

Trinity United Church Leadership Team Meeting
Trinity United Church
Monday, November 25, 2024
Held in-person Meeting Room

Present: Tanis Essery, Alan Brown, Kelly Haapamaki, Elijah Mwandila, Julie Baker, Stephanie Verhoeven (zoom), Diane Routledge (zoom), Kaley Routledge (zoom)

Regrets: Donna Matthews, Cassandra Pehura

Call to Order: 7:05 pm

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 offered by Julie Baker

Motion: To approve the minutes of October 23, 2024

Moved: Alan Brown

Seconded: Kelly Haapamaki

Carried.

Correspondence:

Linda Omichinski has requested that Trinity put out a call for donations (items will directly go to farmers and organizations) for a trip she is taking in February 2025 with **Food, Farms and Forests – Cuba 2025**. Donations would need to be received by January 27.

Discussion held that announcements could begin on or after December 15, with collections beginning in January. All in agreement.

Discussions and Decisions:

United Church Self-Assessment (deadline: December 15)

The compiled report was reviewed with the following suggestions:

Noted by Stephanie in the Hopes and Fears section, that perhaps it could read not just as increase in young families attending but for an increase of attendance by anyone that does not have a church family already, be them a single person or family.

Also, for Civic and Church Requirements, we did not indicate our plans to manage each item. It was determined that we rely on our ministers and office staff for their knowledge of this information.

Comments of the Governing Body: We have received and reviewed the information in the self-assessment on November 25, 2024 with no new information to add. It is approved for distribution to the Regional Council.

Structure Support Team: There is no report at the moment from the Structural Support Team. And since we do not expect any future reports, we can take this item off future agendas. We realize that nominations for vacancies will need to be addressed in other ways.

Finance Report:

Motion: To approve the financial report as presented.

Moved by: Alan Brown

Seconded: Tanis Essery

Carried

M&P Report: Plans underway to schedule vacation and study leave for next year.

Calendar Review:

Winter Wonderland Event happened this past weekend. Is there anything we wish to note about the experience? It was a beautiful set up and was well attended. What might we wish to remember should it happen again? Sounds like it may become an Annual event. Communication this year seemed to fall through the cracks and seemed to happen very quickly. We are assuming this won't be an issue moving forward. We need to thank Kelly Haapamaki, Donna Matthews, Brenda Moorhouse, Sandra Falk, Sylvia Lyall and members of the choir and UCW for all their help in cleaning and preparing for the event. There may also be others who we are not aware of who deserve a word of thanks.

Note for future events: Whoever is the worship leader needs to have an opportunity to have a walk through before it starts to determine if anything is inappropriate for Sunday morning worship. Sunday School space and how the sanctuary is being used are bigger factors. (i.e. piano light could not be found as it was moved for different usage, communion table having things on it that cannot be moved, pews being blocked off, etc)

Service of Remembrance and Hope

Julie reached out to both McKenzie and the Anglican Church for the Service of Remembrance and Hope. This year, no church is willing to bring a joint service. Trinity will offer it alone in the second week of December. It will not be a "live" service. It will be posted on our youtube channel and shared from there.

Worship Review and Plans

Elijah and Julie met and worked on the Advent plan. This year our advent theme is based on a reflection on the "Nativity Stories."

December Worship Schedule

1 –Elijah and Julie (1st Advent Sunday and Communion)

8 –Julie and House Group

15 –Elijah

22 –Norman and Julie

24 –Julie (Christmas Eve)

29 –Elijah

Joint Coordinating Team

The Joint Coordinating Team will meet in February.

CE/Faith Formation/ Sunday School Report:

Twila MacNair (Youth Staff Person for Prairie to Pine Region) is wondering about the possibility of Trinity hosting a leadership training and planning event in January (possibly January 10-12) that would also include a travelling youth group night. Do we think that we have the resources to provide food (lunch and supper Saturday and continental breakfast foods) for a group of up to 20? Do we have youth participants (grade 5 and up) who might participate in the travelling youth group evening?

Sounds like a good thing, if the details can be worked out!

Group Study

The group study finished well and we don't have any study going on now. Is there anything of interest from the leadership team with regards to a future group study? Idea given to maybe offer a study group around Lent.

100th Anniversary – There is an initial meeting for those who have expressed interest from the various local churches on Thursday afternoon at McKenzie United Church. If anyone from Trinity wishes to join Julie at that meeting they would be most welcome. Kelly is interested in joining Julie.

UCW Report – Christmas Baking Sale planned for December 08 following worship

Property: Annual Fire Extinguisher inspection & maintenance performed. Electrical outlets for parking have been turned on for the cold winter months. As of Nov 22 - Jacque still waiting for a response from the supplier of the sanctuary project bulbs re: error message on south side.

Stewardship: The campaign has started and we are running themes on Gratitude throughout this month both in the weekly email and announcements. A mailing was done but the Canada Post strike challenged the mailing plan. Many of the stewardship packages ended up being delivered by the TriniTidings deliverers. Thanks!

Trustees: Trustees are yet to meet with the Tenants once a date has been set. On that meeting, Trustees will discuss the new lease (rental) rates with the Tenants. This is annual check with our lease renters is meant to set up the rent for 2025 before the end of 2024.

Safe Workplace Task Group:

It was reported that someone had entered the church at the end of service yesterday that had been injured. Stephanie attended to him and helped him make contact with a family member. Police and ambulance were contacted and he was left in their care. He was very appreciative of the kindness done for him.

Stephanie noted there wasn't really anyone else comfortable dealing with the situation other than herself and wondered if there was some sort of training that could be offered so that others

could feel like they could offer help. Suggested to have water bottles and granola bars and a first aid kit on hand. There is money available in the benevolent fund to have a small stash of these things. Comment shared that it was good the door was open for him to seek shelter, it would be wise in the future for ushers or someone to just be aware when someone does come in. This is an area where there may be some overlap with the work of the Safe Workplace Task Group.

TriniTidings: The newsletter went out November 22. With the mail strike, many extra were hand-delivered.

Prairie to Pine Region:

Town Hall is to take place this Wednesday November 27 at 7:00 pm (via Zoom). All are invited by the Prairie to Pine Regional Council. Focus: How can congregations create community and connection and sustain these spaces of worship? There are positive aspects and challenging elements. (examples: How can we get our youth to gather on a regular basis? What are the next steps when people are tired and hesitant to commit to planning or attending events?)

Affirming Ministry: You will see in that newsletter a suggestion about shifting our vocabulary for “White Gift”. When we were putting together the newsletter, we often wonder how people who are unfamiliar with church culture will understand our lingo and jargon. It occurred to us that perhaps it is time for us to start calling our outreach ministry at Christmas something else. For this year, the formerly known as “White Gift” is being called “Gifts of Grace”.

Membership Status Update:

New members

Kyle Rushton, by profession of faith – November 17 2024

Transfer:

Deaths

Members:

Steve Bergson, October 26, 2024

Adherents & Other:

New or unfinished Business:

Hybrid meetings and tech support decision is deferred indefinitely.

Next Meeting: January 7, 2025 @7:00 pm

Closing Prayer was shared by Elijah Mwandila

Adjournment: 9:06 pm

_____, Stephanie Verhoeven, Acting as Chair

_____ Tanis Essery, Secretary