

Trinity United Church Leadership Team Meeting
Trinity United Church
Wednesday, March 25, 2026 6:30 p.m.
Held in-person, Meeting Room

Present: Donna Matthews, Sandra Falk, Sylvia Lyall, Elijah Mwandila, Julie Baker, Cassandra Pehura, Diane Routledge

Regrets: Kelly Haapamaki

Call to Order 6:33 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 - Elijah

Correspondence:

Letter received from The Monarchists League of Canada introducing themselves and sharing what they're about.

Harvey & Marlene Coltart's family is looking to find a special home for their reupholstered 80-year-old antique couch and chair. Given that they were very connected to Trinity, the set has been offered to us, delivery included.

Discussion followed: Do we want it and where would we put it? Sylvia thought of replacing the family room couch with them. Sandra wasn't sure if it will suit the family room and there was concerns about the durability in a room for children? Sandra suggested we accept the offer, see if they fit our space and if they don't work, contact Jocelyn to return them. For now, Julie will ask for the chair and measurement of the couch and then go from there.

Invitation from the Regional Council with regards to the Self Assessment process was received: The Committee on Community of Faith Support is inviting representatives from the governing bodies of each Community of Faith to gather online on Wednesday, April 22, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. to have a conversation about self-assessments and their function either to enable places who have yet to complete them to get clarification on how to do so or places who will be engaging their second self-assessment in the coming years.

We will pass on this opportunity, as we did one just last year.

Discussions and Decisions:

Little Library Request

The Girl Guide Pathfinder group is seeking approval to install a lending library box outside of Trinity on the grassy patch just beyond the bike rack, beside the nursery school entrance. They have proposed that Girl Guides will take responsibility for construction and maintenance of the

library (i.e. filling the library as an ongoing community service project) and will take on the responsibility to have it removed once it is no longer required (sand & gravel will be used to secure its base). As part of the library, they're also looking at incorporating a geocache, with the option to give location information. They would like to add historical information about Trinity, as well as a little Guiding information. Their timeline is April to construct the library and May/June for installation.

Tanis and Cassandra think it's a great idea. Mitchell should be asked if the location will work because of the water that ends up there. Donna mentioned that before they dig a hole to install, hydro, shaw needs to be notified.

Motion: Cassandra

that we give approval to the Girl Guides for this project, provided they take responsibility for it ie vandalism and repair etc, and provided that a conversation is held with Property in advance (Mitchell Omichinski) to ensure that things are installed properly.

Seconded: Donna

Carried

Vision 2035 –Trinity's Think Tank and Wellness Task Group

Greg Cochrane has started coordinating the group and is scheduling a meeting on April 5 (Easter) after church. This meeting is open to all who would like to share some ideas on the future ministry path of Trinity. The Investment Team is focused primarily on the subject that concerns the finances of the church given the deficit budgets we have had (having). It seeks to respond to the deficit and challenges it poses to the ministry within the next 5 years. It might be noted that there has been considerable feedback from people who would be interested in attending if the meeting was not Easter Sunday. Greg is aware of the conflict in dates, but has said he "just wants to get something started".

Elijah explained the Vision 2035 and how we need to do an assessment of ourselves. Something to note is that, although this group is meeting to discuss the financial part of Trinity's ministry, it falls under the category of the "Toward the Vision 2035" of The United Church of Canada. We might need to broaden our conversation to meaningfully respond to the challenges The United Church is facing, and particularly, Trinity. Are there ways we can create such conversations around this gathering? Can we speak of wellness broadly rather than singling out one aspect at this meeting? How can we participate in interrupting the patterns that affect the viability of ministry of The United Church, particularly, Trinity Congregation? We need to see "where did we do right" and "where did we do wrong" in the past and what we need to change in the future. What are we not doing what others are doing? Donna will be attending the first meeting.

The Projector Project

The remote controls to operate the projectors have not worked reliably since the projectors were installed. Jacquie called Paul at RiverCity A/V and he recommended changing the batteries, which has been done. While Jacquie believes it helped the problem, Max still had issues with turning them on and off on Sunday. To have RiverCity back in to address the issue will be a big job (scaffolding set-up required to access the projectors).

Sylvia suggested if it's the remote, can they not simply be replaced? We're not exactly sure what the problem is? We will buy more batteries for now and discuss at the next meeting if it's still a problem.

Update on Purchase of Auditorium Chairs

A donation of \$10 000 has been made to the church for new auditorium chairs. Stephanie was in touch with Sandy Bazin who has agreed to source a couple of chair options for us. She does not want to be responsible for the whole task of ordering, receiving etc. She would, however, be willing to go through the old chairs to determine which ones we keep and which can be thrown out. She also suggested separating out old chairs for BBBS to use with the kids for crafts, since they get glitter glue, etc. on the chairs, which would be a wise plan, particularly when new chairs arrive. Stephanie and Sandy discussed a timeline of ordering by June to have the chairs by the fall. Stephanie offered to look at Sandy's suggestions and willing to provide her opinion.

Nominating/Vacancies

The annual meeting provided no new conversation with regards to our vacancies. House Group D still does not have a leader (Stephanie has been filling in the chart as house group members have volunteered for April, but she is very clear that she is not taking on leadership for the group – she noted that Lori's house group report suggested erroneously that she was doing that.) We have two vacancies on the leadership team, plus the treasurer position that Donna needs to leave ASAP. The grief team is not our highest priority, but is operating as a team of one.

