



Pembina Parish Pastoral Charge

The United Church of Canada

St. Paul's United Church, Morden ~ Zion-Calvin United Church, Darlingford

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CORE VALUES

INSIDE-*Caring* OUTSIDE-*Sharing* UPSIDE DOWN-*Exploring*

MISSION STATEMENT

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.

VISION STATEMENT

Pembina Parish will be an inclusive community of faith, dedicated to spiritual growth, acceptance and love.

We will honour our history and tradition while being open to understanding where God is leading us.

We will maintain integrity and transparency in all our relationships.

We will be an affirming parish; engaging young people, while actively meeting the needs of all generations, and living our commitment to diversity and equality.

We will live social justice, and put our faith into action so that we are relevant in our community, and in our changing world.

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Pembina Parish is a two-point charge offering a spiritual home to the people of Morden, Darlingford and surrounding area. Nestled in the heart of the Pembina Valley in sunny Southern Manitoba it offers the charm of rural living with urban amenities. Morden, incorporated as a city in 2012, is 126 km south of the City of Winnipeg. According to the 2016 census the population of Morden was 8,668 and with the City of Winkler only 11 km away, the area population is over 22,000. This population supports and provides for a vibrant arts and culture community, as well as a vast array of recreation facilities and opportunities for all ages. Morden is a growing community with one of the lowest unemployment rates in the province. There continues to be considerable growth through: immigration coming from all parts of the world, and retirement from other communities. With a variety of languages spoken in our community we are predominately an English-speaking Parish. Employment opportunities are available in a multitude of industries: Health and Social Services, Education, Manufacturing, Transportation, Agriculture, Tourism/Hospitality, Retail, Information Technology and Government.

Morden offers a wide variety of housing options, including apartments to new housing developments to heritage homes and acreages. Community pride is manifested in the well-kept yards and beautifully tree-lined streets with plenty of green space and parks.

Darlingford is located 15km west of Morden and has a population of 300, comprised of a healthy mix of young families and older residents. The town attracts those who are looking for a smaller community, in order to enjoy the countryside and nature, or for affordable housing. The school-aged children are bused to Manitou, 15 km to the West or Morden to the East to go school. Although there is little commercial activity left in Darlingford there is a strong sense of community pride and loyalty. There is a local coffee shop, curling rink, and museum and of course the warm, well loved heritage building, Zion-Calvin, where people gather for worship and fellowship.

AREA SERVICES AND AMENITIES

Health Care Services

The **Boundary Trails Health Centre (BTHC)**, opened in 2001, and is located between Morden and Winkler. It is a 94 bed acute care Regional Centre within Southern Health-Sante Sud RHA. BTHC offers 24 hour Emergency Services, Intensive Care, Observation Unit, Ambulatory Care, Medical, Surgical, and Obstetrical Services, Palliative Care, a range of Diagnostic services including Lab, X-ray, Ultrasound, CT, and MRI. Outpatient Services include Cancer Care, Hemodialysis, and Physical Rehab Services. Public Health and Home Care Staff work out of BTHC offering services into the community. There are Spiritual Care Services

on site and an onsite Chapel. Physicians from both medical clinics in Morden and Winkler have privileges at BTHC. BTHC is also a Manitoba Telehealth Site.

Katie Cares Cottage, a 4,200 square foot cottage is located on one acre of property across from Boundary Trails Health Centre and offers accommodations, a continental breakfast, and coffee and snacks for a reasonable daily fee for families who need to be near BTHC for their own care or the care of a loved one.

Agassiz Medical Centre in Morden has 22 physicians, 2 Nurse Practitioners, a Mental Health Worker, Dietitian, Pharmacist, and Respiratory Therapist.

There are private **Vision Care Services, Dental Services, Physiotherapy Services, and Chiropractic Services** in the community.

South Central Cancer Resource provides multiple programs to help with the burden of a cancer diagnosis for individuals and their families, with funding through donations and fundraising.

Tabor Home is a 100 bed Christian faith based personal care home located in Morden. **Pembina Manitou Health Centre** is an 18 bed personal care home in Manitou.

Homestead South is a private assisted living facility in Morden.

Education

Western School Division provides educational services from K – Grade 12 in Morden. There are two K–4 schools, one Middle School (5-8), one Secondary School (9-12) with both English and French immersion programs, and an Adult Education Centre. Red River Community College also has a campus in Winkler.

