

**Pembina Parish Pastoral Charge
353 Thornhill Street, Morden R6M 1M8
Minutes of Leadership Team Meeting
August 9, 2022, 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 7:06 pm

2. OPENING WORSHIP

Rev Carrie Martens read 2 Corinthians 9:8, Ephesians 3:20, Luke 6:38 and Mathew 6:33 from the First Nations Version of scripture hoping we would hear the words with new ears. She reflected that the passages speak of God's abundance but also of our responsibilities. They remind us of who God is and who God is calling us to be. There is much talk of the demise of churches, but former moderator Richard Bott has said we should not be preparing for death, but rather focusing on living our faith. Our new moderator, the Right Reverend Carmen Lansdowne, has indicated she hopes to bring to the United Church the lens of abundance that she brings from her Indigenous roots. That lens or perspective is shaped by our knowledge of and trust in God's abundance and will shape the vision we will live into. This may not be a safe endeavour, but it is a good one.

3. ATTENDANCE/REGRETS

Rev Carrie Martens Sharon Deceuninck Nancy Penner Esther Rothenburger
Mary Ann McElroy Karen Dyck Kathryn Luger

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was accepted by consensus with the addition of Business Arising 6.5 Congregational Care (previously a Parking Lot topic regarding pastoral care).

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING—June 14, 2022

Motion: to approve the minutes of the meeting held June 14, 2022 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Moved by: Karen Dyck Seconded by: Nancy Penner

CARRIED

6. BUSINESS ARISING/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

6.1 COVID-19 Protocols

Karen Dyck reported that the Covid Advisory Group has revised our protocols: masks are to be worn indoors when singing or moving about, otherwise are voluntary. The group will review the situation in fall. Notice of this change will be made during church services for several weeks and will be included in News & Notes. Sharon Deceuninck volunteered to be the Leadership Team representative on the Advisory Group.

6.2 CEU Rental Update

No report at this time.

6.3 Date for St. Paul's Sanctuary Blessing

Sharon Deceuninck reported on her conversation with past-chair Brian Saunderson about this event. Saturday, October 15th was selected as the date for an afternoon event which could include tours followed by a sit-down program to include a blessing, refreshments and entertainment. Leaders must be identified to organize the event.

6.4 Stewardship for Fall

Both the Stewardship and Finance groups require new members. Current members of each group must be contacted to determine if they will continue to serve. New members must be identified and approached. **Action:** Nancy Penner and Laurie Wiebe to undertake contact.

6.5 Congregational Care

As agreed at the last meeting, Karen Dyck presented a report from M&P outlining their ideas for a new approach to pastoral care which they call "congregational care." This is a model of care that everyone in the congregation has some abilities to be involved in as we care for each other. It would endeavour to involve all members of the congregation in aspects of spiritual, emotional and practical support. A congregational leadership team is required as well as a plan to communicate with congregants to encourage their participation in providing care. Operational guidelines are required about how care will be accessed and how activity will be monitored. Leadership Team was enthusiastically supportive of this new model and expressed appreciation to the M&P Committee for their work. **Action:** Rev Carrie will take some time to look at current needs and resources alongside the material put together by M&P in order to formulate a plan for congregational care. She will remain in communication with M&P so we can move forward in a timely manner.

7. REPORTS:

7.1 Finance

Nancy Penner presented a Summary Statement of Income and Expenses for the period ending July 31, 2022. She then presented a detailed Comparative Income Statement Actual and Budgeted from January 1, 2022 to July 31, 2022 highlighting specific expenditures. Givings are down and expenditures are being closely monitored. Messaging should be undertaken to let congregants and other interested parties know that givings of any amount are helpful. Recent contact with the Parish's accountant provided very positive feedback on how funds are being managed and tracked.

7.2 Minister's Report

Rev Carrie reported that since our last meeting in June there have been several memorial services and two weddings. One funeral lunch was provided at St. Paul's with the help of Laurie Wiebe, Sue Nelson and Edith Lovatt. Since there is no longer a cohort of UCW folks to do funeral lunches a new plan is required as well as consideration of the set up and take-down of the new sanctuary space. In terms of Sunday mornings, there has been an opportunity for good conversation at Zion-Calvin as well as during lunches at St. Paul's. Numbers have been small but conversation and relationship-building have been rich. Exploring worshiping with our senses has been fun at St. Paul's. Rev Carrie plans a week of study leave in fall.

7.3 Ministry and Personnel Committee

Karen Dyck reported that the committee met in June and July. With respect to hiring a new choir director for St. Paul's, Karen reported that an eligible candidate has been found. A contract was presented for review and no issues were identified.

Motion: To approve the Pembina Parish Employee Contract for Choir Director, part-time, at St. Paul's United Church between Angel Mok and Pembina Parish.

Moved by: Nancy Penner Seconded by: Mary Ann McElroy

CARRIED

Following the motion, Sharon Deceuninck, Leadership Team Chair, signed the document which is to be signed by Ms Mok as soon as possible.

7.4 Zion-Calvin

Kathryn Luger reported low numbers for summer worship services and fellowship gatherings but they have been appreciated by those attending. An agreement has been reached with a local family to cut the grass and results have been very positive.

7.5 Interest Groups:

7.5.1 Worship Interest Group—Rev Carrie reported that a workshop would be held the following day (August 10th) for worship group members to learn and to expand their abilities to conduct worship services. The need is growing as pulpit supply wanes.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

8.1 Annual Review of Duty of Care Policy and Other Policies

A copy of the Duty of Care Policy, last updated October 2019, was deemed to be mostly okay although reference must be added regarding *vulnerable persons*. We also require a new form which would be signed by staff and volunteers indicating they have read the Duty of Care Policy and will abide by its terms. **Action:** Rev Carrie to try to locate a sample of such a form which will guide us in the development of one for Pembina Parish.

8.2 St. Paul's Kitchen Rental, Sept. 29th, by Truth and Action Group

Rev Carrie explained that the Truth and Action community group has requested use of the kitchen to make bannock for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Discussion concluded that this request is consistent with our mission re affirming and community work.

Action: Rev Carrie will convey this decision to the group and will identify in News & Notes that we have a connection with this initiative.

8.3 Request for Use of St. Paul's Parking Lot on Oct. 31st

Rev Carrie outlined a request from an individual to advertise the availability of the St. Paul's parking lot for use on October 31st for people visiting a maze in a nearby yard. Keeping vehicles away from the yard site would increase safety for children. Consensus was positive as this was deemed good community outreach. **Action:** Rev Carrie to notify the person who made the request. This discussion prompted discussion of the need to paint parking lines on the lot. September 20th was selected for a work party to complete the task.

8.4 New Laptop for Rev Carrie

Given the Finance Report, it was decided to postpone this purchase.

8.5 Request by Janet Nedohin for a Review of St. Paul's Key Policy

The requestor asked to keep an entry key to facilitate her use of the kitchen and, when denied, asked that the Key Policy be reviewed. Discussion concluded that the Key Policy remain as is and be followed consistently. **Action:** Kathryn will ask Laurie Wiebe to convey this decision.

8.6 Fall Newsletter

A newsletter should be prepared for late September. It should include information about the new Choir Director and about the Oct. 15th event to bless the new St. Paul's sanctuary.

Action: Kathryn will ask Laurie Wiebe to contact Shannon Holenski

9. CORRESPONDENCE and Thank you cards

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday, September 13, 2022 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 9:50 pm.

PARKING LOT ITEMS

1. Church service cancellation policy
2. Church directory