

Trinity United Church Leadership Team Meeting
Trinity United Church
Monday, May 27, 2024
Held in-person Meeting Room

Present: Alan Brown, Donna Matthews, Stephanie Verhoeven, Diane Routledge, Julie Baker, Elijah Mwandila, Lynne Sanderson, Cassandra Pehura

Regrets: Kelly Haapamaki, Pam Lotun

Call to Order: Stephanie called us to order at 7:01

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 Prayer by Rev Elijah

Motion: To approve minutes from March 14 2024 to be ratified when we have quorum

Moved by: Donna

Seconded by: Diane

Correspondence:

<https://generalcouncil44.ca/news/results-vote-remit-1>

Remit 1 has passed. All 16 regional councils, the National Indigenous Council, and 80% of pastoral charges in The United Church of Canada participated in the vote on Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization. Thank you once again to all everyone who voted in this process.

Discussions and Decisions:

Quorum and meeting schedule – What shall we do about our struggle to fill vacancies? Our quorum requirements are now difficult to fill if not everyone is available for a meeting. We have also received information that the UCW has relinquished their place on the Leadership Team.

Motion to add Cassandra Pehura as a member at large to the Leadership Team: to be ratified when we have quorum.

Mover: Stephanie

Secunder: Diane

Looking ahead – The United Church of Canada turns 100 on June 10 2025. There will be a “kick off” to the anniversary year with a livestream worship service on Sunday June 9 from 3-5 pm

(Manitoba time) out of Metropolitan United Church in Toronto. Presumably we will advertise this service, but it raises the bigger question of if and how we wish to celebrate the 100th anniversary locally. Should we be partnering with local United Churches to do something? Oakville? McKenzie? MacGregor? Gladstone? The Sunday closest to the anniversary is June 8 2025. No doubt there will be livestream options from further afield, but would we wish to do something more locally? If we do, planning should begin in the fall, as these sorts of things take time to pull together, and for churches arranging pulpit supply, plans are made months in advance.

We may want to form a planning committee for this, though most of the area churches do not have their own ministers at this time.

Growth Animator – Any follow up? Elijah and Julie met the regional growth animator at a recent event for ministry personnel. Some of the feedback given involved analysing where each church wants to focus on their own growth and working with their own congregations to develop.

Projectors in sanctuary -

Jacquie has looked into sourcing replacement bulbs in the sanctuary projectors. There are 3 quotes (attachment provided that also includes specs), and her recommendation is for bulbs from My Projector Lamp (out of Calgary, AB with A+ rating from Better Business Bureau) at a cost of \$233.69/ea (free delivery). Scaffolding rental from Laramees in Portage would be about \$150-\$175/wk. We would need to pick the scaffolding up ourselves (delivery not offered). For install, Jeff at Byte Me has no experience and didn't offer to learn on the job. This piece will need to be figured out.

Donna suggested that Bob might be able to help with the scaffolding, or will speak with her nephews about helping. Many husbands were volunteered. Jacquie can go ahead and purchase the recommended bulbs.

Safe Workplace team update – has task group been formed? (Leadership, M & P and staff reps appointed?) Mary Lou McHenry from M&P is willing to join, Stephanie would be willing from Leadership. Suggestion also to involve a Trustee member, Mitchell Omichinski may be interested. Suggestion to meet with individual staff members to learn what is needed, etc and be able to meet and develop a plan. Stephanie will reach out to the other parties.

Finance Report: to be ratified when we have quorum

Motion: To approve the financial report

Moved: Donna Matthews

Seconded: Alan Brown

Calendar Review:

Worship Review and Plans

A baptism service was held on May 5. The Leadership team was not able to approve the baptisms in advance, so approvals will be required at this meeting (see membership section below).

Elijah and Julie met with reps from McKenzie United and First Presbyterian to make arrangements for joint services through the summer. It was agreed that McKenzie would host services June 30, July 7, July 14. First Presbyterian will host July 21, July 28, August 4. Trinity will then host August 11, 18 and 25. It was further agreed that each church would provide worship leadership for the days that they host, rather than the historic arrangement where leaders do not preach in their home church. Since First Presbyterian and McKenzie will be relying on pulpit supply arrangements, it would make it complicated to ask those persons who lead worship in a different church. To fit with Elijah's holidays, it was agreed that Elijah would look after August 11 and 18 for Trinity, and Julie would be responsible for August 25 and September 1.

The September long weekend (September 1) is early this year. Julie has asked McKenzie Church whether they would be interested in continuing the joint summer services for an extra week, rather than having 2 United Church services happening that weekend when attendance is likely to be very small. They were going to take the idea to their worship committee. The service could be held at either McKenzie or Trinity.

Pulpit supply – as Elijah has been adjusting to life at Trinity, and Julie has been evolving her 'return to work', we have been reducing our reliance on pulpit supply. Julie has been experimenting with having house group support on days when she is here alone. Given the number of churches with no ministry staff, pulpit supply is booked very early in advance. We do not know what Julie's hours will be come fall, so we have asked Sylvia to tentatively book pulpit supply for the last Sunday of the month in the fall to ease the load. This should also help us to work around other leaves which will come into play (study leave, etc).

Communion was held on the first Sunday of Lent, Easter Sunday and Pentecost Sunday (May 19). In the days of yore, our practice was to have communion generally on the first Sunday of the month, and also on the first Sunday of a new season (Advent, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, as well as WW Communion Sunday, which is always the first Sunday of a month anyway). Over the past year, communion has happened rather sporadically. It was agreed that for the coming year, as we move back into a more regular schedule, we would like to see communion happen every other month or so. A future discussion on the logistics of communion may be worthwhile in the fall.

