

Trinity United Church Leadership Team Meeting
Trinity United Church
Thursday, February 12, 2026 6:30 p.m.
Held in-person Meeting Room

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

Call to Order: 6:30 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:

Discussions and Decisions:

Greg Cochrane joined the meeting on behalf of the Investment Team

Given our projected deficit, the investment team had been asked to recommend what to spend and what to keep saving. Greg reported that if we continued to budget with large deficits, we will spend all of our investments within 5 years. For 2025 we need to find \$50 000 to cover the deficit, and 2026 will require approximately \$100 000 from our investments to cover costs.

Greg offered to convene a small group of representatives from M & P, Leadership, Trustees, Stewardship to think about financial viability and a plan for sustainability. There may be difficult conversations, but there also needs to be imagination, creativity, and a clear vision of how we see the church in the future. What about Trinity matters? How will we pay for that? At this point it was agreed that ministers not be part of the group so that there can be honest discussions about ministry staff costs. Greg will recruit the members of the team, but Tanis will also invite congregation members to consider whether they would be interested when she gives her report on Sunday. It is hoped that we will be able to tell the Annual Meeting that a group has been created and that it has a plan for a first meeting, if they have not yet met.

Theft Incident – On Saturday Jacquie realized that our sanctuary laptop had been stolen. We suspect that it happened during the week, when someone was heard upstairs and went out the north door without being seen. We also had an incident the day before when Shane Myran was in the church and \$20 went missing. We need to replace the laptop, as it is used every Sunday for zoom worship.

Motion: In light of a recent incident involving theft, and in order to uphold the safety, trust, and well-being of our church community, Shane Myran will be restricted from church property.

Moved: Stephanie

Seconded: Sylvia

Carried.

Jacquie will share this decision with Shane verbally. If this method is not effective, we will provide a no trespass letter that can be provided in print. It was suggested that we share this decision with the safety officers who will be working across the street.

The projector Project - 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. It was agreed that we will table this conversation for a few months (closer to the summer) when we start to get a handle on our financial situation.

A donation of \$10 000 has been made to the church for new auditorium chairs. Who would be responsible for sourcing and purchasing said chairs?

It was agreed that the most efficient way of doing this would be to recruit 1 person who is good at sourcing things. Stephanie will contact Sandy Bazin to ask if she would be willing to source replacement chairs.

Nominating -

House Groups - 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. Of note: House Group D has been assigned April, which means that their first Sunday is Easter (April 5, the last Sunday of Spring Break), which will have the added duties of communion, and perhaps an Easter Breakfast, if one is to be planned.

It was agreed that House Group D will need help in both April and December. Sylvia is willing to help, and will consider coordinating the Easter breakfast. Kelly offered to help as needed. Stephanie will talk with Jacquie to see about recruiting people to fill the house group roles for April. Stephanie was clear that she is not willing to be the house group leader going forward.

Treasurer – We have had no positive responses, and Donna’s position is coming to an end quickly. Leadership Team vacancy – We have two vacancies to fill.

Grief Team – is operating as a team of one.

We will take the leadership team and treasurer vacancies to the annual meeting for suggestions on how to fill our vacancies. We noted that we have a similar issue with regards to leadership that we have with finances. What is the vision for our church? What do we need to do to make people feel like the church is important enough to give their time to its leadership?

Worship Review and Plan

Lent begins on February 22. The following is a summary of plans thus far:

Lenten Theme: Finding a Balance Theme scripture text – Matthew 22:36-40

February 22 –communion Elijah in MacGregor, Julie in Portage

Finding a Balance - Love God with all your heart

March 1 - Wilma in MacGregor, Elijah (sermon) and Julie (Liturgy) in Portage

Finding Balance - Love God with all your soul (theme time keeping balance/falls)

March 8 -Elijah in MacGregor, Julie in Portage

Finding Balance - Love God with all your mind (theme time balancing scales)

March 15 – **Trinity Annual Meeting** MacGregor?, Elijah (sermon) and Julie (liturgy) in Portage

Finding Balance - Love your neighbour (theme time balance in sport)

March 22 – **Irish Stew Lunch** Elijah in MacGregor, Julie in Portage
Finding Balance - Love yourself (Theme time: solitaire balance games)
March 29 – **Palm/Passion Sunday** Elijah in MacGregor, Julie in Portage
April 3 – **Good Friday**; collaboration services Elijah in MacGregor; Julie in Portage
April 5 – **Easter Sunday** Elijah and Julie both in Portage, Wilma in MacGregor

Angela Roulette is willing, available, and interested in offering herself as a guest speaker to our congregation on a Sunday morning. She is thinking a 20 minute time period, speaking on peace and reconciliation. It was suggested that we take her up on this offer – perhaps in June. Would she be available on the 21st, or would a different day be better? Julie will connect with Angela in this regard.

