

**Pembina Parish Pastoral Charge
353 Thornhill Street, Morden R6M 1M8
Minutes of Leadership Team Meeting
February 22, 2022, 7:00 pm Online**

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 spoke of the history/theology/polity content in the course she recently completed for admission to UC ministry. She elaborated on the notion that loves makes mistakes and being able to see that yields hope. As an example, she described the church's loving relationship with Indigenous peoples shifting through the years from what could be characterized as charity, solidarity; repentance; and currently, stepping back and respectfully letting them be. In prayer she asked that in a world that is not static, God would help us to see change and truth and would guide us as we seek to follow the way of Jesus.

3. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION WITH ELDERS

Brian Saunderson introduced Elders Fred and Myrna Mayor. Myrna began by outlining that there has been much for which to be grateful: Rev Carrie, Laurie Wiebe, the Leadership Team, Summer in-person gatherings, Affirming service, Sunday School Christmas service, on-line worship services for which everyone involved is to be thanked, the enthusiasm of the children at in-person services, the fall supper, the longest-night service so beautifully enhanced by guest musicians, the poinsettias as decorations and gifts, the continued participation of so many people in the church. Fred spoke of the positive impact of renovations at St. Paul's. He voiced concern about the lack of volunteers for parish groups and hoped young families might become more involved. Fred and Myrna questioned whether there is a need for a "return to church plan".

General discussion referred to a recent newspaper article predicting a significant reduction in church attendance. Rev Carrie questioned whether we are called to bring people back or whether we need to evolve to new ways of being. Regarding volunteers, it was suggested that people might be sought for specific projects versus long-term commitments to interest groups or committees.

Brian thanked Myrna and Fred for their insights. **Action:** Brian will contact Deb Hamilton (absent elder) to determine whether she would like to provide some written comments for another meeting.

4. ATTENDANCE/REGRETS

Brian Saunderson Kathryn Luger Karen Dyck Nancy Penner Lynne Sanderson
Esther Rothenburger Sharon Deceuninck Rev Carrie Martens
Guests: Fred Mayor Myrna Mayor

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

January 13, 2022

Motion: To approve the minutes of the meeting held January 13, 2022 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings. Moved by: Karen Dyck Seconded by: Nancy Penner

CARRIED

January 20, 2022

Motion: To approve the minutes of the special meeting (budget) held January 20, 2022 as a true and accurate record of proceedings. Moved by: Nancy Penner Seconded by: Sharon Deceuninck

CARRIED

7. BUSINESS ARISING/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

7.1 COVID-19 Protocols

Karen Dyck reported that the Parish's Covid Response Group will meet February 24, 2022 to update Covid protocols for the parish. The Manitoba Government is planning to reduce restrictions March 1 and 15, however, some organization are planning to maintain their current measures. **Action:** Karen to email updated protocols to Leadership Team.

8. REPORTS:

8.1 Finance

Nancy Penner reported that following a recent line-by-line review of the final expenditures for 2021, it was deemed appropriate to move some expenses from St. Paul's building committee to maintenance (e.g., water heater, locks, plus others) which also resulted in some changes to GST reporting. While figures changed within categories, the bottom line remained the same. Brian Saunderson reported that the total expenditures for the St. Paul's renovation were higher than anticipated and that this will be raised at the Annual General Meeting.

8.2 Minister's Report

Rev Carrie noted that because she missed the January meeting, her report covers two months. "Our year started out with a season of loss. Between [Christmas](#) and Mid-February I did 4 memorial services and I imagine those losses hit hard for many in our community, particularly those who would have benefited from being present at the services or serving those who are grieving. I have talked with Laurie about being in

conversation with our funeral serving folks about how we might move forward and Laurie is working on that.