Child Care

Pembina Valley Child Care Centres Inc., are licensed for 112 spaces for ages 12 weeks to 12 years. Construction has started on an additional site with an additional 90 spaces, and it is expected to be ready early in 2020. There are also many private licensed Child Care providers in the area.

Recreation

Morden's Community Services and Events Department offers a variety of full-featured facilities and recreation programming. Facilities where these programs can be realized include the Access Event Centre, with two indoor arenas, a

Community Hall with catering facilities; as well as the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre, and the Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame. Lake Minnewasta and Campground, various playgrounds in the city, the Spray Park, the Skate & BMX Park, Walking and Cycling Trails, Ski Trails, Outdoor Rinks, Ball Diamonds and Tennis Courts provide for a full variety of outdoor activities for people of all ages.

Minnewasta Golf and Country Club is an 18 hole golf course on the edge of the beautiful Pembina Escarpment. It features a naturally hilly terrain and various types of trees bordering the fairways. The Dead Horse Creek, which winds its way throughout the golf course, provides for both a challenging and attractive feature of the area. Wildlife may be spotted throughout the course, and add to the golf experience.

Arts and Culture

In response to excellent volunteerism, the talent of the residents, and Town Council's support, Morden was selected as one of the four communities in Canada to be awarded the **2008 'Cultural Capital of Canada'** award in the under 50,000 category. Morden was the first Manitoba community to receive this award.

The Pembina Hills Arts Council is an active not for profit organization, celebrating art and artists, and offering classes, exhibits, and events, and a gift shop in their intimate gallery in a beautiful historic building in downtown Morden.

The **Pembina Valley Studio Tour** is held annually over a September weekend, and provides area artists with an opportunity to showcase their work in their home studios.

There are several **Theatre Groups** in Morden and area that provide opportunities to perform in or to be patrons of dramas or musicals on a scheduled basis.

There are numerous **opportunities to study music** in Morden and area, through Music Schools or with private teachers in voice, piano, strings, and guitar. Two of the programs are offered from St. Paul's United Church.

Morden Festival of the Arts The Morden Festival of the Arts is a non-profit, volunteer-based organization, which provides a venue for student performance and adjudication in the following disciplines: Piano, Strings, French and English Speech Arts, Drama, Band, Vocal/Choral. The festival runs during the months of March and April each year.

Southern Manitoba Concerts is an organization run by volunteers that brings local and international performers to Southern Manitoba during the fall and winter months.

The **Back Forty Festival** is a well-established and popular event held every June outdoors in the Morden Park. It was the brainchild of some local musicians in an effort to “Keep Homemade Music Alive” in Southern Manitoba. It recently celebrated its 40th anniversary.

The **Morden Corn and Apple Festival** originated as a community celebration for Canada’s Centennial in 1967, and has grown into one of the largest street festivals in Manitoba, attracting over 70,000 people to enjoy three days of activity-packed fun. <https://cornandapple.com/>

PEMBINA PARISH’S LIVING FAITH STORY

Leadership & Administration

Pembina Parish uses the model of governance based on the “Kenora Model”. We have a Leadership Team that meets monthly to oversee the workings of the Parish. This Team is comprised of a Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Ministry & Personal Representative, Members at Large from both congregations and the Minister. There are Interest Groups such as: Finance, Stewardship, Property & Grounds, and appointed M&P, Elders and Trustees that meet to facilitate the business of the Parish. Other Interest Groups, such as: Worship, Choir, Outreach, Pastoral Care, Caring & Sharing, Sunday School, Young Families, Affirming Conversation, Prayer Shawl, Book Club, Ivy League, Women’s Retreat, Banner, House Groups and Fall Supper, work to make it possible for us to live out our Mission of caring, sharing and exploring, moving us forward to our Vision.

In the last 4 years Pembina Parish has undertaken a building discernment project that led us to re-evaluate the values of the congregations, clarifying the mission and vision for the future, to ensure our buildings will be sustainable and meet our needs into the future. At our 2019 annual meeting the revised Mission and new Vision and Values statements were approved. As well, a 10-year plan for the maintenance and rightsizing of the St. Paul’s building has been formulated and is now being implemented. Zion-Calvin’s building has a Heritage designation and a restoration program is in place.

