

**Pembina Parish Pastoral Charge
353 Thornhill Street, Morden R6M 1M8
Minutes of Leadership Team Meeting
September 13, 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 noted that stories are powerful. We see the evolution of the church in the words and stories of scripture. Her study of the New Testament raised reference to the Greek words *euangelion* and *mateureo*. The first word can be translated as good news--to be evangelical means to live and share good news. Mateureo means to bear witness--to share what you have seen and heard. The New Testament is replete with *euangelion* and *mateureo* shared by the apostles and early evangelists. Rev Carrie noted that some ministers from other countries think the church is not thriving in North America because we distance ourselves from sharing our experience related to the good news of Jesus. More often we focus on empty pews. Good news stories, however, have the power to gather us in and send us out to live our values. Rev Carrie wondered what good news stories we would share about Pembina Parish. She ended in prayer.

3. ATTENDANCE/REGRETS

Rev Carrie Martens Sharon Deceuninck (online) Nancy Penner Esther Rothenburger
Karen Dyck Kathryn Luger
Regrets : Mary Ann McElroy

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was accepted by consensus with the addition of Business Arising 6.6 Duty of Care Policy-Sample Covenant Form and New Business 8.1 Choir Risers and 8.2 Use of Space Policy.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING—August 9, 2022

Motion: to approve the minutes of the meeting held August 9, 2022 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Moved by: Nancy Penner Seconded by: Karen Dyck

CARRIED

6. BUSINESS ARISING/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

6.1 COVID-19 Protocols

Karen Dyck indicated there are no changes to the current protocol for masks to be worn indoors while moving about and while singing.

6.2 CEU Rental Update

No report at this time.

6.3 Date for St. Paul's Sanctuary Blessing October 15th

There was general discussion about the program: tours 1:30-2:30p; concert/coffee 2:30-3:30pm. The CEU to be open and mentioned as available for rent. **Actions:** Nancy Penner to arrange Fall decorating at church entrance; Sharon Deceuninck to ask Bruce Shewfelt to speak about the renovation. Additional details to be decided outside this meeting.

6.4 Stewardship for Fall

It has been confirmed that for the Stewardship and Finance groups only Alex Fedorchuk remains a member. New church-specific members are required. Several names were identified as possibilities and further suggestions are to be given to Rev Carrie. This Fall's stewardship goals include: 1) reforming the Stewardship and Finance groups; 2) planning a parish gratitude event on Sunday, October 16th; and 3) holding a Fall supper.

6.5 Congregational Care Plan

Rev Carrie Martens reviewed the information in the handout "Pembina Parish 'Care' Categories". Over the next few weeks sign-up sheets will be available in both churches. The new Congregational Care framework will necessitate changes to House Group responsibilities-essentially focusing them on Sunday morning services.

6.6 Duty of Care Policy-Sample Covenant Form

Rev Carrie Martens provided a sample form designed to be a covenant between a volunteer and a church affirming the volunteer's knowledge of the terms of the Duty of Care Policy and their agreement to abide by the spirit and principles of the policy guidelines. Such a form needs to be developed for Pembina Parish. **Action:** Rev Carrie and Kathryn Luger to draft a document.

Karen Dyck referred to the previous meeting's discussion about the Duty of Care Policy. She distributed a chart *Appendix H. Informal Resolution Process* which had not been attached to the copy of the policy. This summary chart indicates that it's best to resolve an issue at the lowest level possible. If a complaint involves staff, the resolution process should go to the regional level. A sample complaint form was also distributed. Additional discussion about our review of the Duty of Care Policy concluded that some further editing is required for clarity.

Action: Rev Carrie Martens and Kathryn Luger to edit the document for clarity.

7. REPORTS:

7.1 Finance

Nancy Penner presented a detailed Comparative Income Statement, Actual and Budgeted from January 1, 2022 to August 31, 2022. Givings are down but momentum is building as happens in fall and winter months. Large expenses are being deferred. PAR is being promoted.

7.2 Minister's Report

Rev Carrie Martens framed her report in terms of the Parish's Core Values. Inside-caring: two memorials have been held and plans are being made for a baptism service at Zion-Calvin; pastoral care is being given to several people in final stages of life; and work is being done on the new Congregational Care model. Outside-sharing: officiated at a wedding August 20th; organizing a group to make bannock for the Truth and Action Working Group and City of Morden's TRC event on September 20th; St. Paul's Sunday school will be doing a canvas for FCC and as a Parish we will collect food on October 9th and 16th. Donations will be distributed among FCC, Many Hands and Caring and Sharing. Upside down-exploring: Sunday school begins Sunday the 18th at both churches; Fall book study on "Braided Sweetgrass" begins October 5th with an invitation extended to Morden Mennonite Church. Rev Carrie will be inviting members of our parish to submit their emergency contact information to her. This would be helpful in terms of funeral planning. Rev Carrie also plans to participate in webinars on the topics of unconscious bias and on the spirituality of aging.

7.3 Ministry and Personnel Committee

Karen Dyck reported on efforts to improve working conditions for St. Paul's caretaker Thong Bouachanthala related to modifying a drain so as to avoid heavy lifting.

7.4 Zion-Calvin

Kathryn Luger reported that discussion is on-going to plan a "Gratitude Gathering" at Zion-Calvin to offer an open-house to celebrate the renovations completed over the past few years and to acknowledge the contributions of many people to that process.

7.5 Interest Groups:

7.5.1 Worship Interest Group—Rev Carrie reported that the season of Creation was begun with an intergenerational service at both churches on September 13th. Because few adults will be available to attend service at Zion-Calvin on September 20th Rev Carrie will lead an all-ages Sunday school class for kids and parents. Upcoming Sunday celebrations include Oct. 2nd World Communion, Oct. 9th Thanksgiving and Oct. 16th Gratitude Sunday. A congregant has asked that weekday services be considered for the summer. The interest group will consider this in Spring inviting input from the congregations.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

8.1 Choir Risers

Sharon Deceuninck reported that information is being gathered on the size, format, availability and cost of various types of risers. More input is required from the choir director and members.

8.2 Use of Space Policy

A draft Use of Space Policy was presented for review. Its goal is to ensure that the communal spaces within St. Paul's and Zion-Calvin church buildings are maintained in a way that is respectful of everyone. The policy refers to: 1) the necessity for everyone to book space usage through the parish office; 2) no storage of personal items within church space, 3) the need for church assets to be inventoried and photographed and 4) the capacity limits of Zion-

Calvin being 150 people, in pews 90 and capacity limits of St. Paul's 200 people. Discussion concluded that the new policy will be useful but that some clarification is required regarding the capacity limits. **Action:** Laurie Wiebe will be asked to seek clarification on the capacity references. The policy will then be brought back to Leadership for review.

9. CORRESPONDENCE and Thank you cards

Karen Dyck will send a note of welcome to St. Paul's new choir director

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

Thursday, October 20, 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 9:37 pm.

PARKING LOT ITEMS

1. Church service cancellation policy
2. Church directory
3. Part-time minister for Pastoral Care