

Trinity United Church Leadership Team Meeting  
Trinity United Church  
Wednesday, April 09, 2025  
*Held in-person Meeting Room*

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

Regrets: Kaylee Routledge

Call to Order 7:00pm

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:

An email from Judy Hare was received requesting a reply re: International/Minority Ministers Pulpit Exchange May 04 & September 21, 2025. Elijah summarized the email to say he will be here when the pulpit exchange person is here May 4. Julie will be here for the Sept 21 date, or another date if Simba and Elijah choose. If we are hosting, we may wish to consider whether we should offer lunch in addition to regular coffee time. The UCW has a number of activities on their plate at the moment. Sandra will discuss with M&P.

A thank you noted was received from the Portage la Prairie Islamic Association for the generous hospitality in providing our facilities throughout Ramadan.

Centennial offering envelopes have been received for our use, should we wish. They were referred to the Stewardship Team, who considered them and felt the design wasn't useful and will be used by Jacquie in the office.

Discussions and Decisions:

Kyle Rushton has offered to provide handrails for the stairs up on to the chancel, if we would like them, and if we felt they would match the aesthetic. Are we interested in accepting this offer? Does this address an actual problem? Does it increase accessibility? If we did, how would design decisions get made? We will take the time to visualize the setup at the front of the church and make a decision at the next meeting.

Photo Directory Discussion – Do we want to have a centennial “year book”? It would be very difficult to find people to organize individual family photos. The centennial planning group is enthusiastically supportive of our offer to have a photo booth at the June 8 commemoration on the Island. Tanis has offered to look after a year book for Trinity. If one wants to be purchased,

it would be at cost. Pictures from the photo booth will be used for the year book and Tanis has agreed to look after the photo booth.

We have a box of “The United Church of Canada” books that were given to us as a “cluster” host for the anniversary. A suggestion was offered to leave them on the usher tables and inform congregation to help themselves. When UCW runs the service in May could be a Sunday when we do this.

We had exceptional attendance for the Congregational Meeting. Thanks to those who came and supported. Elijah reported on follow up from the meeting. There were errors with the first step on Church Hub and this has been corrected and re-submitted.

Finance Report: Donna Matthews presented the financial picture to date.

Motion: to approve the March 2025 financial statements as presented

Moved: Donna

Seconded: Stephanie

Carried

M&P Report: Sandra said they did staff interviews and it was worth the time they spent discussing matters. On behalf of M & P, she brought to leadership a question about whether there was a fund we could access to use towards books Elijah could use for research. Elijah provided a list of books he found through Amazon costing approx. \$750. It was recommended that we provide a one-time gift of \$500 to cover some of the cost and providing them as a gift so that Elijah would own the books.

Motion: to approve the expense of \$500 from the Val Garlick fund for books for Elijah as a gift from Trinity

Moved: Donna

Seconded: Kelly

Carried

Calendar Review: The building is busy as we are offering it to many groups. Easter decorations at the front (on the pulpit level – “chancel”) will need to be put away by Easter Monday. The windows and choir loft could keep decorations up for longer. Donna will avoid the chancel with the decorations.

Joint Coordinating Team: Meeting next week April 23

#### Worship Review and Plan

Coming up: Good Friday – Joint worship with McKenzie, Trinity, St. Mary’s  
Easter Celebration – Worship with Pre-service refreshments and communion  
Baptism - Possibly May 18 or May 25. 2 families have expressed interest to date  
UCW will lead worship on May 12 using material prepared by the National UCW to honour the centennial and 100 year of women’s’ ministries in the church.  
June 8 – Centennial commemoration in Island Park; no worship in Trinity building

## CE/Faith Formation/ Sunday School Report

Group Study – We are nearing the end of the afternoon tea conversation for the “fruit of the week”. Conversations have been fruitful and we varied in attendance from 7-12. The last one will happen during Holy Week next week.

100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Plans are in full swing now related to the centennial worship service and barbeque on June 8. While we were not able to receive funding from the UCC Foundation, we are glad that our partner churches have stepped up with contributions to fill the need. We will be looking for the following sorts of volunteers from Trinity as we get closer to the date:

Singers for the joint choir – the anthem has been chosen and music is available for anyone who wishes to start practicing now.

Readers for the worship service – we will be looking for confident, expressive readers who can participate in leading the worship service. \*Cassandra has offered to read.

Instrumentalists – We have an accompanist for the singing and a keyboard, but we would welcome percussionists or other instrumentalists who might enhance the music.

