

Leadership Team Minutes – June 13, 2018

Attendance: Patti Brown, Angela Mills, Greg Cochrane, Cindy Curry, Kim Guy, Beth Kerr, Charlotte Jones

Regrets: Julie Baker, Debbie Nelson, Deanna Talbot, Alan Brown

Thank you's – Thank you notes were written.

Opening Thought – We looked at some possible Why statements for Trinity. The three we liked best as we edited them are : “Experiencing God, Finding Community, Embracing Life”; “On a Journey Together Through Faith”, ‘Because Every Person Matters – to God and to Us” We will look at testing these and any other ideas we come up with by Fall with a wider cross section of the congregation possibly using Survey Monkey in September

Minutes: Moved by Kim and seconded by Charlotte that we approve the minutes of the May meeting as circulated. CARRIED

Correspondence

- Community Foundation of Portage & District – Grant Application letter – lift grant not approved
- Thank you note (small donation included) from St. Mary's for Trinity's donation of chairs for their Scott Wood's concert

Discussions and Decisions

1. Request for an exemption to the no disposables policy – Heather Brown (House Group E) would like to use paper cups at the June 24 church service on the lawn. Patti moved and Cindy seconded moved that we approve this exemption. CARRIED
2. Structure Support Team Plans for Focus Groups in the Fall
 - The Structure Support Team is planning to hold focus groups with Gen. X and Millennials who are connected to our church with various levels of involvement this Fall.
 - The purpose of these focus groups is to get a deeper understanding of what these adults need/want from a spirituality/faith perspective and how Trinity might (or might not) be part of that.
 - It was apparent to us from our Visioning last Fall that we need more information about what matters to and works for both of these groups so that our church can continue to be a vital part of the community and that the best way to get that information is ask people directly. We cannot know what changes in either focus or communication are required if we don't talk to the people we want to connect with.
 - We are in the process of recruiting some facilitators/note takers from those generations to help lead these Focus Groups since we feel we will get more forthright answers if peers are asking the question.
 - The plan is hold a focus group with facilitators/note takers in late September and then to hold 6 or so additional focus groups in October/November. Each focus group would have 6 to 12 participants.
 - Where possible the focus groups will be held outside the church building to encourage greater comfort. Ministers won't be attending.
 - We plan to start trying to get word out about this now so that people are ready when they get invited to a focus group in the Fall.

- Leadership Team supports this endeavor and looks forward to finding out what information we gather.
- Patti Brown and Kim Guy would be willing to help with food for one gathering each. We can think of others who might also be willing to provide snacks for one such gathering. If we don't have anyone for a particular night, the Leadership Team recommends purchasing nice food and to that end made the following motion: Moved by Cindy, seconded by Patti that we allow up to \$300 from the Memorial Fund to purchase food for any focus groups that we don't have volunteers to make food for. CARRIED.

3. Portage Pride

- We have two people to carry our banner. Thanks Cindy and Gill. McKenzie United also has a couple of people and the Conference Office is sending a couple of people with the Conference banner.
- After talking to one of the organizers, it was suggested that a letter indicating that setting a date ahead of time in the Fall for a June Pride March would be very helpful to us as a supportive community group. We agreed that Angela will send a letter on our behalf.

4. Lift Update

- We did not get the Foundation Grant
- We have not heard anything at all from the Cropo Foundation –Greg will follow up with them to see where this might be at.
- Plans continue as discussed last month for the project starting on Monday, June 18
- Work is underway to let all the affected user groups know about access during June and over the Summer (where appropriate)

5. Affirming Action Plan – We said we would revisit this at the June meeting (this is from May 2017). We agreed to put this on the agenda for September since our energy is winding down for this year

Doing Already	Actions for 2017 and 2018
Inclusive marriage policy	Join Affirm United
Safe Space posters	Hold a celebration service
Sponsored “Listening for Grace” production	Media release or article
Host information sessions on LGBTTQ*	Add Affirming vision statement to website
Participate in Portage Pride parade	Add Affirming statement in announcement bulletin
Newsletter articles	Continue to use newsletter to highlight justice issues
Worship services on what it means to be an Affirming ministry	Place rainbow candle on communion table
Large print bulletins available	