Calendar Review

Joint Coordinating Team:

The coordinating team share the following information:

The Annual Meeting dates have been coordinated, with awareness of Elijah's schedule:

MacGregor – Sun. March 8th (storm date: March 22nd)

Trinity – Sun. March 15th

Fifth Sunday schedule will be as follows:

March 29th- Elijah will be in MacGregor

May 31st- Prairie to Pine Regional Meeting (pulpit supply at both churches)

Aug. 30th- Joint summer services in Portage (MacGregor to also join)

Nov. 29th – Elijah will be at Trinity

MacGregor will let Wilma Shirriff know that we will be sharing a Lenten theme with Trinity, as she will be offering pulpit supply in MacGregor during Lent.

Holy Week – This year Elijah is scheduled to be with MacGregor on Good Friday (April 3) and will be at Trinity for Easter Sunday (April 5)

Our collaborative ministry agreement requires that Trinity and MacGregor hold joint M & P committee meetings once a year. A meeting is planned for Thursday, Feb. 26th at 10:00 a.m. at Trinity Church.

Elijah will be travelling to South Africa for graduation in 2026, with information to come as soon as possible.

Annual Meeting

March 15 2026 is the annual meeting date. A call for annual report submissions has gone out. Reports due by Monday, February 23.

We need to make sure that Pam is available to host zoom for that meeting. Tanis will email Pam.

We need to have a secretary. Diane will do that.

We need to have someone available to move microphones around. Cassandra will do that.

M&P Report- Sandra reported that they have completed all the annual reviews of the staff, but have not yet evaluated them. As per the requirement to meet with MacGregor M & P annual, a meeting is scheduled for Feb 26 at Trinity.

Finance Report and Budgeting for 2026

Motion: to shift the expenditure for the projectors to the Memorial Fund from the UBF.

Moved: Donna

Seconded: Stephanie

Carried.

As noted earlier, our 2026 expenses are projected to be in excess of \$100 000 over our income. It was agreed that we should proactively include \$50 000 from our investments as part of the budgeted income.

Motion: to move \$12 500 from the Investing in Our Future Fund to the Operating Budget in each of March, June, September and December.

Moved: Donna

Seconded: Sylvia

Carried.

Motion: to approve the draft budget as presented with a deficit of \$59 000.

Moved: Donna

Seconded: Cassandra

Carried.

Donna will present this budget to the annual meeting with the support of the leadership team. It is hoped that Greg's group will be part of the response to the budget.

Motion: to accept the financial report as presented

Moved: Donna

Seconded: Stephanie

Carried.

Motion: to approve the replacement of the stolen laptop, and to use funds of \$599 plus tax from the memorial fund.

Moved: Donna

Seconded: Kelly

Carried.

CE/Faith Formation/ Sunday School Report-no report

Group Study – Julie and Elijah shared their plans for a Lenten study as follows:

Finding a Balance Afternoon Tea

Tuesdays 1:30 – 3 pm Trinity Family Room

On Tuesday afternoons though Lent, come and have tea and conversation with Julie (& Elijah?) about the challenges of living in a world of extremes and either/ors. Is there a different way? How can you find a balance? No preparation is required, and you do not have to attend all sessions. Come when you can, and join in as you are able. Topics may take us in any direction, but we will start with what is listed below:

February 24 Where is the balance between abundance and frugality? Taking seriously and holding lightly? It's not just about stuff, but it is about stuff. It's also about wanting more and better, but at the same time appreciating what is. What is a balance?

March 3 Where is the balance between stability and change? We may not like change, but we need variety. Then again there is so much appeal to the certainty of tradition. Is there a balance? Is there a link here between the balance we might strike between faith and science? How do we put these things together?

March 10 Can we discover a balance between structure and flexibility? When do we need a schedule and when can we go with the flow? Is it related to the balance of planning ahead and being present to the moment?

March 17 We can't be completely independent, as much as we might wish to. Where is the balance as we try to figure out what it means to be an individual and part of a community? How do we balance meeting our needs and meeting the needs of others?

March 24 What is the balance between accountability and mercy? When do we hold ourselves and others responsible, and where do compassion and forgiveness fit in?

