

Trinity United Church Leadership Team Meeting
Trinity United Church
Wednesday, March 12, 2025
Held in-person Meeting Room

Present: Dianne Stevenson, Julie Baker, Stephanie Verhoeven, Elijah Mwandila, Sylvia Lyall, Cassandra Pehura, Sandra Falk, Tanis Essery, Diane Routledge, Kelly Haapamaki

Regrets: Donna Matthews, Kaylee Routledge

Call to Order 7:02pm

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 Reflection and Prayer offered by Julie Baker

Correspondence:

IPC Photo Directory – In celebration of UCC's 100th Anniversary, IPC Photo is offering to all churches specials and promotions on their photo packages (at no cost to the church). A brochure was emailed detailing the promotions and all of the information we require. They will be in the Portage area mid-April if we choose to take advantage of the opportunity. It was agreed that April is not a convenient time, and certainly too soon to be ready to do something. There was further discussion about when or whether another photo directory would be appreciated, or whether making our own commemorative book during this 100th anniversary year would be a good idea. We would consider whether to ask Esserys to help us with such a project at a future meeting. In the meantime, Sandra Falk suggested a photo booth at the centennial celebration. Tanis will ask her husband if he would take the pictures. Cassandra suggested Sunday School make signs/props for photo booth. Julie and Kelly will take the suggestion to the next meeting of the centennial planning group.

Discussions and Decisions:

Process for Elijah Mwandila

The date for the congregational meeting has been set for March 24 @ 6:30pm. The notice will go out to the congregation March 16 & 23 as Regional Council need 2 weeks and 1 day prior.

Tanis will chair the meeting. It will be in person and on zoom. Diane will check if Donna can take minutes for meeting. Pam will look after zoom.

Motion: To have congregational meeting March 24 to make motions to enter into a new call relationship with Elijah

Moved: Stephanie Verhoeven

Second: Sandra Falk

Carried

TriniTidings goes out this week. The notice of the congregational meeting March 24 @ 6:30 pm needs to go in it. Can we also advertise an Easter breakfast before church?

Finance Report:

Sandra Duchak reviewed our books to the end of December 2024. Everything was found to be in good order. However, as part of the review, and as per the Bylaws G. Congregational Life, the Manual, 2019 126 The United Church of Canada, G.4.4.4. b) examining the records of meetings of the governing body, our Leadership Team minutes should be part of the review. Sandra only looked over the financials so we do need to have a plan for how our minutes should be reviewed in the future.

Motion: to receive the February 2025 financial statements as presented

Moved: Stephanie Verhoeven

Seconded: Cassandra Pehura

Carried

M&P Report: Sandra Falk said tomorrow morning is their meeting. They will go over all the annual reviews for the staff.

Calendar Review: Julie questioned whether there would be an Easter brunch. The house group for April was suggested to coordinate it. Stephanie will check with Patti Brown if she would want to, otherwise Stephanie has offered to do it.

Joint Coordinating Team

JCT meeting was March 11. It was agreed that the fifth Sunday schedule will be shifted for the summer: March 30th- MacGregor; June 29th- MacGregor (due to the Community Service which Elijah is a part of); Aug. 31st – Trinity; Nov. 30th – Trinity

Easter- Elijah will be at MacGregor for Easter Sunday (we will trade Sundays- this is the 3rd Sunday, Apr. 20th so he will be at Trinity on the 27th)

Good Friday- Elijah will be at Trinity.

MacGregor expressed appreciation for Jacquie's help to Mary Kalberg, our bookkeeper, as Mary K is learning to use quick books for MacGregor financials.

Worship Review and Plans

Lent has begun. The theme is "What are we Growing?" and is making use of Paul's letter to the Galatians where he talks about the fruit of the Spirit. Each week we will focus on a different "fruit", and we will have an actual fruit symbol as well.

CE/Faith Formation/ Sunday School Report:

For Lent, we have been fortunate enough to have curriculum resources from another United Church to match our theme, as well as some Go Project material on the fruits of the Spirit that Tanis used a couple of years ago that can be used to enhance the material we have. So Cadence will have plenty to work with for Lent.

Group Study

The “fruit of the week” Tuesday afternoon study group has begun, with lively discussion on the weekly topics thus far. It will continue until Easter. Julie said there was 10 people yesterday.

100th Anniversary – Plans continue to come together with the planning group for the June 8 event. The team is quite excited about how things are falling into place. At the next meeting on March 19, the plan is to divide up the tasks that will require help from our various churches and volunteers. We are also planning to begin our invitation and advertising plans. Julie noted that there is a personalized invitation being created in case there are those that we would like to invite beyond the broad invitation to the congregation through emails, announcements and social media.?

UCW Report: The annual Irish Stew lunch is planned for March 16, the day prior to St. Patrick’s Day. Please help spread the word. The UCW has also agreed to lead worship on May 11 when Julie is away and Elijah is in MacGregor. They will use material provided by the national UCW to observe the United Church centennial through the lens of women’s ministries. In addition, the UCW is planning to support the Chance to Grow Petunia program, and information will be shared soon. The chair and rug for Jacquie was funded through the Verna Blight fund.

Property: We may just have come to the end of our lift woes. After several calls for servicing (latch issues and a motor replacement on level 2) we have had several good weeks of smooth operation. Our emergency lighting and smoke detector maintenance was performed and small issues taken care of (batteries, etc.) The money for the motor has been donated by a member of the congregation that is unknown, but the leadership team prepared a thank you card to be shared with that donor by Jacquie.

Trustees: The Trustees met early December. No next meeting date is planned at this time.

Safe Workplace Task Group:

Stephanie shared that we might make use of Mental Health First Aid training, with staff and identified congregation members. The task group has a meeting planned for next week and they hope to bring more of an update to our next meeting.

TriniTidings: Final touches are being put on the newsletter even now, to go out March 14.

Prairie to Pine Region: Kelly reported that resources for the centennial are starting to be shared by the national church, like music for the 100 anniversary that has been written. She also expressed appreciation that the Prairie to Pine prayer cycle is being used and shared in the announcements each week.

Affirming Ministry: None

Membership Status Update:

New members

Transfer:
Deaths

Members:

Jean Harkness, February 11, 2025

George Greenlay, February 17, 2025

Annette Lytle, March 11, 2025

Adherents & Other:

New or unfinished Business:

Hybrid meetings and tech support decision is deferred indefinitely.

Next Meeting: April 9, 2025

Closing Prayer was shared by Elijah

Adjournment: 8:34pm

_____ Tanis Essery, Chair

_____ Diane Routledge, Secretary