

**PEMBINA PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
St. Paul's United Church, Tuesday, March 9th, 2021, 4:30 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.

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**CALL to ORDER** at 4:39PM

**OPENING WORSHIP** Lynne Sanderson opened the meeting in prayer.

**ATTENDANCE:** Rev Carrie Martens, Brian Saunderson, Leslie Bezte, Kathryn Luger, Louise Gardiner, Esther Rothenbuger and Lynne Sanderson.

**REGRETS:** Margot Craig, Karen Dyck

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – February 16, 2021**

**Motion:**

**MOVED BY** Kathryn Luger **SECONDED BY** Esther Rothenbuger to approve the Leadership Team Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2021 as presented. **CARRIED**

**BUSINESS ARISING/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- 1. AGM: Virtual vs In-Person** – Brian Saunderson and Karen Dyck had been in discussion this week regarding whether to have the Annual Meeting in-person instead of virtually as planned. Given the new Provincial orders Karen had called a representative and determined that we could host the meeting in person since it was a religious gathering, as long as we were within the limits of 25% capacity or 75 people. Karen shared a list of pros and cons to this scenario and shared it with the committee via e-mail since she was unable to attend the meeting (attached).  
Our discussion continued with members voicing their thoughts. The number of covid cases in Morden rose recently and transmission can occur very fast. The Zoom meeting would be very safe. If we plan for Zoom and do the training the meeting can go ahead as planned; if we plan for in-person and the orders change we lose our opportunity to proceed with Zoom on short notice. Lynne Sanderson shared that Judy Hare had called the province to ask if annual church meetings could be held in a sanctuary – hence a religious gathering. She was told that a meeting was different from worship in the number of persons approved to gather. So there is conflicting information regarding whether our meeting should proceed in-person. We have very good covid protocols in place and should feel safe hosting an in-person meeting. Leslie Bezte voiced that although we had good protocols in place we had not been able to practice them over the last couple of months. Having the church re-open for the meeting would rely on presumed habits of attendees and possibly having persons attend that were not familiar with our established protocols. The variants of concern are a real threat. Although the province is relaxing restrictions the pandemic threat remains. After our round table discussion we decided to stick with the AGM in the on-line Zoom format.

June Steiner has agreed to run the PowerPoint. Laurie Wiebe is preparing the PowerPoint. There will be a Zoom training session March 18, 2021 at 7:00 run by Earl Gardiner. We discussed how the voting with multiple members in a household would be possible. Leslie Bezte ran the group through a quick training on how to raise and lower hand as well as how to use the chat function. Those will be the medium through which multiple members can vote. The link to register for the AGM will be in News and Notes this week. Leslie will provide written instructions and a video link on how to use Zoom to include with this week's New and Notes also. Esther Rothenburger agreed to be the Chair of the Nominating Committee and will lead us through the .nominations for this year's vacancies. Lynne Sanderson is required to be at the meeting but has no official part to play. Brian Sanderson will be sure to introduce her.

2. **Church Re-opening** – Rev Carrie Martens suggested we might start in-person worship on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021. There will be no in-person service for Maundy Thursday or Good Friday. Given the limited capacity (75 at St Paul's and 25 at Zion Calvin) we will have to RSVP to Laurie to attend. We will all be wearing masks, there will be no singing and we may be allowed to do responsive reading. The Worship Interest Group has come up with a way to do Communion safely. Rev Carrie would like to have Communion on Easter Sunday. This will likely be the last service in the sanctuary as it is before the renovations start so we will set aside some time to commemorate all those who made it what is was. Esther Rothenburger asked to have time during the service to speak about this. We will continue to record the service in real time and post it on-line a couple of hours after the service.
  
3. **Discernment Committee - Renovations**– Brian Sanderson shared that renovations are set to start the week after Easter Sunday. We will move our sanctuary temporarily to the CEU. There will be an Ad Hoc Covid Committee meeting next week to discuss how to set it up for in-person worship. The smaller pews have been spoken for. The larger pews are still available. Numerous committees have been established – Project Committee, Design Committee, Worship Committee and Sorting/Packing Committee. The question was raised regarding the success of the Pledge Campaign. Louise Gardiner reported there was \$112,900 over 5 years in pledges so far but more should be coming. The renovation price tag is ~\$300,000- \$400,000. Louise had a preliminary conversation with Access Credit union to discuss a potential loan for the project. The Credit Union indicated that with the appropriate approvals there would be lots of flexibility and we could likely borrow all or part of the project costs. A borrowing plan could be worked out once the need is determined. Also Prairie to Pine Regional Council has a fund that we may be able to access a grant from.

**NEXT MEETING(s) DATE** March 24, 2021 at 7:00PM

**CLOSING WORSHIP** – Lynne Sanderson closed in prayer.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN** at 6:04 PM

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**Chairperson**

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**Recording Secretary**