

Trinity United Church Leadership Team Meeting
Trinity United Church
Monday, September 16, 2024
Held in-person Meeting Room

Present: Elijah Mwandila, Julie Baker, Donna Matthews, Tanis Essery, Kelly Haapamaki, Sandra Falk, Cassandra Pehura, Diane Routledge, Kaylee Routledge, Stephanie Verhoeven

Regrets:

Call to Order: 7:06 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 June 24, 2024

Moved: Donna Matthews

Seconded: Diane Routledge

Carried.

Correspondence:

Pam Lotun regrets that due to changes in her schedule that place her at capacity, she is unable to complete her term as past chair, effective immediately.

United Church Self-Assessment - letter and self-assessment form with instructions. The deadline for this self-assessment is December 15. It is a rather involved request for documentation, and the instructions suggest that a task group should be appointed to put it together.

Suggested that a couple people could meet with Elijah (because he likes to do these kinds of things apparently) and work together and then bring to Leadership. Sandra and Donna would be willing to do this. Church Hub would also have a fair amount of information.

Jacquie and Julie can go through it as well and quickly tick off certain points, before needing to do a deeper dive.

Correspondence from Denise Stairs regarding the status of the structure support team. She will meet with house group leaders to set the schedule for 2025.

Discussions and Decisions:

Structure Support Team, Vacancies, Quorum and Meeting Schedule

As noted in the correspondence from Denise, the Structure Support Team has ceased operations, once the House Group Schedule for next year has been created. Going forward, how will we address the needs that it was designed to meet? We continue to operate with a variety of vacancies. Do we need to fill these vacancies or adapt the way we do things? Our quorum requirements are difficult to fill if not everyone is available for a meeting.

We need to put another call out to congregation members to help fill the vacancies: Chair, Chair-Elect, House Group Coordinator.

Suggested that the Leadership team look after finding members to take on roles. Sandra suggested also that perhaps the M&P committee could be responsible to fill their own vacancies as members vacate their roles.

Suggested that House Group Leaders can recruit their own members for the time being. If Denise is organizing the schedule for next year, this will become a less urgent matter.

Current quorum for Leadership is 6 members.

Motion: To lower our quorum requirement to 5 members

Moved by: Stephanie Verhoeven

Seconded: Cassandra Pehura

Carried

The United Church of Canada turns 100 on June 10 2025. Conversation on how to celebrate this and formation of a task group was postponed to this meeting. Suggested to combine the local rural United churches to have a celebration in a location closer than Winnipeg, to make it more accommodating.

Julie is very excited to be a part of this! Stephanie and Diane would like to join in to help later. An invitation for people to help plan this should be included in Trini tidings. We should be reaching out to other churches to find out who wants to be included in this.

At the previous leadership team meeting, initial discussion was held about whether we expect to continue to use hybrid meetings and whether additional tech support and equipment (Meeting Owl, for example \$1500) is required if we do so. What is our expectation about meetings in the future (Leadership and other)?

Defer the decision for now.

September 30 is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. It is a stat holiday so the office will be closed. There will be some recognition of the day in worship September 29.

Donna will be adding ribbons to the steps, a few others will come and help. Have extra ribbons for people that wish to add their own on Sunday. Encourage the congregation to wear orange shirts on the 29th. Suggested to offer people ways to honour the day on their own, give them resources, as we have done in the past. Julie will add things to our social media.

Julie's 25th Anniversary Celebration will be held following worship on October 27. The finance team met and suggests up to \$1,500 from Future Projects Fund be used to cater the event.

Motion: To approve spending up to \$1500.00 from the Future Projects Fund towards this celebration.

Moved by: Sandra Falk

Seconded by: Kelly Haapamaki

Carried

Finance Report: Financial statements were reviewed as presented. Considering changing our auditor (as he is no longer in the business); suggested that maybe we would exchange our books with another United Church and look over each other's financial statements for accuracy.

Motion: To approve the financial statements to the end of August as presented.

Moved by: Donna Matthews

Seconded by: Stephanie Verhoeven

Carried

M&P Report:

Planning is underway for Julie's anniversary.

September 30-October 4, Jacque will be away at a conference. The committee will be finding volunteers to cover her leave (3 days). Lori Mackedenski will be coming in and working on the bulletin.

Calendar Review:

Worship Review and Plans

Joint summer services were held at McKenzie, First Presbyterian and Trinity, with good feedback from those in attendance. There was also positive feedback about the joint United Church service that was held at McKenzie on September 1.

Worship September 29 will include recognition of Sept 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. People will be invited to wear orange to church. The next baptism service is scheduled for Thanksgiving, October 13. Communion is scheduled for October 6, for Worldwide Communion, and MacGregor congregation will be joining us for that service, so we hope to find ways to make it feel like a joint service and to build relationship in this collaborative ministry partnership.

Elijah and Julie have put together a worship schedule to the end of November and are working with Jacque to create house group schedules as soon as possible. We decided to explore the Current Curriculum, which will take us to the start of Advent, and gives us material to use with all age groups, including worship and education.

