

Trinity United Church Leadership Team Meeting
Trinity United Church
Tuesday, November 20, 2025
Held in-person Meeting Room

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

Regrets: Diane Routledge

Call to Order: Tanis called us to order at 6:31 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 Elijah.

Correspondence:

Discussions and Decisions:

Whoop and Hollar Folk Festival Proposal for a Collaborative Fund Raising event. As the Leadership team is aware, we were approached about the possibility of jointly offering the Red Moon Road concert as a Trinity fundraiser. After receiving responses from Leadership Team members and consultation with Linda & Mitchell Omichinski and Josh Wright, we gratefully declined the offer of collaborating as a fundraiser and will go ahead with the event as a regular rental. They have communicated with Big Brothers/Big Sisters with regards to having large signage in front of the church. Sandra shared that UCW is agreeable to provide a beverage station with coffee, tea and water as long as they can use biodegradable cups.

Motion: Sandra moved that UCW be permitted to use biodegradable cups. Seconded by Cassandra. Motion carried.

Purchase of cups is deferred to UCW and Whoop & Hollar Festival to sort out.

The projector Project. The primary objective is to replace the two aging BenQ projectors with brighter laser projectors and add a Confidence Monitor TV for the choir and ministers on the front edge of the balcony. See attached for the latest proposal / invoice from River City AV. In summary:

We have given the go ahead to proceed with Rivercity A/V for the Sharp/NEC Projectors 8300 Lumens HD Laser Projectors at a cost of \$23700 with GST/PST = \$26,544

Work will begin on Wednesday, December 03.

Motion: Donna moved that we spend the \$25,544 for the two projectors and confidence monitor TV including installation. Money to come from unspecified bequest fund. Seconded by Sylvia. Motion carried.

Property committee, via Donna, will be informed of our request for them to look after scaffolding.

Nominating – As we come to the end of the year, we need to make some plans about leadership roles and transitions. At the next annual meeting, Stephanie and Donna will complete their terms on leadership (including Donna as treasurer!). Other members of leadership may continue in their current roles. We have a few ideas for a treasurer, and Donna agreed to contact these people. There are likely two general spots to fill – Stephanie and Kaylee.

All members of the M & P committee are eligible to continue in their current roles. No need to fill any positions for the coming year.

Now that we have disbanded the structure support team, there is no plan with regards to house groups, their leadership, and scheduling for 2026. Cassandra and Sylvia (as house group leaders) are willing to coordinate the schedule for 2026.

The property team has been re-invented (yay!) while other teams have not. The grief team, for example, currently has only 1 member, with no plan about how to move forward. Iris Yuill continues to support. Does the leadership team wish to take action with regards to any of our teams or interest groups? Stewardship team has two consistent members, and two additional that come and go. We will consider sending out email/announcement re volunteer opportunities in the church in the new year.

Vision 2035 – The United Church of Canada is thinking about the global trends regarding Christianity and have invited churches to consider how to adapt to, prepare for, or even interrupt these shifts. What might Trinity do to prepare for the changes that we are already seeing? Elijah shared that nearly every United Church is experiencing decline and churches are closing within Prairie to Pine Region. The reality of downsizing is presented in Vision 2035 – however no tools or talking points shared with the congregations yet to facilitate discussions. We see this reality in our own congregation. So it is good to ask ourselves, are we putting our energy, time and money on the right things, given this reality?

Storage and Stage Discussions – A first meeting was held with user groups and representatives from church and UCW. It seems clear that there is very little interest in maintaining the stage as a “stage”. It has not been available for meeting or overflow use for some time, due to the things that are being stored there, so it has also not been used for that purpose. Auditorium overflow moves into the parlour. To the contrary, there is significant agreement that the stage should be re-purposed. Both BBBS and PUNS have given quite a bit of thought to the ways that it might be renovated to serve as a storage facility for the building. At the meeting it was agreed that a small group including PUNS, BBBS and a couple of Trinity people should meet to put together a proposal for the stage that brings together the various interests voiced at the meeting. Donna is

interested in being part of this. Julie is tasked with this from the ministerial team. First meeting not until the new year. Idea to include someone from UCW.

In the meantime, a few short term solutions were proposed to deal with the current storage concerns. Metal chairs (which are not flammable) can be moved from under the stage to some of our storage areas underneath stairwells. This can make space for some of the BBBS Wonderland supplies to move out of the auditorium coat racks to a bin under the stage. PUNS will help Trinity keep the curtain closed in a more visually acceptable way for Sundays and other church functions. The newly formed property team will be asked to attend to the bin doors under the stage for both function and aesthetics.

There were some other wonderings also raised at the meeting. Would we consider further renovations to the auditorium, including a new floor, paint, or even dividing the space horizontally to add a second floor? These suggestions seem beyond the scope of the stage group discussion and should likely be considered separate projects. For a broader renovation, the leadership team is not interested in exploring dividing the auditorium into two levels, although there is interest in looking at modernizing the space (e.g. new floor). This will be deferred until the stage has been dealt with before forming a committee to start this large project.