March 31 During holy week, it is a good time to consider the balance between taking a stand and building consensus. When do you need to exhibit confidence, and when is it time for humility? How do our values tip the balance?

UCW Report- There was no meeting in January, but a meeting is scheduled for later in February. The Irish stew will be held March 22nd.

Stewardship: The team met February 12 and discussed many of the things noted by the Investment team with regards to the financial situation. They plan to meet again soon to consider what sort of stewardship theme to use to promote giving this year. They signed thank yous to include with income tax receipts.

Safe Workplace Task Group- Steph met with Julie and Jacquie in the fall and agreed to draft a plan for working alone – or a code system for unexpected situations. She has not yet completed that, but will do so before her term on Leadership is completed. She raised the question about whether the group needs to continue, as they have not met for a very long time. The M & P committee is still raising questions about staff safety and wondering about the status of the plan with regard to cameras. It seems that all plans in this regard are stalled.

Sunday Care Team- As per the proposal presented to Leadership in January, Stephanie has coordinated a group and it currently has 7 members. She has also created a schedule to the end of March that appoints 2 people each week. Steph has created guidelines with ideas on how to deal with various situations and how they might use the buddy system. Tanis will be speaking about this group this Sunday, and we will evaluate how it is working as we go along.

TriniTidings: Next issue goes out in March. Submissions due by March 06 and compiling and sending out March 13. This will give us a chance to advertise Irish Stew.

Property:

- The taps in the women's washroom were reset at 15 secs running time
- Interior door was rehung so that it now closes securely, reducing drafts and improving temperature control
- The remote auto switch over top of the exterior office door was relocated to improve accessibility
- Access Lifts completed the semi-annual scheduled maintenance on both lifts

Storage and Stage Use Report- In late January a small group met that would represent the interests of BBBS, PUNS, TUC and Trinity UCW in putting together a proposal and sourcing funding for the project. Julie wore the TUC hat, so it would be appropriate for the Leadership team to name a representative to this group if someone were interested and available. A general plan for the stage use was agreed upon, with 5 storage rooms across the stage, adding 3 between the two that are currently on either side. Wheelchair accessible sized lockable doors will be on 2 of the rooms, while a double door will be on the third, to accommodate large stored items, (such as the mats that are currently there). Lighting will be added to each storage room. A walk way sized space will remain between the rooms and the front of the stage to allow access to each of the rooms, and an elevated area for any speaker who might be addressing those in the auditorium. Everything will be painted to match, including the beams that currently surround the stage opening. The curtains will no longer be necessary and will be removed. Note: One special extra feature will be included: ceilings are being added to each of the storage rooms with safety ratings to allow them to become a floor for an upper level "sensory" room. While that room will be a separate project for later, the hope is that any work done on the stage will not need to be changed in order to make the next step possible. One of the nursery school families includes a contractor, who has been given these specifications, and has been asked to put together a proposal (with drawings!) as well as cost estimates. Dawn and Cory will look for funding sources and the grant application deadlines to help us make a timeline.

Trustees - no report

Affirming Ministry – no report

Prairie to Pine Region

Kelly provided the following report from the Region:

- Black History is being commemorated this month. Thanks to all ministry personnel and lay leaders of black heritage, past and present who shares gifts and skills within our Regional Council.
- See the virtual exhibition called, "Here from the Beginning." It is a celebration of faith, history and community that showcases the contributions and experiences of Black People within the United Church.
- Thoughts and prayers are offered in the tense and uncertain happenings in the U. S., Greenland and Norway.
- The Regional Council meeting will be held in person on May 28-31, 2026 at Selkirk United Church. Registration is \$200.00.
- A vigil was held to mark the National Day of Remembrance and Action against Islamophobia.
- The Nominating Committee is now looking to fill the positions of those who have completed their terms serving on various commissions and committees of the Prairie to Pine Region. Please consider accepting a role within the Regional Council. See website for details to contact members of the nomination teams.
- Request made for the regional website for any rural blogs by rural churches
- Youth and Young Adults Collective 2026 is happening this year – do we have anyone who we could encourage to go?

Membership Status Update:

New members

Transfer:

Deaths

Members:

Adherents & Other:

Shirleen Henry, January 10, 2026

Carol Fraser, January 14, 2026

Next Meeting: March 25, 2026 6:30pm (note the change in time)

Reflection and Closing Prayer was led by Elijah

Adjournment 9:11 p.m.

_____ Tanis Essery, Chair

_____ Diane Routledge, Secretary