

Trinity United Church Leadership Team Meeting
Trinity United Church
Wednesday, April 20, 2022 – held in Trinity Lower Hall at 7 pm

Present: Alan Brown, Julie Baker, Pam Lotun, Tanis Essery, Kim Guy, Lesia Case, Diane Routledge, Donna Matthews, Stephanie Verhoeven (via zoom), Gloria Ross, Denise Stairs

Regrets: Cindy Curry

Call to order: 7:02 p.m.

Land acknowledgment

As we meet, we remember that we gather on Treaty 1 land. This is the traditional land of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Dene, Dakota, and Oji-Cree nations and is the homeland of the Metis.

Opening - Julie shared an opening reflection and prayer.

Approval of the Minutes

Motion: to approve the minutes from March 9, 2022 as circulated.

Moved by: Alan Brown

Seconded: Kim Guy

Carried

Correspondence:

Proposed Recovery Strategy for the Chimney Swift in Canada (attached) – An invitation for our input on the proposed Recovery Strategy for the Chimney Swift (*Chartura pelagica*) in Canada, and as part of the proposed critical habitat for the Chimney Swift located on our property, it suggests that we are currently managing it in a way that is helpful to this species.

Stephanie suggests sharing this information with the congregation, perhaps through Trini-Tidings or via Facebook.

Letter from Wood Lake Books received regarding “Keys to the Kingdom” and celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada in June 2025.

Letters of support and care to the Ukrainian Catholic Church and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church have been sent.

Discussion and Decisions:

Public Health Orders – Public health restrictions have all been lifted..

We have made considerable adaptations for Covid. It was agreed last meeting that:

We will continue to have no bulletins for the foreseeable future.

We will create a printed announcement insert until Easter to see how it goes. These have proven quite popular.

We will continue to leave the offering plates at the back without passing them in the pews.

We will stop collecting contact tracing information.

At this time we will keep the hymn books at the back for people who wish to pick them up, rather than placing them in the pews.

We will keep sanitizer at all the entrances; door hosts may choose to actively offer it to those who come through the door.

We will continue to have hymns mostly recorded to sing along to. We would consider having some live congregational song leading up front by Easter. This is planned for Good Friday, but not Easter.

When the provincial mandate was lifted, we also let go of the mask requirement, and instead strongly encourage masking while speaking and singing – particularly while people are moving about the church. We will reassess at our next meeting.

The ropes on the pews will stay up until the next meeting, and then be removed if trend continues in a positive direction. (there may be flexibility with regards to a funeral, should that be necessary)

We will, however, lift capacity limits. It is unlikely for that to impact anything but a funeral.

Until next meeting, Julie will stay at the front after church to prevent crowding in the narthex.

We will continue the adapted method of serving communion at this time. (individual portions, not passed)

Coffee time returned March 13. Those serving and preparing food will continue being required to mask.

Baptism adaptations may depend on the comfort level of those who are participating. We will continue to ensure the safety of those most vulnerable.

Proof of vaccination will no longer be required.

Virtual worship via zoom will be continued for the foreseeable future. It increases our accessibility, which is an important goal for us.

Discussion held that these changes will likely stay in place through the summer. Some questions arose about removing the ropes between the pews. Decision made to leave them in place.

Lent- Easter Plans

Due to the inclement weather, the joint Good Friday service with McKenzie United Church had to be cancelled. Instead Julie offered a low tech Zoom service. 33 households logged in.

For Easter Sunday we had planned to try a return to the Easter breakfast. All attempts to bring a planning group together were refused. We had two individuals offer to assist with organizing who could not be present on Easter Sunday. We had three people offer to bring food but not organize. Amy Chappellaz made several calls to try and find someone to take the lead with no positive results. With no way to organize it, it was unclear how to pull it off. In the meantime, covid transmission in our area has been increasing. Many congregation members report testing positive or being close contacts. Logistics to host food in the sanctuary safely were starting to look complicated. As announcements for Palm Sunday were being prepared it seemed important to have a decision, so after consulting with Pam, Julie and Jacquie determined that the Easter breakfast would be postponed indefinitely and we would look for volunteers to host a regular coffee time using the food already offered.

While there was still snow in the forecast, Easter Sunday worship was held in person and on zoom. Approximately 60 persons attended in person, with another 30 households on Zoom.

Sunday School – It's probably time to start thinking about this in an intentional way. We have no plans, and have not had attendance of children for a long time. Where to begin?

Maybe we need to work towards September. How can we do that?

Tanis has expressed that she would be willing to assist in developing some sort of plan. Donna Matthews also willing. Suggested that we make a list of people with children that are Sunday School age that may be willing to help.

Suggestion to connect with families in May.

Team and Interest Group Updates

UCW – The UCW hosted a Soup & Bunwich lunch following worship on April 10. Cost by donation. By the time of the meeting we will know how it went.

Approx. \$360 raised, good response.

UCW selling plants during the next 2 Sundays.

Property – Lots to report on – hold onto your hats!