Joint Coordinating Team: Advent begins on a 5th Sunday of the month. Therefore Elijah will be present at Trinity for ¾ of the Advent services, and in MacGregor only 1 Sunday of Advent and the Sunday after Christmas. MacGregor hopes to join in with Trinity for the Advent theme and follow along on zoom as much as possible (with printed scripts available in the event that technology fails us). As such, Trinity and MacGregor will plan to have communion on the same day – the Sunday that Elijah is in MacGregor. This is also his year to be at Trinity for Christmas Eve, so MacGregor has plans for pulpit supply. The Coordinating team will meet again in the new year.

Worship Review and Plan

Coming up for Advent and Christmas:

Advent begins November 30 – the theme is “And peace to all on Earth”, continuing our fall emphasis on seeking peace together. We will introduce different peace symbols each week. The schedule for these services is as follows:

Advent One (November 28) – Elijah (liturgy and theme time) and Julie (preaching)

Advent Two (December 7) - Elijah (preaching) and Julie (liturgy – shared theme time) Gifts of Grace Sunday - & Sock it to (Both ministers!)

Advent Three (December 14) – Elijah in MacGregor and Julie at Trinity
Communion in both places

Advent Four (December 21) – Elijah (preaching) and Julie (liturgy and theme time)

Service of Remembrance and Hope – Julie will work with our partner churches to plan for a joint service to be held at St. Mary’s Anglican church on Tuesday, December 16 at 7 pm. The plan is to record this service for upload to our YouTube Channel for those who are unable to attend in person, or prefer to be able to access the service more than once. Elijah will plan to attend that service, but will work with MacGregor colleagues to offer a Blue Christmas service there.

Christmas Eve Service will be held at Trinity on December 24 at 7 pm. We will invite congregation members to contribute peace symbols if they wish.

Calendar Review

It is nice to see holiday events planned during late November and December.

M&P Report

Custodian position description revised and dated for October 2025.

Zoom Operator and Choir Director position descriptions do not exist, so M&P will work on these. Performance reviews will be done before February.

Finance Report and Budgeting for 2026

Motion: Donna moved that we accept the October financial report as presented. Seconded by Sylvia. Motion carried.

Working on budget but not yet ready to present to leadership.

CE/Faith Formation/ Sunday School Report – Sunday School with Cadence continues much the same as last year. She is available most Sundays. We are in the process of reviewing the new Sprouts program.

Group Study- We may have a group “reunion” of the confirmation class. No other study groups are planned at present.

UCW Report: Christmas Baking Sale is Sunday, December 14

Property: October 21 was the first meeting of the property team. Members are Mitchell Omichinski, Mitch Pangilinan, Kyle Rushton and Donna Matthews. Elijah is tasked as the ministerial team rep. We discussed various duties and projects. We investigated the noise from the boiler room and Mitch and Kyle will source the parts to fix the pumps. The light bulbs were changed in the narthex and balcony. The sanctuary light will be changed when the scaffolding is up for the projectors in December.

Stewardship: The stewardship campaign materials were distributed November 13 by mail. A stewardship Sunday is planned for this week November 23.

Trustees: a meeting with tenants is planned for Thursday, December 04.

Safe Workplace Task Group: No report.

TriniTidings: The next issue shall arrive in email inboxes tomorrow!

Prairie to Pine Region

The annual meeting of the Prairie to Pine Region was held November 13. Elijah, Kelly and Julie attended on our behalf. The speakers encouraged us to fix our eyes at the possible and focus on where we want to go. Of course, there are up-hill issues and obstacles as we visualize and head towards 2035. Selkirk United will be hosting an "in- person spring meeting" for Prairie to Pine delegates May 28-31, 2026.

A Cross -country check- in stressed the importance of making connections for our own mental well-being and engaging in the practice of praying.

Thoughts and prayers are with those who have been impacted by hurricane Melissa. Also, to those who are assisting in these areas.

Zeebu YOUTH Retreat is planned for Feb.20-22, 2026.

An on line Licensed Lay Worship Leader Training, hosted nationally by the United Learning program will cover 4 modules over a 2 year period. Trinity may wish to be on the lookout for members of our congregation who might like to get training in worship leadership for the future or times when our ministers are unavailable and pulpit supply is hard to find.

Affirming Ministry:

Membership Status Update:

New members

Transfer:

Deaths

Members:

Adherents & Other:

Miley Dawn Brown, October 20, 2025

Richard Bruce, October 24, 2025

Estelle Bruce, November 15, 2025

Next Meeting: Dec 18 at 6:30 pm (Elijah will not be in attendance due to service in MacGregor)

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

_____ Tanis Essery, Chair

_____ Stephanie Verhoeven, Acting-Secretary