The idea of a photo booth was welcomed and the team would be grateful if Trinity would look after that. \*Tanis will look after this.

We will now begin looking for volunteers who would be interested in helping on June 8 with some of the logistics: moving tables and chairs (at the site – they will be delivered), hosting a name tag station, cooking or wrapping and serving food (burgers and veggie burgers etc.), prep veggie trays the day before, providing desserts (9x13 pans or 2 dozen individual), putting up posters around town, etc. Next meeting is Wednesday April 23.

\*the Leadership Team offered the excellent suggestion to have it on the radio/online.

UCW Report: UCW hosted their Irish Stew lunch and it raised \$521. As evident in the calendar, they are also involved with a number of projects at present: catering activities, worship leadership, petunia sales, etc.

Property: The boiler’s pump 4 motor (that brings heat into the parlour and BBBS offices) has been replaced; it’s the oldest pump and has served the longest.

## Trustees

### Safe Workplace Task Group

Stephanie is exploring potential for Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training for both Trinity staff as well as church volunteers/attendees and our main building partners (BBBS and PUNS). MHFA is available through Vienna Muike (local trainer).

Cost of the training is \$75 per code to complete online self-learning module one. Approx 2 hr module. \*She needs 8 people minimum to sign up to run the course online.

Costs for modules two and three are not known - will depend on if Vienna does as part of her FRC role or privately. Stephanie plans to discuss further with Vienna.

There may be an option for people to do modules two and three without doing module one (which would save the \$75 fee).

In discussion with Vienna, she has shown interest in providing this training for Trinity, either as part of her role at Family Resource Centre, or privately. Stephanie has discussed with Hans, Mary Lou, Elijah and Julie and there has been agreement this looks like it could be helpful for anyone who is interested in knowing more about mental health challenges, substance use, and how to respond in different situations. It is a significant commitment, so one question we have is if folks will be interested enough to give up a full day (or two half days) of their own time to participate. Thoughts from leadership on this? Is this idea worth further time and energy to bring a group training to Trinity? Would the leadership team support a budget for this project? (\$1000-1500 estimate)

Would it make sense to take a phased approach? Would the leadership team be agreeable to 2-3 people attending this training when next offered by Vienna to ensure it is the right fit for us? Stephanie is willing to do the training early, Julie may also depending on when it is offered. Stephanie is waiting to hear back from Vienna with dates.

\*An option would be to attend a session that is already being offered to a group. Stephanie will continue her inquiries. It was suggested that Jacquie and Julie attend first to see what they think.

TriniTidings: The next issue is scheduled to go out on May 23, with submission deadline of May 16.

#### Prairie to Pine Region

Kelly shared the following for information regarding news from the regional church:

Thoughts and prayers are extended to the family and friendship circles of Ashley Shingoose from St. Theresa Point First Nation. She was one of four victims of a serial killer.

Thinking of those who continue to be impacted by violence in many places around the world with the negative impact felt by those of actual and anticipated political action .

May 5 - Red Dress Day

May 10- Moosehide Day

On International Transgender Day of Visibility, trans, queer and allied organizations have published an open letter to each of the major political parties.

Anti- Palestinian racism in the Manitoba government, in the Education curriculum and in society are concerns presented to the Deputy Speaker by the local members of Mennonite Church Palestines/Israel Network for Justice and Peace.

May is PAR Month. Consistent monthly giving is the goal.

May 8th is a day of music with new songs and new outlooks. All are welcome to attend the Wider Assiniboine Cluster gathering at Wawanesa United Church (10-3pm).

Meadowood United presents Earthsong 2025. Registration is now open. It is a summer singing camp for adults from July 14-18th.(8:30-4pm). Early bird registration is May15.

#### Affirming Ministry

Membership Status Update:

*New members*

*Baptism*

Motion: To approve the baptisms of Araya Grace, daughter of Aleesha & Mitchel Pangilinan and Hartley Donald Ross, son of Kale & Rachelle Sissons.

Moved: Cassandra Pehura

Seconded: Sylvia Lyall

Carried

*Transfer:*

*Deaths*

Members:

Adherents & Other

New or unfinished Business:

Hybrid meetings and tech support decision is deferred indefinitely.

***Next Meeting: May 27, 2025***

Closing Prayer was shared by Elijah

Adjournment: 8:49pm

\_\_\_\_\_ Tanis Essery, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_ Diane Routledge, Secretary