

**Pembina Parish Pastoral Charge
353 Thornhill Street, Morden R6M 1M8
Minutes of Leadership Team Meeting
February 16, 2023, 7:00 pm**

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 7:10 pm

2. OPENING WORSHIP

Rev Carrie began her remarks with a reading of 1 Corinthians 1:4-9 and an acknowledgment of Leadership Team members completing their terms of service: Kathryn Luger, Karen Dyck and Esther Rothenburger. She commented on the contributions of each person and invited other members to speak. Rev Carrie continued in prayer and, before turning the meeting over to the chair, she generously provided chocolates for everyone's enjoyment throughout the meeting.

3. ATTENDANCE/REGRETS

Rev Carrie Martens	Sharon Deceuninck	Esther Rothenburger	
Mary Ann McElroy	Nancy Penner	Kathryn Luger	
Guests: Myrna Mayor	Fred Mayor	Brian Nedohin	Brian McElroy
Regrets: Karen Dyck			

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was accepted by consensus with the addition under Business Arising of item 8.2 Dissemination of Use of Space Policy.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Motion: to approve the minutes of the meeting held January 26, 2023 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Moved by: Esther Rothenburger Seconded by: Mary Ann McElroy

CARRIED

6. REPORT BY ELDERS

Myrna and Fred Mayor, Elders for St. Paul's, spoke of the things going well in the church: worship services in the sanctuary as well as being available online; the general satisfaction with the renovations; the robust Sunday school program; the success of the Fall Supper; the Christmas Eve service which followed the new plan for the minister to alternate annually between the two churches; the excellent Christmas campaign for One Just City; the Soup and Dessert lunches providing social opportunities as well as fund-raising for many organizations. They commended Doug Lone for his work on the power point system, expressed sadness at Thong Bouachanthala's retirement and expressed appreciation for the work of Rev Carrie, leadership, Laurie Wiebe and the new caretakers, Mel and Sheila Worms.

Regarding concerns, they identified that volunteer participation is not improving and attendance is down significantly. They wondered if a process exists to contact those not attending. Stewardship is of particular concern especially in light of few volunteers to lead the process. It's a challenge to get men involved in the work of the church.

Debbie Hamilton, Elder for Zion-Calvin was not available.

7. REPORT BY TRUSTEES

Brian McElroy, chair of Zion-Calvin trustees, reported on a quiet year with things generally stable following work completed in previous years. He expressed a desire to have more people attending church in order to support more activity but the community has changed and there seems little likelihood of increased membership. He would like to see the carpet removed in the church but in the current situation it's difficult to plan ahead.

Brian Nedohin, chair of St. Paul's trustees, reported they have five trustees with one more being sought; the past year was quiet but for "damage events" such as some flooding made worse by a pump failure; a fire drill needs to be planned as none was held last year; new caretaker are keeping exits free from snow; he is researching insurance cost-savings through coverage with the United Church of Canada.

8. BUSINESS ARISING/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8.1 Bequest Policy

Further discussion tabled until the new Leadership Team is in place.

8.2 Dissemination of the Use of Space Policy

Rev Carrie indicated that Laurie Wiebe requested direction on the dissemination of the revised policy. It was decided that it should be included in News and Notes with a request that interest groups take particular attention. A further concern was raised about wording which subsequently led to the subtitle "personal items" being changed to "storage space".

9. REPORTS

9.1 Finance

Nancy Penner reported that expenses in January were more than double the givings. At the Annual Meeting, she will be pointing out the need for significantly increased support.

9.2 Minister's Report

Rev Carrie remarked that she had been away for two weeks on study and vacation leave and expressed gratitude for that opportunity; there have been two deaths in the past week with both families postponing a service until spring.

