

Trinity United Church Leadership Team Meeting
Trinity United Church
Monday, January 05, 2026
Held in-person Meeting Room

Present: Tanis Essery, Donna Matthews, Sandra Falk, Steph Verhoeven, Julie Baker, Diane Routledge, Sylvia Lyall, Kelly Haapamaki

Regrets: Elijah Mwandila, Cassandra Pehura, Kaylee Routledge

Call to Order: 7:01 p.m.

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 shared by Julie Baker

Correspondence:

Letter of Thanks from Whoop & Hollar re: Trinity's support in putting on the Red Moon Road Concert

Discussions and Decisions:

The projector Project. Two projectors have been installed to replace our old projectors. A TV has been installed on the front of the balcony for the choir and worship leaders to be able to see. These screens all match the computer in the sound booth. Technology is in place to add a further overflow screen if desired. River City AV is open to a 2026 project that revamps our streaming/online system from the old iPhone cameras to more efficient cameras and software. The property committee looked after installing and removing scaffolding for the project. Thanks to them for their support and efforts! Thanks to Donna for giving so much time to the project.

Nominating

House Group Scheduling report for 2026 - the schedule for the year has been sent out by email from Cassandra. All house groups have leaders, except house group D. We believe that house Group D has been made aware of this gap, but we do not know what step will be next.

Update with regards to recruitment of treasurer. Donna has been in contact with a number of people and she has not had positive responses. This may need to be a priority for the team going forward. We had agreed to focus on leadership team members, stewardship and grief team early in the New Year, so we will begin work on that now, and add it to next month's agenda for decision making. In the meantime, leadership team is asked to keep an eye out for possible candidates for leadership team, particularly treasurer.

Annual Meeting Date – We tentatively set March 15 2026 as the annual meeting date. Sandra will talk to UCW about plans for Irish Stew Sunday. One option is to combine the events and have the meeting after lunch. Another option is to shift the Irish Stew to March 22.

Sunday Support Team (see attached proposal drafted by Stephanie) – It was agreed that this approach to Sunday morning guests who come with needs beyond the usual worship expectations is a good start. Stephanie will try to gather some people to create a team for this. She will then have discussions with the ministers so that we can act on it, as we currently have someone who appears to be coming fairly regularly Sunday mornings who would benefit from this team approach.

Joint Coordinating Team: no report

Worship Review and Plan

Advent Review/Christmas Plans

Gifts of Grace/Sock it To Ya' resulted in \$140 gift cards, 273 pairs of socks, 4 recyclable bags and 4 good sized boxes of non-perishable food donations (including 7 jars of peanut butter!) & 7 boxes of toys, that didn't include 8 sets of Lego!

Communion was held on Dec 14 rather than being scheduled for Christmas Eve. We received no feedback about not having communion on Christmas Eve, which was the tradition for many years until the pandemic, so we assume that all was well in that regard.

Service of Remembrance and Hope was **not** held on December 16, due to hazardous weather conditions. Rather than trying to reschedule, the ministers from McKenzie, St. Mary's and Trinity (Julie) got together on a snowy morning and recorded a version that could be shared online. It is on Trinity's YouTube channel. While it was disappointing that an in person event was not held, we did hear that having something online was appreciated.

Christmas Eve Service was held at Trinity on December 24 at 7 pm. Feedback about the Christmas Eve service was quite good – we believe we had approximately 175 people in attendance.

New Year – as Julie and Elijah are both taking some time off in January, the worship schedule is as follows:

December 28 – Julie

January 4 - Elijah

January 11 - Julie

January 18 - Elijah

January 25 – Julie

Calendar Review

M&P Report Sandra missed the last meeting due to illness, so Diane Stevenson chaired meeting. They've assigned committee members for each employee to do evaluation. This should be done

for next meeting Feb 12. Pulpit supply will be required for May 31, when Julie and Elijah will be at the Prairie to Pine Regional Meeting, and Sylvia is already reaching out to possible candidates.

Finance Report and Budgeting for 2026

Donna presented the budget report. December offerings did not meet the budget. The yearend will be in a substantially larger deficit than projected for a couple of reasons: 1) offerings did not meet our budgeted income by a rather larger amount 2) a substantial error was made in projecting expenses for 2026, when we only budgeted 1.5 ministers' salaries instead of 2 full time salaries. We did budget income including the revenue from MacGregor for a half time minister. Unfortunately, this means that both 2025 and 2026 financial pictures will have extremely large deficits to deal with, and decisions about where that money should come from. Donna will be calling together the investment team to determine where we should access the funds, and whether we should budget \$50 000 from Investing in Our Future as part of the income for the 2026 budget.

Motion to accept the financial report: Diane

Seconded: Sylvia

Carried

CE/Faith Formation/ Sunday School Report-no report

Group Study- no report

UCW Report: Their Christmas gathering was a lunch at Herman Prior. They made a donation to Service for Seniors.