- Leith is covering property issues for April.
- Annual emergency lighting inspection & maintenance has been done.
- Cobbes was in to take care of septic issues; sanitary products were found in the line, resulting in a substantial clog. Notice has gone out to all user groups to properly dispose of sanitary products.
- Cobbes was in to replace the broken coupler on pump 5 of the boiler.
- The parlour and BBBS offices have seen water come in from below ground level (as in not from around the windows which has been seen in past). Ellwood McRorie will put together two options for us – to either use epoxy to seal the leak from the inside or a more invasive option would be to back hoe the south side of the building and use an enzyme material to seal the leaks (this option of course, much pricier). Quotes have not been received yet.
- There has been damage done to the south side outer elevator, (time-frame, uncertain, but possibly between March 30 – when there was an after-hours alarm call out - and April 4 when it was discovered). The alarm panel has been cracked and messed with, but the accessibility lift panel itself (that has the buttons moving you from floor to floor) has received extensive damage. It's been ripped from the wall and was found lying on the floor with all of the wires pulled out from the socket. We do not know how entry was gained into this area. A police report has been filed and an officer came and looked into it. Our insurance agent has advised that our deductible is \$500; currently we are receiving a 'claims free' premium, so next year our renewal cost may be impacted if we put in a claim. We will need to assess whether or not it's worth it, depending upon what next year's insurance costs might be. Point West will be in shortly to give us an estimate, and will return to replace/repair once the police have looked at it. Connected to this, but we are unsure how, is the fact that a few things have gone missing from the building recently (between March 21 and March 28), including 2 cash boxes, a wireless receiver for a microphone and the square terminal used to receive credit card and debit card donations. Discussion held about whether to file a claim. We need to know how much the elevator repair could be before determining if it's worthwhile. Suggestion made to obtain a quote for security cameras. Pam will look into that.

Stewardship – the Team met March 21. Next meeting is planned for April 9.

TriniTidings – We had planned to send out an Easter Bulletin on April 8, but due to limited content (outside of what is received by email and Sunday's announcements), as well as not enough information to highlight what we would like to have advertised, we will look to possibly May to send out a newsletter.

Study Groups – A Tuesday afternoon discussion group has been meeting on Tuesdays during Lent. Julie has also begun meeting with a youth confirmation group.

Choir – A volunteer musician provided live music on Sunday March 13. It went well but there are no plans to do so again yet. After some discussion, the choir decided to prepare Easter music and record it in advance rather than singing live. With quite a bit of covid circulating, there was a mixture in levels of readiness. It is clear that some are impatient for live singing to return.

Tech Support – At this time, we think we may have addressed the underlying zoom buzz issue, but we have had limited feedback.

Structure Support Team – Cindy Curry has agreed to go on as leader of House Group E. Brent and Lori are leading their house group throughout April. We continue to have a vacancy on M & P.

Cannas for Ukraine – Mitchell Omichinski is sorting out details to run a fundraiser in support of the Ukraine Crisis by selling canna lilies that he's tended to since last fall. All money from plant sales would be run as supra gifts through UCC Mission & Service as part of our monthly remittance (money in, money out) and he's suggested \$20/plant.

Finance Report

Financial statements reviewed. Motion to purchase the credit card reader via the future projects fund.

Moved by: Alan Brown

Seconded by: Donna Matthews

Carried

M & P Report

Suggestion that a worship committee be formed again to offer Julie the help and support she needs in making necessary decisions. Kim has spoken to someone that may be willing to chair.

Jacque taking some holidays, volunteers in place.

Motion: that the leadership group form a worship support team

Moved by: Kim Guy

Seconded by: Lesia Case

Carried

Trustees

Trustees have been speaking about ventilation in the sanctuary and are at the stage of engaging with a consultant to determine what options are even possible in our historic building. A consultation will likely cost at least \$2500 but the trustees are agreed that it would be a valuable step in the process. The consultation will also include what options are available for climate control (ie air conditioning). The boiler is starting to cost more in upkeep and is running less efficiently according to some testing this winter. It is not clear what the life of this boiler is intended to be, but it is now 20 years old.

Calendar Review

Reviewed

New or unfinished Business

Motion: to approve the baptisms of:

Baptism requests for May 1:

Leni Maureen Talbot, child of Deanna & Colin Talbot

Hollie Kimberly Sissons, child of Rachelle Roteliuk & Kale Sissons

Baptism requests for May 8:

Mileena Rita Marlene Boskwick, child of Dale Boskwick –McKay

Spencer Lorne Norman Boskwick, child of Dale Boskwick-McKay

Moved by: Kim Guy

Seconded by: Gloria Ross
Carried

Membership Status Update:
New members

Transfer
Neil & Diane Hamilton to Roland United Church, March 29, 2022

Deaths
Members:
Garry Small, March 20, 2022

Adherents & Other:

Closing Prayer

Adjournment: 8:47 pm

Next Meeting: May 11, 2022 at 7:00pm

_____ Pamela Lotun, Chair

_____ Tanis Essery, Secretary