Regular communication of events, reports and financial information, with the Parish members is done through: a) weekly News and Notes coordinated by the Office Administrator, b) quarterly newsletters compiled, designed and published by a volunteer, c) annual reports compiled, designed and published by the Office Administrator, d) website posts coordinated by a volunteer, and e) our Facebook page currently kept up by the Minister and Office Administrator. All publications are electronically sent to those members that have an email address within our database. The Sunday School leaders effectively utilize email to communicate with parents.

Support staff

Pembina Parish has an Office Administrator who works 20 hours a week, working closely with the Minister, providing support to the Interest Groups, overseeing office administration as well as providing financial bookkeeping and accounting. We budget for part time custodial contracts. As well, we have a contracted Choir Director and Pianists/Accompanists for Sunday worship, funerals and our Annual Spring Concert.

Worship

There are two Sunday morning worship services: 9:30 at Zion-Calvin and 11:00 at St. Paul's. You'll hear the church bells ring out in Darlingford prior to the service as we gather for coffee prior to and the chatter of fellowship as they share in lunch after the service. St. Paul's congregation meets for coffee and fellowship prior to the service and in the Advent Season there is carol singing as well.

Services are primarily led by the Minister supported by the House Group of the month. The House Group members participate in setting up the social time before the worship service, greeting, announcements, scripture reading, preparation and serving of communion, gathering offerings, and are generally available to support the Minister and Worship Interest Group in any way they can. We are fortunate to have a talented Choir Director and gifted Pianists to support our worship and we welcome additional musicians/instrumentalists when they are available.

Although the worship services mainly take a traditional form we are open to creative alternatives. We enjoy any message that is relevant to today's world that challenges our thinking as we explore our faith and inspires us to work in our daily lives to live out our Mission.

Our congregations are multi-generational with an average adult attendance of 75-80 at St Paul's and 10-15 at Zion-Calvin. Although the majority of the members are over 60 there has been an increasing number of young families attending the services. The St. Paul's Sunday School has increased in the last 3 years from 5-16 in attendance to 15-43 depending on the time of year. Zion-Calvin's Sunday School has an average attendance of 10-12 children. The Sunday School Leaders are vibrant, they provide an inviting program and communicate well with the parents. As one mom said, "My son gets me to church!" The Sunday School students have fun while they are engaged in exploring their faith as well as working together on outreach projects such as: local food drives, collecting of gifts for St. Matthew's Maryland Christmas Store, World Wildlife Fund and the Chance 2 Grow, a program that supports after school programs.

We realize that there are many more young families with spiritual needs in our community who's values align with the United Church. We have yet to fully understand how to reach out and engage them in order to address their needs. We have had a budget in place for an additional part time Minister/Congregational Designated Minister to provide support to our Young Families' Ministry. We are currently waiting until the new minister is in place and have an opportunity to understand their interests and strengths. We will welcome their guidance in discerning the way forward in this additional resource support.

Community Outreach and Social Justice

In keeping with our core values of Caring, Sharing, Exploring, Pembina Parish is committed to outreach locally and globally while exploring and learning how to help raise awareness and understanding of social justice issues.

We have a passionate Outreach group that host a Soup & Dessert luncheon monthly, supported by members as well as the wider community that enjoy the fellowship and a delicious lunch. Funds raised are dedicated to outreach supporting local needs such as: Genesis House (an abused women and children shelter), Christmas Cheer Board, Boundary Trails Health Centre Spiritual Care Program, Morden Parent Child Resource Centre, Breakfast Club in schools, Chance 2 Grow Program, Rock Lake United Church Camp, the local Food Bank, and a Caring & Sharing Community Program. They also support the United Church's Mission and Service Fund.

Darlingford's Zion-Calvin supports a Canadian Foodgrains Bank project each year through a donation of grain from a harvest on forty acres of land. A community of farmers work together to produce the grain. In 2019 they harvested 3,126 bushels of wheat to raise \$19,075. Members also are regular supporters of Mission and Service Fund through offerings and PAR.

