

Trinity United Church Leadership Team Meeting
Trinity United Church
Wednesday, September 10
Held in-person Meeting Room

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

Regrets: Elijah Mwandila, Kaylee Routledge

Call to Order - 7:03pm

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 was offered by Julie Baker

Correspondence:

Press release regarding Centennial 100 Tables Initiative was received for information.

An in-person session of Pastoral Care Visitors training is scheduled for Saturday, September 27, 2025, at McKenzie United Church, Portage la Prairie, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The day will focus on honing the skill of active listening and discussions around Palliative Care Visiting and Medical Assistance in Dying (M.A.I.D.). Rob Reed and Barb Jardine will be joined in the facilitation of the day by one of our Hospital Chaplains, Joe Ball. Registration deadline is September 18.

This information will be shared in the bulletin and newsletter. Our grief team has recently lost most of its coordinators, so we aren't sure the future there. People accessing MAID have mostly been supported by our ministers. At this time, no one is able to attend this session, but may consider a session in the future.

The group formerly known as Portage Islamic Association has notified us of an official incorporated name change: to be known henceforth as Portage la Prairie Multicultural Muslim Community Inc.

Discussions and Decisions:

On August 26, a funeral was held in the church sanctuary with McKenzie Funeral Chapel (Amy Chappellaz as lead funeral director) and the south side projector would not turn on. It has not been functional since. After some discussion, it was agreed that rather than trying to service our current system, we need to replace it, perhaps moving towards using tv screens. After some brainstorming of possible sources of advice, it was agreed that Jacquie will be asked to do

research to find companies and people that might be willing to provide estimates for our next step.

Big Brothers / Big Sisters Suggestion/Request

A request came from Big Brothers/Big Sisters about converting the stage space into storage, with an offer to apply for grants to make that possible. Apparently there have been informal conversations about storage from a variety of sectors, but nothing official has happened.

It was agreed that the church needs to assess its own needs and desires about storage, the stage and the auditorium before such a project would be undertaken. It would be wise to bring representatives from the trustees and the UCW together with Jacquie, the ministers, and the leadership team to pool the expectations and possibilities. Donna will start the process for dialogue and will send out an invitation to have a meeting with these groups.

Property Committee Revitalization – At the last meeting we agreed to put an announcement about this starting in the fall, and that Donna and Elijah would begin work on recruitment. Donna has spoken to Mitch P who is excited to help out with our property needs, especially since he is qualified to do some of the work that we have previously had to outsource. Donna would like to put him together with Mitchell Omichinski for a conversation so that they can be on the same page. There was further brainstorming of names of individuals who might be approached to create a full team.

Finance Report:

Donna presented the current financial statements and there was conversation about the trends regarding givers and numbers of donors.

Motion: to approve the financial statements as presented

Moved: Donna

Seconded: Cassandra

Carried

M&P Report:

M & P meets tomorrow, so there is little to report. Sandra noted that a preacher exchange is happening at Trinity Sept 21 and lunch will be provided. There will be a basket for freewill offering, but not required, and we will ensure that our guests do not feel pressure to donate. Elijah has reported that the immigration process is slow, but that he has confirmation of receipt of his documentation and assurance of some extension of his current visa to accommodate delays in the process from their end, but otherwise he now must simply wait. It is an onerous process.

Calendar Review: The calendar for September and October were reviewed for information.

Joint Coordinating Team: The team has nothing to report at this time; a meeting date is set for early in October.

Worship Review and Plan

Review of Summer Service collaborations: Trinity hosted worship August 3 and 10. Trinity also participated in the joint service August 31 held at McKenzie. (Julie helped plan and lead the service, Trinity members participated in the joint choir, and also provided plentiful impressive desserts for the lunch following worship). It was agreed that loose offering from that service, as well as any money raised by the lunch would be forwarded to the First Presbyterian soup kitchen. We were glad to be able to share with them \$543.45!