Hearing assist devices available for services	Place visual cues on exterior of building for public such as rainbow decal on office door and adding to church signage.
Printed services are available for those unable to attend services	Continue to provide education opportunities with a focus on transgender
Lifts available in the building	Join the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) reading challenge
Monthly rental of handivan to enable shut-ins to come to Sunday services	Take public stands on justice issues for marginalized people
Right relations work started	
Poverty advocacy meeting with MLA	
Participation in Habitat for Humanity	
Reducing financial barriers to participation in functions/events by moving to payment by donation rather than a set fee.	
Host Muslim Friday prayers	
Host Indigenous sharing circles	

In addition to the action items listed above Trinity will consider some future action items. First, we will explore replacement of the lift that accesses the sanctuary to better accommodate changing mobility assist devices. Secondly, when space and financial considerations are favourable to renovate our bathrooms we will make them gender neutral.

6. Blue W movement - There is a movement for groups and organizations who are willing to have people come in and fill up their water bottles with tap water to put a Blue W in their window and also to be listed on a website. All we'd need to do is make a Blue "W" to post and register with site (and be willing to help people find their way to water in the kitchen if they come by). Angela will look into getting a magnetic sign that could go on the office door when someone is here. We love this idea and welcome people to come into our church to fill water bottles, use the bathroom, etc.
7. Guest Books 1943 – 2001 at UCC Archives - The UCC Archives was going through some of their records deemed non-archival and came across a banker's box with guest books from Portage Trinity, 1943-2001, donated to the archives in 2015 which were deemed non-archival. They're wondering if we'd like to keep these records to hold as a legacy of the Church, or if we'd like them to dispose of them for us. Moved by Kim, seconded by Greg that we allow the Archives to dispose of them. CARRIED

Reports and Updates

1. Finance – Greg presented the financial statements for May 2018. The Investment Group is planning to meet in the Fall and evaluate how we are doing. Moved by Greg and seconded by Kim that we approve the financial statements for May as presented. CARRIED.
2. Church Calendar – We reviewed what is coming up until the end of the August.
3. M & P Committee – If we are having concerns about cleanliness at any particular time of the year, we will offer more hours to the caretaker to try to improve that. Moved by Greg, seconded by Cindy that we offer the caretaker extra hours at times of the year when extra cleaning is needed.
CARRIED
4. Team Updates
 - Stewardship – Stewardship is working on a three part plan for our Fall campaign inspired by the Conference theme from this year – remembering our past, celebrating our present, imagining our future. Remembering our past might involve a service with a historical focus and a video from interviews with some of our elders. Celebrating our present might be a narrative/visual budget of what is happening right now. Imagining our Future might include a presentation on planned giving by Kathryn Hofley.
 - Structure Support Team/House Groups – see above
 - Sunday School – curriculum has arrived
 - Property – the stove is fixed
5. Interest Group Updates
 - Saturday Breakfasts – There was no June breakfast. Amy will do one on September 15. Stewardship is possibly interested in hosting it as a breakfast and learn event in November probably on November 3.
 - Transportation – revisit in the Fall
 - Trini-Treasures – Was held May 25 and 26 and earned \$1,377.00
 - Trini-tidings – Deadline is September 14 for distribution on “Bring a Friend” Sunday on September 23. We will have some extra print copies available in case “friends” would like to know what’s happening at Trinity over the Fall.
 - Pool Party –Thursday, July 19 from 6 - 9 p.m.
6. Agassiz Presbytery – The Presbytery met at the Conference Annual Meeting in Winnipeg at the University of Manitoba. The Conference theme was Remembering, Celebrating and Imagining. This was likely the final meeting of the Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario as we move to a regional structure on January 1, 2019 if the remits are enacted by the General Council this summer.
7. UCW – UCW is giving \$6000 to the church. Thank you. They are winding down for the summer.

8. Membership Status Update

Transfers in:

Candidates for Baptism and Confirmation

Deaths:

Member:

Adherents and other:

Carla Popoff, May 17, 2018

Betty Kramble, June 8, 2018

Snacks for the September meeting – Cindy Curry

9. Closing prayer – Beth led a closing prayer

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Angela Mills, Chair

Deanna Talbot, Secretary