Joint Coordinating Team

The joint coordinating team consists of two representatives from Trinity (Kim Guy, Diane Stevenson), two representatives from MacGregor, as well as the two ministers, with the purpose of coordinating items of joint interest.

At their most recent meeting, summer schedules were discussed. MacGregor will stay open for July and close for August. It had already been agreed that because Elijah was at Trinity for Easter (5th Sunday), he would be in MacGregor June 30. As Elijah is not required for joint services in Portage in July, he is available to lead worship July 7, 14, and 21 in MacGregor before he takes vacation. However, to allow Elijah to experience a joint service in Portage, Julie will lead worship in MacGregor on July 7. MacGregor will make separate arrangements for July 28.

It was also agreed that the covenanting service went well, and that we might try to have another joint service together. Since Worldwide Communion Sunday is always the first of the month, the idea of having MacGregor come to Trinity for a joint service on that day would be a good option.

As decisions/proposals from the JCT impact our ministers' time and activities, it is important to have good communication between the JCT and the M & P committees. One of the MacGregor members is also a member of their M & P committee. Diane Stevenson has agreed to sit on Trinity M & P Committee if the Leadership Team is willing to make that appointment.

Motion: To allow Diane Stevenson to join the M&P committee. (to be ratified when we have quorum)

Moved by: Alan Brown

Seconded: Stephanie Verhoeven

The committee next meets on September 19.

M&P Report:

The M&P Committee have received Julie's permission to plan an event to recognize her 25th year of ministry with Trinity United Church. Our thought is that this will take place sometime in the fall of 2024 and will be held after the worship service. If a lunch is to be part of this event, the UCW have indicated that they could be involved with that. Lori Mackedenski has also expressed a willingness for the choir to be involved, perhaps if a short program is planned. At this point we would like to suggest that a small committee be formed to complete the planning. From M&P, Mary Lou McHenry and Sandra Falk are willing to serve on this committee. Possibly someone from Leadership and UCW could fill out the group. This is an exciting opportunity to express our appreciation to Julie.

Holidays dates have been set for staff members Don and Elijah.

CE/Sunday School Report:

Sunday School will have two final sessions this spring: June 2, and a wind up June 16. Tanis has indicated that she is not able to coordinate a Sunday School program for the fall. How can we fill this significant gap? No suggestions at this point for the future.

UCW Report: The UCW has agreed to relinquish their position on the Leadership Team. Instead they will receive Leadership team minutes for information. Fortunately, they have not been called upon a great deal for catering needs, although this also means that their bank balance is lower. The Irish Stew Lunch and the Chance to Grow Petunia project was well received. Thanks to Jacquie for all of her help. The UCW will have their June meeting as a lunch with staff invited.

Property: The vents in the sanctuary have been opened and the boiler has been turned off for the season. Small jobs have been taken care of by tradespeople – new handle and flusher in the women's accessibility stall and batteries replaced in the lower hall smoke detector. Mitchell

organized yard clean up, and many thanks to Terry Lee & Diane Stevenson for their help, as well thanks to Mitchell - who is also starting to plant and beautify the grounds and gardens.

Stewardship: Haven't met since last leadership meeting, and have not scheduled a meeting yet.

Trustees: The Trustees last met March 14. It was decided then that they wouldn't set up a next meeting date until all quotes have come in - for the boiler replacement (Shewfelt's Plumbing & Heating and Winnipeg Plumbing & Heating), and heat pump/AC (Cobbe's). However, quotes have come in from DC Security for transmitter & hardware for the door strike of \$2,154. Also received for air conditioning in the sanctuary was a quote from Indoor Comfort - Air Works (local company) for \$34,160. Through BBBS we have learned of a provincial government grant that would cover 80% of a boiler. There is limited time – the grant application is due by May 31. Mitchell has agreed to look into it.

Structure Support Team/vacancies?: Haven't met since last leadership meeting, and have not scheduled a meeting yet. Is this committee still operating?

TriniTidings: After a year and a half without, a Trinitidings newsletter was produced and sent out on May 17. The next one is scheduled for September.

Tech Support and Equipment needs: See discussions and decisions

Prairie to Pine Region: There is no in person regional meeting for this year. It will be a Zoom meeting held over two Thursdays in October in the evening. Thursday October 10th and 17th. The Celebration of Ministries Service (ordination/commissioning/recognition) is being held in Dauphin on June 23 at 2:00 p.m. for those who are willing/able to travel.

Affirming Ministry: Pride Portage la Prairie has shared a tentative date for a march on June 9. As it is a Sunday, depending on the time frame, it may make it challenging for Trinity people to participate. There are no further details at this time.

Membership Status Update:

Motion: that the Leadership team approve the baptism requests for the following children:

Poppy Mae Upward, daughter of Mark & Jen Upward
Stevie Ila Hay, daughter of Katarina Boychuk & Riley Hay
Charlie Jackson, son of April Brown & Tyler Ham
Ella Rose Mulligan, daughter of Amanda & Jeff Mulligan
Macie Jean, daughter of Alyssa & Andrew Brown
Moved: Tanis Essery
Seconded: Cassandra Pehura
(To be ratified when we have quorum)

New members

Transfer:

Susan Yeske to McKenzie United Church

Deaths

Members:

Jack Ediger, May 11, 2024

Adherents & Other:

Garry Thurston, March 09, 2024

Doreen Dow, March 19, 2024

Evelyn Rheaume, March 20, 2024

John "Jack" McKelvey, April 01, 2024

Muriel Scott, May 03, 2024

New or unfinished Business:

Closing Prayer from Lynne

Next Meeting: Monday June 17 @ 7:00 or Monday June 24 (we need quorum!!)

Adjournment: 8:46 pm

_____ Stephanie Verhoeven, Acting as Chair

_____ Tanis Essery, Secretary