Coming up in Worship:

Starting in September, we are going back to the “Current” curriculum we used last fall. This time the theme is Seeking Peace Together. There are worship and faith formation (Sunday School) resources that will take us to Advent. Elijah has spoken with house group leaders and our hope is to bring back the “readers’ theatre” participation that is offered through this curriculum as well. The proposed schedule of themes and leadership is as follows:

September 7 “Seeking Peace with God – Your Kingdom Come” (Julie – Elijah in Steinbach/Niverville)

September 14 “Seeking Peace with God – Born of the Spirit” (Julie)

September 21 “Seeking Peace with God – Vine and Branches” (Simba – Elijah to host; lunch to follow)

September 28 “Seeking Peace Within – Known and Loved” (Julie)

October 5 “Seeking Peace Within – Letting Go of Worry” – Worldwide Communion Sunday (Elijah)

October 12 “Seeking Peace Within – Peace of Heart and Mind” – Thanksgiving (Julie)

October 19 “Seeking Peace With Others – Jacob and Esau” (Elijah)

October 26 “Seeking Peace With Others – Isaac and his Neighbours” – possible baptism/confirmation (Julie)

November 2 “Seeking Peace with Others – Abigail and David” – In Memoriam (Elijah to preach; Julie to create liturgy, including In Memoriam)

November 9 “Seeking Peace with Others – Elisha and the Soldiers” (Julie)

November 16 “Seeking Peace with Creation – God Tends a Garden” (Elijah)

November 23 “Seeking Peace with Creation – Rejoicing with Creation” (Julie)

CE/Faith Formation/ Sunday School Report – Julie has been trying to be in touch with people about a plan for Sunday School this fall, but has not yet been able to catch up with people. Julie and Elijah spoke about the possibility of beginning a monthly “timbit” aged program on specific Sundays if we can find interest from parents and possible teachers.

Group Study- Julie is putting together a Faith Talk ‘confirmation/membership’ group with an aim to be ready for the baptism/confirmation date of October 26. Scheduling is going to be the most difficult part, and that’s just with the 4 who have already expressed interest! A first gathering is scheduled for Sunday Sept 14 after church.

UCW Report: No report, but a meeting is scheduled for next week.

Property:

Over the summer, maintenance was performed on both lifts. Floor cleaning and polishing was a project that was undertaken and the results are excellent. All floors in the West Wing (including the kitchen) and flooring in washrooms and hallway leading up to the sacristy were done. We can attest that the A/C installed last summer is running at optimum. We've been frozen out a time or two. The eaves troughs were cleaned out recently after the big rain storm that sent water into the nursery school's space. Before the winter comes and after the leaves have finished falling, we will go up again and clean them out in preparation for spring. Elwood McRorie has been called to come and make repairs, though no response or action taken yet. Fall servicing on our boiler is yet to be scheduled.

Stewardship: The stewardship team will meet September 15 to go over plans for the fall.

Trustees: No report

Safe Workplace Task Group:

An MHFA course for the public was held on Aug 22 all day and Julie, Jacquie and Stephanie were able to attend. Steph, Julie and Jacquie met Monday to consider other options for Trinity, as they agreed the training event was not the best fit for our needs. Steph will create a couple of process documents (health care language: "code white" type guideline) that might be used for office/staff use as well as Sunday morning congregational responses. She will then share these drafts with the staff for review before taking them to the appropriate approving body. They wondered about creating some sort of hospitality team that would have at least one person in church every Sunday who would be comfortable welcoming someone who presents with special needs (mental health or food security or addictions or or or) This idea will require more consideration.

TriniTidings: The TriniTidings interest group will meet September 12 to compile and send out the Fall issue of the newsletter.

Prairie to Pine Region

Attached is a report and statement from the summer meeting of General Council, received for information.

Affirming Ministry: The Pride parade event held in front of Trinity went very well, according to those who organized and were in attendance. It would be worth doing again, and for future reference, the fruit rollups were a hit.

Membership Status Update:

New members

Transfer:

Dorothy Kudlovich, June 30, 2025 to Hamiota United Church

Deaths

Members:

Jim Pehura, June 22, 2025

Lynn Switzer, August 20, 2025

Ed Ross, September 02, 2025

Adherents & Other:

Karen Conrod, June 26, 2025

Betty McFarlane, August 12, 2025

David McBurney, August 27, 2025

Next Meeting: Oct 14, 2025

Closing Prayer was shared by Julie Baker

Adjournment: 8:50pm

_____ Tanis Essery, Chair

_____ Diane Routledge, Secretary