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? What can we do?

Nobody has any ideas. Maybe something will arise after Easter Sunday's meeting.

Julie will talk to Max to join the leadership group. He has signed up to do zoom for a few Sundays in April.

Worship Review and Plan

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. Plans for the Easter breakfast have advanced. We will also have special music organised by Josh Wright in collaboration with Elijah and Julie.

April 12 –Julie

April 19 –Elijah

April 26 –Julie

May 3 – **Proposed Baptism Sunday** Elijah and Julie both in Portage.

Update on Angela Roulette:

Angela Roulette agreed to come as guest speaker on June 21. We will confirm with her again in April to ensure that the date remains possible for her (we had offered any convenient date for her in June as June 21 is Indigenous people's day).

Calendar Review

Joint Coordinating Team:

The coordinating team will meet on April 30.

Update on Elijah' Trip to South Africa: Elijah will not be travelling to South Africa for graduation in 2026. The graduation has been scheduled for April 2027 so that he fulfils all the practicalities leading to graduation this year. More information will come as soon as possible.

M&P Report: Sandra reported on the safety policy. Mary Lou presented to the committee the emergency response plan for staff, should a dangerous situation arise. The church staff have begun working with it. The 'work alone' policy has not been reviewed by staff yet. The emergency response policy will be sent out by email for leadership to review and will be discussed / approved at the next meeting. The 'work alone' policy included having a camera at the door, but there seems to be inconsistency in the responses about why a camera / intercom system has not been found that would work in our location. The M&P committee will continue to pursue this, as they feel a strong responsibility for making sure staff are working in a safe environment. Suggestions included speaking to the schools about their systems and the security safety group for the city.

Sandra also reported an oversight from the budgeting process. Unfortunately Pam did not get the cost of living increase in her salary (amounting to \$1.55/week). Sandra has notified Jacque about this and the corrections will be made.

Motion: Sandra

To approve the cost of living increase in our payment to our Sunday zoom hosts.

Seconded: Sylvia

Carried,

Dianne Stevenson will take over as chair for the M & P Committee in June. Sandra will remain as a member of the committee.

Finance Report: Donna shared the finance statements (as attached).

Julie received a suggestion from the stewardship team asking if it might be possible to show the investment section of the report in an easier to understand format.

Motion: Donna

to accept the finance report as presented.

Seconded: Cassandra

Carried

CE/Faith Formation/Sunday School:

Cadence has been very dedicated preparing for a small group of extremely varied ages, and has been trying to respond to whoever might show up. Some days it works well, but on other days she has been quite frustrated. And then some days she is not required at all!

Group Study:

Finding a Balance Afternoon Tea has been meeting on Tuesdays through Lent with an attendance between 3 and 8. The final session will be March 31.

UCW Report: UCW met in March and hosted a successful Irish Stew Lunch March 22. Yum!

Stewardship: The March 18 meeting was deferred to a later date due to the quorum.

Safe Workplace Task Group: Together with the CSOs, Jacquie has issued Shane Myran with a barring notice and he has signed it.

Sunday Care Team: The care team schedule has been created to the end of April. They have found themselves engaged with visitors most Sundays so far.

TriniTidings: The Lent edition went out mid-March. For the first time, the electronic version went out on a Monday, to separate it from the weekly announcements that go out on Fridays. It is hoped that this will encourage digital subscribers to notice the difference and also not leave it unopened.

Property:

- The taps in the women's washroom were reset at 15 secs running time
- The emergency exit light was somehow bumped and hung sideways but has now been set right.
- Moon Construction removed the snow bank in front of the church, as well as scraped down the ice ridge at the east of the parking lot that was making entering the lot unsafe.
- Our next project is to repair a small bubble flooring issue in BBBS first office.

Storage and Stage Use Report: The group is still waiting to receive contractor's proposals and estimates.

Trustees: no report

Affirming Ministry: no report

Prairie to Pine Region: Kelly provided the following report from the Region:

Our World Council of Churches (WCC) with regional partners hold the people of Iran, Israel and surrounding countries in thoughts and prayers. The military attacks of Isreal and U.S. on Iran have added so much anxiety in the world while the war of Russia and Ukraine has dragged on.

Reminder of the Regional Council 2026 Prairie to Pine meeting to take place May 28-31 at Selkirk United Church.

Find resources for Stewardship: Encouraging Generosity in the Your Community from the National Church Contact Sarah Giles; Blog post sgiles@unitedchurch.ca "All things giving and generosity"

Grandmothers are leading with love in Kenya as they are raising their grandchildren while grieving children of their own. Please support Mission and Service partnerships.

Bequests and Estate Planning course is FREE until June. Contact Sarah Giles...contact to connect or book a time to meet in person.

Our Moderator's Easter Message is available for pre-viewing and pre-planning. (See letter from the United Church)

Membership Status Update:

New members

Transfer:

Deaths

Members:

Adherents & Other:

Next Meeting: April 22 @ 6:30 p.m.

Reflection and Closing Prayer - Julie

Adjournment 8:11 p.m.

Tanis Essery, Chair

Diane Routledge, Secretary