minutes of the meeting held August 22 , 2023 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings allowing for a review of the Co-op gift card fundraiser net income amount. Moved by Leslie Bezte. Seconded by Lesley Andrew. **CARRIED.**

Action: Nancy will verify the Co-op gift card fundraiser net income amount for our next meeting.

6. BUSINESS ARISING/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6a. QUOTE FOR MOTION SENSOR LIGHTS - ST. PAUL'S

There is a need for adequate lighting on the exterior of the building.

Action: Leslie Andrew will provide a quote for motion sensor lighting at our next meeting.

6b. RENTAL WINTERFEST 2024

Mary Ann spoke to Laurie regarding the arrangements of Winterfest 2023 usage of the building.

The sanctuary, kitchen and bathroom spaces were offered free of charge. A cleaning fee and a fee for sound were charged.

Regarding Winterfest 2024, the CEU, kitchen and bathrooms may be offered free of charge, with the charges of a cleaning fee and sound if needed per our building rental agreement.

Action: Mary Ann will notify Laurie of this decision.

7. REPORTS

7.1 FINANCE

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

The Finance Statement reflects a trend of being under budget for expenses but behind in givings. Our retained earnings are being depleted towards expenses. The Budget Action Group (BAG) is working on future financial projections and focusing on an increase in givings for the month of December. Building rental possibilities are being explored. Fundraising needs to happen, along with a realistic givings commitment.

The estate bequest made in August has been deposited towards the building fund.

7.2 MINISTER REPORT

Inside

We've had an energetic start to fall with our church picnic, backpack blessings, work on the directory, and return to meetings and things.

Some good connections were made in the process of creating the directory and through flower deliveries by Cathy Sandercock this Summer. We hope to continue the momentum.

Carrie also led an interment for Steve Eveleigh at Darlingford Cemetery on Sept. 16 and will be leading a memorial service for Elma Jones at St. Paul's on Oct. 4.

Outside

Rumblings are beginning about Fall Supper and Soup and Dessert lunches coming up in October.

On September 14th, Kathryn Luger, Joanna Dueck, and Rev. Carrie had the opportunity to speak with Josiah Neufeld who writes for Broadview. He was asked to write an article on United Churches who are creating pockets of resistance to anti-LGBTQ+ messages, marches, book bans etc. We had a good conversation and look forward to reading his article down the road.

The United Church of Canada as a whole released a Call to Act statement on September 18th, naming gender and sexuality as gifts of God and that all people are made in the image of God. They also stated that "the United Church denounces the emerging amendments to policies and legislations across provinces in Canada, and indeed many parts of the world; these changes roll back safety and legal protections for 2SLGBTQIA+ people, particularly transgender and non-binary youth." They invite us all to take tangible action to stand in solidarity with the rainbow community.

Upside Down

Confirmation Camp concluded successfully and at least one of the three would like to be confirmed. Carrie is waiting to hear from the others to set a date. Confirmation Camp for grown-ups will begin on Sept. 27. So far we have about 13 people who want to attend. The Hope and Courage webinars on climate will begin on Oct. 3 with some interest from folks wanting to attend that as well. The webinars are recorded, so we hope we can share the link with those interested.

7.3. MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Lesley Andrew gave report. Staff evaluations are almost done for 2023. Will begin again in January 2024 with the new staff members Mel and Sheila Worms.

M & P made a request on behalf of Rev. Carrie to make a shift in holidays/professional development days to follow the calendar year rather than the fiscal church year from July to June.

Motion: On behalf of Rev. Carrie, to make a shift in her holiday and professional development days to follow the calendar year, rather than the July to June schedule of the United Church, beginning January, 2024. Moved by Lesley Andrew. Seconded by Susan Ching. **CARRIED.**

Laurie has not been able to partake of any continuing education for the past 4 years and is being encouraged to do so. Several options were considered.

Motion: For Leadership to approve a financial amount of \$1300.00 towards Laurie's continuing education. Moved by Lesley Andrew. Seconded by Nancy Penner. **CARRIED.**

An advertisement for a Choir Director has been placed on the Pembina Parish Facebook page, will be added to Morden In The Know and placed on ad board at Morklers.

Monthly staff coffee time will continue.

Favorable comments received regarding the Parish picnic as it was a nice kick start to the fall season.

7.4. ZION-CALVIN

Susan Ching reported.

