

PEMBINA PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING MINUTES
St. Paul's United Church, Thursday, May 6, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

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.

CALL to ORDER at 7:02PM via conference call

OPENING WORSHIP Rev Cathie Waldie read from Psalm 137 about the Hebrews' lament over the destruction of Jerusalem. She chose this because it is relevant to our 8 week lockdown. Now things are opening up and we hear the words "trying time", "crazy" and "unusual". We are not living in a foreign land as the Hebrew people but it is a different, trying and strange time. How do **we** sign the Lord's song in this strange time? Cathie invited us to share with each other what we are feeling at this time? Cathie closed in prayer.

ATTENDANCE Brian Saunderson, Esther Rothenburger, Kathryn Luger, Leslie Bezte, Louise Gardiner, Margot Craig, Rev Cathie Waldie, Karen Dyck and guest Bob Luger.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion:

MOVED BY Kathryn Luger **SECONDED BY** Louise Gardiner to approve the agenda as presented. **CARRIED** (Brian Saunderson asked if anyone was opposed and hearing none, the motion was carried)

Brian will conduct future votes this meeting by asking everyone in succession if they approve - yes or no.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING –April 16th, 2020

Motion:

MOVED BY Leslie Bezte **SECONDED BY** Esther Rothenburger to approve the minutes of April 16, 2020 as presented. **CARRIED**

BUSINESS ARISING/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- 1. Motion for Leadership Team to recommend change to Pembina Parish constitution, Section 5.3** We discussed changing the wording in the constitution around the Treasurer term to make it less daunting. Louise Gardiner brought forward a suggested change. This suggested will change will need approval at a congregational meeting.

Motion:

MOVED BY Louise Gardiner **SECONDED BY** Margot Craig to change the Pembina Parish Constitution article 5.3 to read: "The term of the office for the Treasurer shall be three years with the possible one-year extension on Leadership Team as a Past Treasurer to train, support and transition the Incoming Treasurer. The Past Treasurer and Incoming Treasurer, both, will be members of the Leadership Team for voting purposes. A one year break shall be taken before accepting further election or appointments." **CARRIED**

2. Liaisons with Interest Groups When Brian Saunderson reviewed the needs for liaisons to the Interest Groups he found that we needed one for Worship Interest Group. Kathryn Luger volunteered to be liaison for that group. Brian noted that there was no need to have liaisons for one-time events like Fall Supper, Poinsettia Ministry and Women's Retreat Interest Groups. When Rev Cathie Waldie retires we will need someone else to liaise with Pastoral Care Interest Group.

REPORTS

- 1. Finance** - Louise Gardiner presented the financial report (multiple pages attached). She included a table comparing the April 2020 and April 2019 Statement of Income and Expenses. Our income is down \$12,074 from the same point in time a year ago. The income supplement will be coming through. Karen Dyck reminded Louise that this has to be applied for monthly. Our statement of Income and Expenses for April show a net loss of \$14,905. This is because our givings are down, we did not have our choir concert fundraiser and we lost rental income. People are using the drop box and the Canada Helps button on the Pembina Parish website to donate. Louise checked with the Credit Union about the "Payee" possibility. For CU members there would be no cost but for non-members it would be expensive. Her thoughts are that if parishioners are "on-line" bankers they probably use PAR. Another option would be e-transfers. Louise will put a notice in News & Notes about the options for donating. Brian Saunderson will continue to put summaries in News & Notes of the Leadership Team meetings as well. The Balance Sheet shows we are still in a good financial situation with Operating funds still available to be spent. On the Restricted funds we have had donations to both building Opportunity Funds. A bequest from Roberta Griffin has been divided equally between the Opportunity Fund Endowment and Opportunity Fund – available to spend.
- 2. Minister** Rev Cathie Waldie reported that last Sunday's worship service was recorded at St. Paul's. Fay Carruthers accompanied on the piano. Cathie held a Zoom chat with Pembina Parish this afternoon. Cathie and the Sunday school leaders did a drive by drop off this past Sunday to deliver bibles to four grade 4 girls. They met the families on their respective driveways with presentations and well wishes from Roxanne LeBlanc (Sunday school), Leslie Bezte (Leadership Team) and Rev Cathie Waldie. Cathie continues to reach out to people via phone and e-mail. She has been updating e-mails by phone calls also. Cathie mentioned that Judy Hare, Regional Pastoral Relations Minister, has advised on provisions being made for retiring ministers to conduct funerals, etc after the pandemic subsides.
- 3. Ministry and Personnel Committee** Karen Dyck reported that they have a meeting next week. Kari Unger and Karen attended a regional M&P Zoom conference. They talked about different funding available to churches. The \$30,000 small loan is not available anymore. They are waiting for the public health official OK before opening up. The prairies may open sooner than the east. They plan on late September or early October to have Rev Cathie Waldie join us as a guest for her retirement party. Kathryn Luger mentioned that she found an M&P rep from Zion Calvin. Evelyn McElroy is interested.

Motion:

MOVED BY Karen Dyck **SECONDED BY** Kathryn Luger to appoint Evelyn McElroy to M&P as a Zion Calvin rep. **CARRIED**

A Pastoral Charge Supervisor will be appointed after Rev Cathie Waldie's retirement date. They are put in place to support the charge in the absence of a minister. They meet the second Tuesday in June at which time the appointment will be made known.

