

Trinity United Church Leadership Team Meeting
Trinity United Church
Wednesday, April 22, 2026, 6:30 p.m.
Held in-person, Meeting Room

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

Regrets:

Call to Order 6:35 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 led by Julie Baker

Correspondence:

Discussions and Decisions:

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. Information has been shared about the size and shape of the furniture. Coltarts want to deliver only once. It has been suggested that if we don't know where to put it, we should decline. Decision: We can put the furniture upstairs in the sanctuary as part of the family welcome area (parents could sit there when kids are at the activity table, etc., it would enhance refreshments like Easter Breakfast, etc.) if we wished. Otherwise, we would decline the offer.

The decision from the majority of the leadership group was that the gift will be declined. Julie will communicate with Jocelyn Coltart.

Update on Girl Guide Little Library: The Girl Guide Pathfinder group has been notified that they can go ahead with their little library project, but first will need to speak to Property (Mitchell). Jacquie will arrange with hydro and Shaw to have the area surveyed.

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

April 5th Trinity Legacy meeting was very well attended and some good ideas were shared. We knew going in that the 1st meeting was going to be a mix of getting people to understand the economic situation we are considering and ideas being shared that we can move forward with. Some immediate take aways were to have suggestion boxes around the church for people who can't attend meetings or aren't comfortable sharing ideas in a meeting environment.

The largest take away in Greg's opinion was the people in the room would much rather Trinity find ways to increase revenue than decrease expenses. In other words looking for new sources of income generation.

It was also noted that people who had hoped to attend the meeting were unavailable on the 5th and a follow up meeting is planned but has not been scheduled at this time. Greg hopes to get a meeting request out this week.

As one who attended the meeting, Donna reported that the attendance was quite good, especially given that it was Easter. Suggestion boxes are located at Jacquie's desk and upstairs in the sanctuary. Elijah made an announcement about the boxes this past Sunday.

Worship Review and Plan

Feedback with regards to Easter Sunday:

Attendance Easter Sunday was good – close to 100 people by best estimation. The cleanup took a little more time because of the small communion cups, but having an extra serving station for musicians seemed to help the flow. Thank you to Sylvia and Sue for looking after the breakfast.

Coming up in Worship:

May 3 – Proposed Baptism Sunday - no requests for baptism at this time; Elijah and Julie

May 10 – Julie & coleader

May 17 – Elijah

May 24 – Julie & coleader

May 31 – Regional Meeting (formerly known as Conference Sunday) in Selkirk; Julie and Elijah and Kelly (and Brenda?) will be attending for Trinity; Norman Collier will lead worship at Trinity

June 21 – Proposed date with Angela Roulette as guest

Calendar Review

Joint Coordinating Team: The coordinating team will meet on April 30.

M&P Report:

The Emergency response plan was handed out and the staff of Trinity have reviewed it. M&P is recommending that we adopt the plan and put in place. They are working on another plan for when staff are working alone or in isolation, but haven't completed it yet.

Motion: to approve the Emergency Response Plan to be used by all staff effective immediately.

Moved: Sandra

Second: Cassandra

Carried

Sandra also reported, with regret, that Pam Lotun will be leaving Portage the end of June and cannot continue the Zoom operation on Sundays. We will need to find a few people to fill this position, with possibly a job posting.

Finance Report:

Motion to accept the Finance report as presented

Moved: Donna

Second: Kelly

Carried

CE/Faith Formation/Sunday School:

For our Easter service, we had many children. There were 12 activity packs made up and they were well received. However, there could likely have been another 6 bags made up and enjoyed. The bells were a good choice, and having lots of participation was also helpful.

Group Study: The Lenten series has been completed, and we have no new study group plans at the moment.

UCW Report: Sandra said the Petunia sales are going on right now. The UCW did a funeral lunch in another location.

Stewardship: The March meeting was rescheduled to April 23.

Sunday Care Team: The team has not been overwhelmed with tasks, but we have a schedule ready through the end of May. Information about Shane's "no trespass" status had not been shared with the care team, which was an unfortunate oversight because it meant that there was a Sunday when we were inconsistent in our approach. This has now been rectified and the care team members all have the same information.

TriniTidings: The next Trinitidings is scheduled to go out May 22/May 25 (submissions due May 15)

Property:

The small bubble in the flooring in the first BBBS office has been repaired.

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 offered the following information:

The regional meeting is in person (once every three years) in Selkirk May 28-31.

Our YOUTH are invited to attend the P to P weekend. See Kelly H. For more details.

The youngest group of the SPIRIT SQUAD are invited to attend the "Spirit Seekers"/ Grades4-6 "Spirit Explorers"/Gr.7-9

"Spirit Followers" /Gr.10-12 - overnight accommodation for the two older groups is provided.

Our thoughts are with the people around the globe who are impacted by the threat of military action. Thoughts and prayers are also with the people of Peguis First Nation and others being affected by spring flooding.

Church closures: Victoria United in Melita.

First United Church in Dryden will share a new space at the St. Luke Anglican Church.

Moderator, Kimberly Heath shares a message of gratitude in the celebration of National Volunteer Week during this week. (April 19-25) See Prairie to Pine weekly news.

Call for Nominations - Prairie to Pine have over 90 members working on our collective behalf. Positions need to be filled for those who completed their terms.

Discover the power of PAR month this May!

Faithful Footprints Grant Applications now open for strengthening the long-term sustainability of church buildings...deadline is April 30th.

YAAY (Youth and Young Adults held a retreat called "KNOWING our Neighbours: Many Religions, One Community" Two Summer Camps are being offered in 2026.

ROCK Lake UC Camp is looking for a cabin leader. (deadline; May 15th)

See Ecumenical Earth Week Resources (April 19-26)

Sandra asked if Trinity could offer to send a youth from the congregation to camp. Tanis suggested adding this into the TriniTidings. In the past, UCW funded some of the cost to send 1 or 2 youth to camp. Donna will ask Cadence to write up something to encourage some youth to attend camp and the benefits of it.

Membership Status Update:

New members

Transfer:

Deaths

Members:

Iris Schofield, April 21, 2026

Adherents & Other:

Brent Bailey, April 06, 2026

Next Meeting: Wednesday May 20 @ 6:30pm

Elijah led everyone in closing the meeting with the Prayer that Jesus taught.

Adjournment: 7:40pm

_____ Tanis Essery, Chair

_____ Diane Routledge, Secretary