A very enthusiastic Sunday School began this past Sunday at Zion -Calvin with the blessing of the backpacks.

The Darlingford UCW met on Sep. 6, 2023 to follow the process of disbanding the group. A motion was made at this meeting: That Darlingford UCW disband due to reduced membership.

The account balance of \$906.68 should be distributed as follows: Pembina Parish \$706.18 and Zion Calvin United Church Darlingford \$200.00. Moved by Betty Hamilton. Seconded by Betty Kelner. Carried.

The secretary of this group was Betty Waddingham and the treasurer Betty Hamilton.

A celebration will be held in Darlingford to formalize the closure of the UCW and to celebrate it's work.

7.5 WORSHIP INTEREST GROUP

Leslie Bezte reported Worship will meet next month.

Rev. Carrie reported.

On Oct. 8, Thanksgiving, we will celebrate Gratitude Sunday and acknowledge any bequests that have been made in the past year. Carrie will be on study leave the week after Thanksgiving so Tara Glowacki will be leading worship on Oct. 15th. We will also have a food drive that Sunday for World Food Day. That drive will be for Many Hands.

7.6.1. SUNDAY SCHOOL

Leslie Bezte reported that Sunday School has begun and registration will be held in the weeks to come as children present.

7.6.2. OUTREACH

Mary Ann reported that the first soup and pie lunch will be held October 27, 2023.

7.6.3. STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE

Nancy Penner gave report.

The Budget Action Group (BAG) met on Sept 14th.

Members are Bruce Shewfeld, Earl Gardiner, Cathy Lone, Brian Saunderson, Ryan McGill, Bob Luger and Nancy Penner.

A Budgeting process for 2024 was discussed:

- Fundraising possibilities
- Budget needs from interest groups
- Line item expenses for St Pauls and Zion-Calvin

The Par Request resulted in 9 pledge increases.

Mortgage details were reviewed and as we pay down the mortgage our interest decreases. Currently we

are paying 2.6% on the mortgage. Platinum Savings is paying 3.35% interest. It has been recommended that we will hold building fund donations in savings as we are earning more interest than we are paying on the mortgage. We will continue with mortgage payments. The mortgage is a 5yr term which opens for renewal in 2026. At that time we can pay it off, make a lump sum payment or renew the balance owing at the market interest rate.

Earl will lead an Endowment Fund Policy Review. This is ongoing and Nancy will keep Leadership updated.

BAG has enrolled in an 8 week United Church Stewardship Best Practices course via zoom and Nancy will report back to leadership on how this is going.

What does the BAG have permission to do without discussing with the Leadership team first. This item will be added to the agenda for the next Leadership Team meeting.

7.6.4. CHOIR

No report given as we currently seek a choir director.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8a. CONGREGATIONAL FLOURISHING WORKSHOP

This workshop is set for Sep. 29th in Winnipeg with Moderator Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne at Meadowood United Church. Exploring what would make our church flourish. It was encouraged that 2 people from our congregation attend. Rev. Carrie will attend, along with Sharon Deceuninck or Cathy Sandercock.

8b. OUTSIDE FUNERAL RENTALS

Rev. Carrie led the discussion regarding the approach to "outside" funerals, those that do not involve Rev. Carrie as the officiant. A decision was made by Leadership Team to treat "outside" funerals as a rental following the Pembina Parish rental policy. Catering needs will be handled by the renters.

Action: Mary Ann will notify Laurie of this decision.

8c. FALL SUPPER/NEW DISHWASHER

Lesley Andrew reported. A fall supper is being planned for Nov. 5, 2023 following the format of 2023. There will be both dine-in and take-out options available.

The dishwasher, which was a donation to St. Paul's kitchen many years ago, requires replacing. Lesley presented a quote from Rona at a cost of \$4,837.00.

Action: Lesley will apply to the opportunity fund for the cost of a new dishwasher.

9. CORRESPONDENCE AND THANK- YOU CARDS

Letters of Thanksgiving and Invitation were sent out to the families of those making estate bequests within the past year.

M & P sent a thank you to Angel Mok for her past service as our choir director.

Leslie Bezte will send a thank you card to Laurie Wiebe, Louise Gardiner, Pat Gibson and Raina Teigrob for their work on the Church Directory.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday, Nov. 1, 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 9:32 pm.