Property: We continue to experience issues with our boiler. Cobbes has been in to repair pump 3 valves and bearings, and there was air in the lines for pump 4, but that has now been bled and the pump is functioning properly. Our property team has been an invaluable asset, not only helping us troubleshoot ongoing boiler problems but also assisting with repairs. They also met last week to set up and take down the scaffolding needed for the installation of our new projectors.

Storage and Stage Use Report-no report

Stewardship: no report

Trustees: no report

Safe Workplace Task Group: no report

TriniTidings: no report

Other Interest Groups:

Cuba in Crisis 2026 – After conversation with Elijah, Mitchell Omichinski has put out a call for donations for a trip he is taking (with Josh Wright & Linda) the end of January with *Food, Farms and Forests* – Cuba in Crisis 2026. Donations (items will directly go to small-scale organic farmers and organizations) are to be collected by January 28. Items requested include seeds, tools (i.e. multipurpose tool), work clothing (i.e. work gloves), personal care items (i.e. big toothpastes), medicines (i.e. Tylenol), rechargeable lights, small appliances, modest income support. Donations will be received on Sundays and through the week (in the office). Financial donations cannot go through Trinity.

Prairie to Pine Region

Kelly offered the following report of information from Prairie to Pine:

Give thanks to those who work to educate the public on issues, political will and resources to address global problems.

Thoughts and prayers for people who will have a challenging holiday season. Some communities of faith will be offering chances for people to gather for Blue Christmas services.

Refer to the current edition of E-ssentials. Subscriptions are available. See report "Toward 2035 and the Strategic Plan for 2026- 2028, Giving Tuesdays and Kairos Palestine Webinar

See new resource for "Toward 2035" -download from General Council website. Churches are encouraged to use these resources.

"Budgeting Tools for Treasures" available from United Church of Canada

Short reminders of the history for the Centennial Year continued by Gayle Simonson. She has written 52 -100 word vignettes for use in our own communities.

Access Moderator's Advent Message for 2025 from the General Council Communication Team.

Week of Prayer runs Jan. 18th-25th for Christian Unity 2026. See weekofprayer.ca for FREE resources.

Read the newsletter from the United Network for Justice and Peace in the Middle East for our understanding of the complex path of peace in Palestine and Israel.

Please support the Centennial Legacy Campaign (Ministry into the Future)

Affirming Ministry: no report

Membership Status Update:

New members

Transfer:

Deaths

Members:

Mabel "Ilien" Boyachek, December 24, 2025

Adherents & Other:

Robert (Bob) Ross McKibbin, December 16, 2025

Next Meeting: Thursday, Feb 12, 2026 @ 6:30 p.m.

Reflection and Closing Prayer was led by Julie Baker

Adjournment-9:13 p.m.

_____ Tanis Essery, Chair

_____ Diane Routledge, Secretary

Appendix: Sunday Support Team (SST) Proposal

This is a proposed response to situations where people with a variety of circumstances and needs choose to come into our building during Sunday services. These situations create both challenges and opportunities for the congregation to live out our mission goal: “open our hearts and minds to welcome each person as a child of God.”

People coming into the church on Sunday mornings (outside of the regular attendees) are sometimes wanting to participate in worship and sometimes are seeking support or assistance with an issue they are facing. Examples include people seeking a place to warm up in winter (or possibly to cool down in summer); people needing something to eat or drink; people looking for socialization/someone to talk to; people living with mental illness and/or addiction; people with a medical issue.

Most often, the folks who come to Trinity respond well to a kind and compassionate response. While anyone could potentially provide this, it is recognized that some people are more comfortable with/suited to approaching people that present with more challenging situations or personalities. With the most recent situation of an individual with complex mental health and social circumstances, it seems evident that a team approach might be effective – thus the idea to establish a “Sunday Support Team.” In fact, some of us have already started an informal response using this team approach.

If approved, the SST would be made up of Trinity folk who would agree to take turns being present at church on Sunday mornings (from about 10 AM to 1230 PM). The role would involve both proactively looking for situations where engaging early with someone would be helpful but also be identified as a person that folks could call upon if the situation arises. The job would be to meet people where they are at, remain calm and friendly, be willing to leave the sanctuary with the individual, if need be, offer food/beverage as appropriate, and call for assistance if the situation warrants. The core values guiding the SST are kindness, compassion, respect, and safety (there may be others; this is just a first draft!)

The team together with a minister would meet every 1-2 months to discuss the situations that are arising, what is working well, what challenges are coming up that require dialogue or further training, debriefing, etc. If ministers are aware of specific people that come into the church during the week, and then start to show up at church, they could share this information with the SST members ahead of time, to help prepare for situations team members might encounter. Further role clarity would develop as the team members are identified and at a first meeting.

I am willing to take a coordinating role in recruiting team members and getting a schedule in place. I would seek support from one or both ministers to establish a structure for the team to function starting as soon as possible.

Submitted by Stephanie Verhoeven