4. Zion-Calvin

4.1 Exterior Painting Funding Bob Luger joined our conference call at 8:00pm to explain the Zion Calvin Paint project situation. \$26,300 is the firm bid on the table to paint Zion Calvin and the contract has been awarded. Because of the insurance coverage shortfall for the roof repairs a couple of years ago they had to dip into the Zion Projects Opportunity Fund to pay the extra ~ \$7000 for roof repairs. Now they are short of funds to pay for the painting. They will receive \$5000 from the Thomas Sill Foundation grant, but will be \$5000 short to pay for painting. They are looking to the parish for financial assistance. A couple of years ago when we first started the discernment process Zion Calvin thought they would be sustainable for the next 10 years; however, the hailstorm changed that. Louise Gardiner noted that the decision of the Finance committee is that painting does not meet the requirement for using the Opportunity Fund – this is considered a restoration project. The roof repair from the hailstorm was \$16,206. Insurance covered \$9375. The \$6871 difference was taken from the Zion Calvin Projects Opportunity Fund. In retrospect, Louise thinks that money should have been taken from a different fund. She suggested that Pembina Parish put \$6871 back into the Zion Calvin Projects Opportunity Fund. It will be over budget in Zion Calvin maintenance but Bob feels this will be the last of the expenses for restoration.

Motion:

MOVED BY Louise Gardiner **SECONDED BY** Karen Dyck to pay the hail insurance bill shortfall of \$6871 back to the Zion Calvin Projects Opportunity Fund. **CARRIED**
Leslie Bezte reported that Earl Gardiner sent a resignation letter via e-mail (attached).

5. Interest Groups

5.1 St. Paul's Property and Grounds

5.1.1 Piano Repairs (report attached) – Brian Saunderson reported that piano repairs are on hold since the parts are not available. The cost will be \$4000-5000.

5.1.2 St Paul's Furnaces and HRV (reports attached) – Brian Saunderson reported that the Faithful Footprints grant is still available so we can proceed with furnace and HRV upgrades as outlined in the report attached. We discussed whether we should be replacing furnaces right now, even with help from the grant due to our financial situation and the pandemic. Laurie Wiebe will fill out the paperwork. If we get the grant we would like the chance to not accept the money if we are not ready to do the project due to the current crisis.

Motion:

MOVED BY Leslie Bezte **SECONDED BY** Karen Dyck that Pembina Parish apply to Faith and the Common Good (Faithful Footprints) for a grant of \$30,000 to assist with the cost of replacement of furnaces and HRV system, and that this work will proceed if the application is

successful and we feel financially and socially (from the pandemic perspective) secure to accept the grant. **CARRIED**

5.2 Worship – Rev Cathie Waldie reported that when Worship Interest Group met, they discussed a new acknowledgement of Indigenous territory. Cathie used it in her service this week. They talked about purchasing Zoom. They need to re-do the parish funeral/memorial service and baptism policies. They explored changing service times. For mailings to those without e-mails the Interest Group recommended sending out printed worship bulletins, sermons and News and Notes bi-weekly. They discussed the possibility of live streaming funerals. In Morden this is difficult to do because of the internet service. The other alternative is to record the funeral service then post it on-line.

5.3 Property Discernment

5.4 Outreach (Soup and Pie)

5.5 Sunday School(s)

5.6 House Groups

5.7 Minister Succession

5.8 Pastoral Care

5.9 Opportunity Fund Requests

5.10 Affirming Conversation – Kathryn Luger reported that the Affirming Ministry Action Plan (attached) needs to be submitted soon to Affirm United. She is looking for our support.

Motion:

MOVED BY Leslie Bezte **SECONDED BY** Margot Craig to approve the Affirming Ministry Action Plan and live out the activities outlined as a parish. **CARRIED** (3 yes, 2 abstain)

NEW BUSINESS

1. How to open the church again safely (when the time comes), including Sunday worship – Brian Saunderson reported that Laurie Wiebe asked if she could work at the office after the May long weekend. This would be more convenient since her other job in Morden is asking her to come into work then also. We agreed this would be OK. The church will remain closed.

2. Church use by music teachers and Fountain of Life – some music teachers were requesting the use of the church on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Discussion ensued about who would clean up the bathrooms and waiting areas between students? Does this fall under Thong's responsibility? Does the benefit of rental income outweigh the risk? It was decided we would not open up the space to them at this time.

As an FYI, Brian Saunderson looked at the capacity in the church if we removed every second pew and social distanced between families. We could probably get in 45 people when they allow gatherings of more than 10 people. Leslie Bezte asked how we would address Sunday school. Brian also reminded us about the Janelle Nadeau concert booked for December. We can give notice in writing to cancel but this can wait a month or two to see how the pandemic unfolds. Opening the church requires that we must wait for and respect the provincial guidelines. Rev

Cathie Waldie asked if the church does open is she expected to be there every day. Currently she only goes there on Friday to record the service. If Laurie Wiebe is there every day is Cathie expected to be there also? Her work can be done from home. It was decided it depends on her comfort level.

CORRESPONDENCE and Thank-you cards

1. Brian Saunderson will send a thank you note to Ross Conner for donating the TV and DVD player.
2. Leslie Bezte will send a thank you note to Sharon Deceuninck for helping deliver the COVID-19 letters.

BULLPEN ITEMS

1. Church signage outside/inside
2. Congregation photos

NEXT MEETING(s) DATE June 3, 2020 at 7:00PM

CLOSING WORSHIP – Rev Cathie Waldie closed in prayer.

MOTION TO ADJOURN at 9:28PM

Chairperson

Recording Secretary