Pembina Parish organizes and hosts an interdenominational group that meets monthly to support the program "Days for Girls", sewing personal hygiene products for girls in need around the world. Working in collaboration with two local Mennonite churches we have sponsored a Syrian Refugee family. The family arrived four years ago and just this year they were joyfully reunited with one of their two sons who have been waiting for travel documents. They anxiously await the second son's arrival. We have committed volunteers who continue to provide support to the family helping them feel at home in the community, and navigate our Canadian and local systems. St. Paul's provides meeting space to a variety of organizations to meet free of charge as part of our community outreach. We share our St. Paul's building through a Landlord/Tenant rental contract with another Faith Community (Fountain of Life). Our Parish members are also very active in our communities, often taking on leadership roles, working to make a difference in our world locally and globally.

Pembina Parish is anticipating becoming an Affirming Ministry by early spring 2020 as we are actively working through the requirements of the United Church. We live in a fairly conservative area and we feel the need and importance of offering a safe place for the LGBTQ2S+ Community to worship and belong. We were pleased to march in solidarity with the LGBTQ2S+ Community in the first Pride event this year in Morden. This important march was initiated by two new members of the congregation. There are a great deal of social justice issues that we have not yet addressed, and we are willing with open minds to learn.

Pastoral / Spiritual Care

Two of our core values are: Caring – welcoming with hospitality, inclusiveness and having respect and caring for one another, and Exploring - providing spiritual nurture and challenging our thinking, sometimes outside our comfort zone, to learn and grow in our faith journey. Pembina Parish seeks to realize these core values by providing opportunities for fellowship, learning, working and playing together.

Our Sunday fellowship, along with the sharing time at the beginning of the service, which includes a request for prayer concerns and celebration announcements provides the opportunity to share about our lives with one another. This openness builds community and with that comes the opportunity to provide pastoral care. Our Pastoral Care Interest Group meets with our Minister to plan strategies of how and who will provide visitations to our sick, housebound, hospitalized or bereaved. Volunteers visit, deliver fall supper meals to those housebound, and poinsettias and cookies prior to Christmas to members who have lost a loved one during the year. Our Prayer Shawl Interest Group prayerfully makes handmade shawls that are blessed during a special worship service and delivered to those in need of comfort. This year they have also been making a new item, pocket sized prayer squares and LGBTQ2S+ squares, which are made available in the narthex for anyone who wishes to have one for comfort.

Our membership list is divided into house groups that not only provide support for the worship service but also were designed to build connections and pastoral care opportunities within small groups. This is an area that we feel has more potential than we have realized. It is difficult to ensure that all pastoral care needs are met although we are pleased to have a very approachable and caring Office Administrator who is our key point of contact outside of the Minister.

We strive to support members in their exploration of faith through: a regular weekly Bible Study, new member faith exploration, Baptism classes and book study sessions that are offered by the Minister. Pembina Parish has two UCW groups that meet for study, fellowship and service. This fall we have hosted in cooperation with St. Thomas Anglican, Morden Mennonite and St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic churches a 13 week course entitled “The Best is Yet to Be, Exploring the Abundant Life” a course on preparing for healthy aging spiritually, physically, mentally and

emotionally, led by Larry Danielson. Our women's retreat this year was facilitated by Rev. Diane Guilford from St. Thomas Anglican Church entitled "Let It Shine". The Affirming Interest Group has hosted a study series on homosexuality and the Bible, and held two film nights on LGBTQ2S+ issues with discussion time, as well as a public workshop on homosexuality and the church with guest presenter Rev. P. Woodbeck.

Pembina Parish members work and play well together and there is much laughter as we gather for a variety of reasons no matter if it is for spring-cleaning, Shrove Tuesday's Pancake supper and games, book club, banner making and quilting, choir practice or the spring concert, Ivy League, the winter exercise program, preparing and serving at the fall supper or soup & dessert luncheons, the cookie walk, and other fund raisers, and above all else eating together, something that Pembina Parish does well!

We thank Rev. Cathie Waldie for her gifts she has shared with us over the last 8 years and wish her well in her retirement. We have valued her leadership, caring nature, her support and guidance as we worked through our discernment of our Values, Mission and Vision. We feel we have an understanding of the needs of the Parish and have a clear Vision of what is possible. If you find yourself inspired, intrigued, and /or challenged to help us do God's work in Pembina Parish please....

"...Come and be part of our community...come to teach us, pray with us, nourish, learn, grow and flourish with us...we'd like to get to know you."