In early February, I was hearing from a number of folks about a sense that the church is feeling disconnected, but also that we need to figure out how to move forward and thrive, instead of simply waiting until Covid is over. Since these voices weren't coming from one group or committee but from all over the church, I gathered a group for a Zoom call just to have some conversation. Out of that grew the idea of having an outdoor family day for each congregation, the possibility of care packages for our university students done by our Sr. Sunday School, pen friends between our children and our seniors, and moving forward with drive thru soup and pie. All were encouraged to only move on ideas that brought them energy, knowing that many are quite fatigued, and connect with others who could be partners in the projects. Sadly the St. Paul's get together planned for [yesterday](#) had to be cancelled due to weather.

An update on my admissions process. I was on study leave the past two weeks to take my final course for the admissions process. It was a grueling 45 hours on Zoom over 9 days. I will still need to complete a 20 page term paper which is due at the end of April so I'm working with M+P to plan a time to complete that. I have also been scheduled for my final interview with the admissions board on [March 11](#), earlier than I was expecting. Your prayers on that day are welcome! I will be having conversation with our pastoral relations minister from Prairie to Pine this week to hear what all needs to happen moving forward."

Rev Carrie also noted that she had met with Kathryn Luger who, representing the views of several members of the Zion-Calvin congregation, spoke of the need for a mechanism to achieve more efficient decision-making at the church.

8.3 Ministry and Personnel Committee

Karen Dyck reported that the committee will meet March 1, 2022. She further confirmed that the Sound-Board Training Workshop will be held March 8, 2022 at 8:00 pm at St. Paul's.

8.4 Zion-Calvin

9. NEW BUSINESS:

9.1 AGM Planning

a. In person/Zoom or Zoom only: Brian Saunderson led discussion about the pros and cons of the two suggested formats. It was decided to hold an in-person plus audio Zoom meeting. There will be a joint service for both congregations at St. Paul's at 11 am with participants seated at tables. Immediately following the service people will be invited to begin eating and

the meeting will commence. People will be asked to bring a bagged lunch with cookies and beverages supplied. Notice of the meeting was included in News and Notes for Sunday February 20 and will be given again for February 27 and March 6. As our Covid Response Group has yet to meet, their deliberations and updated protocols may negate the possibility of meeting in person; then the meeting will be held solely by Zoom.

b. Nominations: Karen Dyck identified the following nominees: Brian Andrew for St. Paul's Trustees; Kathy Menzies for M&P; Beth Lovall (considering) for Leadership Team.

9.2 CEU Rental Update

The CEU rental by Morden Gymnastics is paid to the end of April. Brian Saunderson will determine whether they are interested in staying longer before we pursue other options. Three churches have inquired about renting. We must be sure that any church sharing our space holds common values with us particularly with respect to our affirming ministry.

9.3 Rental Inquiry-reduced rate request by Brenda Friesen for two full days every two months

Brian Saunderson reported that Laurie Wiebe has had a potential renter ask about a rate reduction. Discussion concluded that the rates were recently set and, believing them to be reasonable, we will not reduce them.

9.4 Annual Review Pembina Parish Constitution

Brian Saunderson noted that a motion to amend article 5.3 of the The Constitution of Pembina Parish will be presented at the AGM. The change would extend the term of Treasurer by one year to allow the training of a new Treasurer. Leadership has previously approved this motion.

Lynne Sanderson noted that it has been brought to her attention that we should not be referring to our document as a "constitution" as that is the purview of the United Church of Canada as set out in The Manual. **Action:** Leadership should determine an alternative title for the document and send the revised document (including revisions from the AGM) to Prairie to Pine Regional Council, Committee on Community of Faith Support, care of Cheryl McKitrick.

10. CORRESPONDENCE and Thank you cards

12. NEXT MEETING(s) DATE

Tuesday March 15, 2022 at 7:00 pm in-person at St. Paul's unless notified otherwise

13. CLOSING WORSHIP

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

14. ADJOURN

Agreement to close the meeting at 9:05 pm

Chair: Brian Saunderson

Recording Secretary: Kathryn Luger