September

1 – Julie (at McKenzie)
8 – Julie & house group
15 - Elijah
22 – Julie & Norman
29 – Julie & house group

October

6 – Elijah & Julie
13 – Julie & house group
20 - Elijah
27 – Julie & Norman

November

3 – Elijah & Julie
10 – Julie & house group
17 - Elijah
24 – Julie & Norman

Joint Coordinating Team

The committee next meets on September 19.

CE/Faith Formation/ Sunday School Report:

Survey results. As predicted, there was not a great uptake in the survey sent out in August. The survey was posted to social media and sent by email in August to 25 households with children with known Trinity connections. A subsequent email was then sent in September with a reminder. To date 6 surveys have been returned, 2 of which came through the social media prompt (one of which we think might be someone in Zambia). Those surveys suggest that a consistent schedule for children’s programming is appreciated, but that there is no commitment, even from respondents, to a weekly program. It would seem that communicating our plans would be important to the households that responded. Unsurprisingly, the respondents with children under the age of 12 expressed interest in Sunday School (one every Sunday, one twice a month, and one once a month), while those with older children encouraged a more intergenerational worship experience in general, so that if there is no separate children’s program, youth and children feel welcome. It is a very small sample, so it is impossible to know how well these opinions reflect the views of those who did not respond. Is it accurate to assume that those who did not respond are not interested at all? I would not assume that, but we cannot know.

In the meantime, Cadence Matthews has expressed a willingness to offer some Sunday School leadership. She will meet with Elijah and Julie on September 15 to make a proposal, and she will test out teaching that morning. Hopefully there will be something specific to report at the meeting. It was a positive experience yesterday and right now Cadence is excited and willing to come every week.

Group Study - This fall season we shall have a group study for those seeking adult baptism, confirmation and reaffirming their faith and commitment to God’s mission. It is scheduled to start this September 27 to October 25. The study group will meet every Friday (and time will be agreed upon feedback from participants). We are exploring different themes and subjects of interests using available resources from the Current Resources, United Church resources, and other related resources. Those interested can still reach out to the office.

UCW Report: Produce, Preserves & Pastry sale will go ahead on September 22 following worship

Property: Lift maintenance performed on both lifts. A/C was installed in the sanctuary over the summer, as well as the office. Through the week we feel cold at times so we know that it’s

working very well. Floor cleaning and polishing was a summer project that Don & Jacquie worked on together. All floors in the West Wing (including the kitchen) and flooring in washrooms and hallway leading up to the sacristy were done. Mitchell has started fall garden clean up on the south side.

South side projector in sanctuary - Despite the bulbs in both projectors being changed this summer, when the south side projector is turned on, it is giving a message to change the bulb. Also, it's not as clear and is still having issues with brightness, even though Pam has adjusted it based on feedback from the congregation. What do we do with this information/feedback?
Is there a manual reset on the projector possibly? We have no suggestions at this time!

Stewardship: The stewardship team met on September 12 and began to consider what approach they might take to education and encouragement with regards to the financial health of the church, particularly post Covid. They plan to do a financial education piece in the next newsletter, and have talked about ways to make it easy for online worship attenders to give. They will meet again on September 26 to talk further about plans for a fall campaign.

Trustees: The Trustees are considering quotes for security cameras that also include speaker options. Question brought up about the front steps? Will find out after their next meeting October 15.

Safe Workplace Task Group: A survey has gone out electronically & print version to TUC staff, key volunteer roles, tenants (BBBS and PUNS) and contacts of user groups. Completed surveys are requested to be returned by September 27. Meeting scheduled October 2 to discuss survey results and next steps.

TriniTidings: The next one is scheduled for September – deadline of September 20, go out September 27.

Prairie to Pine Region: Prairie to Pine Regional Council Online Meeting will be held on October 10 & 17 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Kelly shared some of the upcoming things the Region is involved in:

Condolences were sent on behalf of Prairie to Pine on the passing of Cathy Merrick.

September 18- River Run and Bell ringing supporting Grassy Narrows First Nation

September 20- We were made aware of the concern regarding a possible “Hands Off Our Kids” march planned in Winnipeg and other Canadian cities. There is a need to continue our affirming stance in the face of these kinds of unfortunate protest activities.

October 1-Seniors Climate Action Day

September 19-an online conversation on the evolution of intercultural music and hope, exploring our thoughts of what our music can become. (1:30-3:30)

The General Secretary of The United Church of Canada has sent a letter to our P.M. urging the country to suspend relations with Israel until it complies with the International Court of Justice, calling for an arms embargo on Israel, immediate cease fire and accountability.

Affirming Ministry: no action items at this time, except as noted above.

Membership Status Update:

New members

Transfer:

Deaths

Members:

Marlene Coltart, July 10, 2024

Adherents & Other:

Les Case, July 12, 2024

Isy Stasiuk, August 16, 2024

Candidate for Baptism

Motion: To approve the baptism Ollie Annie Talbot, daughter of Colin & Deanna Talbot

Moved by: Cassandra Pehura

Seconded by: Kelly Haapamaki

Carried

New or unfinished Business:

Closing Prayer was shared by Elijah Mwandila

Next Meeting: Wednesday October 23 at 7:00 pm

Adjournment: 9:05 pm

_____ Donna Matthews, Acting as Chair

_____ Tanis Essery, Secretary