She spoke of on-going issues arising from the rental of the St. Paul's Hall to the Pembina Hills Arts Council for a drag brunch. Factions within the broader community are engaging in a social media attack on the Arts Council and our church. There is talk of a protest on the day of the event. Recently an individual entered the church office and, while filming, "served" the Office Administrator with papers of person liability. These tactics are also being played out in local

libraries by people demanding the removal of books they disapprove. Rev Carrie contacted the Prairie to Pine Regional Council for counsel on our rights and responsibilities. She also participated in an Affirm United webinar called United Against Hate and talked with webinar leaders who offered support, encouragement and suggestions for responding effectively to our situation. Many people have offered support and have offered to provide a presence at the event, if deemed desirable.

9.3 Ministry and Personnel Committee

No report

9.4 Zion-Calvin

No report

9.5 Worship Interest Group

Rev Carrie expressed concern for the Worship Interest Group which needs additional members although Karen Ching has joined Myrna Mayor in service. Rev Carrie suggested that this concern should be raised at the AGM to let people know what WIG does and the implications for reduced service in the community if more people do not join the group.

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.1 Annual Meeting Nominations and Arrangements

It was clarified that reports will be identified and the chair will ask if anyone wishes to offer comments or ask questions. Rev Carrie will speak to the need for Worship Interest Group members as those positions are not part of the nomination process. Discussion of possible nominees raised four names. Leadership Team members will speak with each of them.

10.2 Archive Materials to be Transferred to Winnipeg

Laurie Wiebe has prepared eight boxes of archive materials which need to be taken to the United Church archives in Winnipeg. **Action:** Esther Rothenburger to suggest to Laurie Wiebe that she ask Brian Nedohin if he would deliver the boxes as he makes frequent trips to the city. If he cannot, a request for service should be placed in News and Notes.

10.3 Rock Lake Camp AGM Representation

The Parish requires two reps to the Camp's Annual General Meeting. Bob Luger has offered to remain a rep. **Action:** Kathryn Luger to ask Louise Gardiner if she is willing to be nominated as a rep and attend the annual meeting.

10.4 Updated Rental Fees

An updated schedule of rental fees, as prepared by Laurie Wiebe, was circulated. Questions arose about the damage deposit and its sufficiency for larger risks such as rental of the sanctuary, hall and, possibly, tables. There were suggestions to charge an hourly rate for set-up and cleaning. **Action:** Kathryn Luger to speak with Laurie about clarifying these matters and speaking with M&P and the caretaker about set-up and cleaning charges, then referring the Rental Fee Schedule back to Leadership.

10.5 Donation of Choir Gowns from Roland United Church

Sharon Deceuninck reported that Roland United Church has offered some surplus choir gowns, but the St. Paul's choir has decided not to accept them and will instead attempt to repair what they have.

10.6 Donation of Choir Music by Pearson United Church

Sharon Deceuninck reported that the offer of music sheets by Pearson United Church is being considered by the St. Paul's choir director and pianist.

10.7 Stewardship Courses

Rev Carrie noted that a number of resources are available on the topic of church stewardship—but first a stewardship group must be formed.

10.8 Rental Fee for Ecole Morden Middle School for Jazz Coffeehouse, April 20th

Esther Rothenburger explained the nature of the school coffee house event and questioned whether the rental fees might be reduced in light of the fact she would take responsibility for set-up and cleaning. Discussion concluded that the fee could be reduced to \$200 (for the sanctuary, kitchen and sound technician).

11. CORRESPONDENCE and Thank you cards

At the January 26th Leadership meeting a question was raised whether thanks had been given to the major participants of the December concert at St. Paul's. Sharon Deceuninck confirmed that Choir Director Angel Mok had personally thanked the strings group but no contact has been made with the Winkler Senior Choir. **Action:** Esther Rothenburger will send a card of appreciation.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

Thursday, March 13, 2023 7:00 pm at St. Paul's

11. CLOSING WORSHIP

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

12. ADJOURN

Agreement to close the meeting at 9:53 pm.

PARKING LOT ITEMS

1. Church directory
2. Part-time minister for Pastoral Care
3. Duty of Care Policy-being looked at by Rev Carrie, Kathryn Luger and Sunday School