

Trinity United Church Leadership Team Meeting
Trinity United Church
Tuesday, June 23, 2026, 6:30 p.m.
Held in-person, Meeting Room

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

Regrets: Diane Routledge

Call to Order - Tanis called the meeting to order at 6:32 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 Reflection and Prayer offered by Julie

Correspondence: Letter from Portage Pride Committee (see below)

Discussions and Decisions:

Update on Girl Guide Little Library: the library is installed and ready for use - check it out!

Affirming Ministry: The Pride Parade in Portage this year is June 27. The Pride Committee has shifted their plans for the walk substantially, and the plan is to only walk along Saskatchewan Avenue. They plan to get started with speeches at Red River at 11 am and walk along the avenue at about 11:30 for the best visibility. However, they would really welcome Trinity's support, should we wish to set up a display area/welcome area near Red River College or City Hall (sent a letter to that effect)..

Members noted the short notice that didn't really allow for sharing announcements, much less planning for something that would not be going past the church location. Some who had expressed interest have now made other plans. Kelly plans to walk in the march, so she will speak with Jacquie about getting the Trinity sign. They will plan to meet up with the McKenzie church contingent. We can also put something on the Facebook page to extend an invitation to join in on the walk. We will not try to have any further displays this year.

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

An update from Greg Cochrane - June 07 was another good meeting with open dialogue and ideas being shared. The plan behind these meetings was to meet as a congregation and allow people to share their thoughts and ideas; then a smaller contingent meet with Julie and Elijah to discuss some of the ideas and proceed with a plan. Greg will work to put a group together and

plan a meeting with the ministers in the near future. The leadership team is content with this plan.

Reports:

Worship Review and Plan

The choir determined at the end of May that they will take a break for June and will return for our joint August services.

Angela Roulette was guest speaker on June 21. Julie led the service Angela offered an extended sermon time.

June 28 – “Fireflies” Last Sunday before we move into the summer schedule. Last online offering by Trinity until mid-August.

There was discussion about the frustrations with regards to zoom and the internet. At what point will we bring back River City to streamline our online worship. It was noted that we do have a devoted group of online attenders. It was also noted that the in person experience is sometimes hampered by the internet and zoom issues. It would be preferable if there was a way for the in person experience to continue even when the online feed is interrupted. It would be preferable if the screens in the building were not tied to the zoom feed. However, that would require further preparation, and more importantly, an extra A/V volunteer to run the ‘in house’ screens. In fact, the current internet/zoom issues are intimidating to any who might volunteer to act as zoom host. Of the three who had indicated willingness after Pam leaves, one has already backed out.

Summer service schedule:

July 5 & 12 – McKenzie United Church

July 19 & 26 – St. Mary’s Anglican (have moved their service time to 10:30 so that all services will have a consistent start time). We will need to get the zoom link from John to email out if that option is available.

August 2 & 9 – First Presbyterian Church

August 16 & 23 – Trinity United Church (Julie will lead August 16 and Elijah will lead August 23)

August 30 – Joint service of McKenzie, St. Mary’s, First Presbyterian, Trinity & McGregor United; hosted at Trinity, but planned and led by all of the churches together. Trinity is responsible for the following:

Providing logistical and hosting roles: sound, zoom host, door hosts, ushers, bulletins, scripts, screen content, etc. Also candle lighter(s) and resources for children – including children’s program if needed

Participating but not leading in the music, including a joint choir (being organized by McKenzie)

Elijah and Julie will create and lead parts of the service, along with representatives from St. Mary’s, First Presbyterian, McKenzie and MacGregor– the theme is based on Exodus 3:1-15 and will focus on changes and transitions. John Dolloff has consented to be the preacher.

Trinity will coordinate and host the lunch after worship (the UCW is discussing) and will request help from each of the other churches (last year, for example, Trinity brought the desserts). The UCW will coordinate help between the two catering groups and is prepared to pay for the bunwich lunch (served on compostable plates and cups). However, donations of pickles, condiments, etc. will be requested from the congregation. Plans will be finalized at the start of August.

World Communion Sunday on October 4. (likely a joint service at McKenzie United)

Calendar Review

Joint Coordinating Team: Next meeting is September 29 in MacGregor.

M&P Report:

This issue about cleaning floors continues. Mitchell has a friend who is willing to take on the project and details are being worked out for likely sometime within the first two weeks of July.

Jacquie will dive into the vacuum needs during the summer. M & P is aware of this.

Julie had more emergency eye surgery, and will be working with compromised vision for the next three months. Hopefully this will solve the retina detaching issue. Meanwhile she has begun the new chemotherapy treatment. She didn't react well the first go, so there will be more experimenting through July. McKenzie church has offered to host a joint service any time we are in a bind for Sunday morning leadership (as in, Trinity is welcome to go over to McKenzie any Sunday if we have a last minute emergency).

There is an ongoing concern about S. Myran violating the barring notice, so it may be that there needs to be further conversation with all building users so that there are consistent responses to any violations. The M & P Committee would like to see the exterior doors locked, but this may not be appropriate for all programming with a lack of visibility at the doors. M & P has asked the trustees to look into this.

Motion: to approve the expense of \$750 from the Val Garlick fund to cover Jacquie's accommodation at the office administrator's conference in October.

Moved: Diane

Seconded: Sylvia

Carried.

Finance Report to the end of May 2026:

Motion: to approve the financial report as presented.

Moved: Donna

Seconded: Diane

Carried.

CE/Faith Formation/Sunday School: Cadence is willing to offer a Sunday School program until the end of the school year (June 28). She is planning to be available for the joint service on August 30 to offer programming for any children who might come.

Group Study:

UCW – the final spring meeting was June 17 with lunch. The next meeting is scheduled for September.

Stewardship: Will next meet June 24.

Sunday Care Team: Things have been relatively quiet. Next step is to set up schedule for August.

TriniTidings: the next issue will be in September.

Property:

Security system update - the installation of the exterior security cameras has started with the first phase; wiring along exterior walls backing the garden areas.

Tanis and Sandy provided various options with regards to the chair project. One option that might be preferable are expensive enough that we could only get 50 chairs, which is really not enough. It might be possible to negotiate with a smaller company, but not likely enough to compete with the cost effectiveness of the CostCo chairs.

There was general agreement that the best value would be provided by the CostCo chairs.

Cassandra has offered her Costco membership. Tanis will check with Jacquie to see what the most efficient way to order the chairs would be.

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

Trustees: Will meet June 25

Prairie to Pine

Brenda, Kelly, Elijah and Julie attended the regional meeting in Selkirk. See attached for summary report. See below for Kelly's report as a re-energized Prairie to Pine rep!!!

What a wonderful weekend in Selkirk!!

We are thinking of families in the Swan River Valley, Stonewall and the Interlake who have been impacted by severe weather.

- Thoughts and prayers are with those participating in services, events, and activities in June to celebrate the diversity that exists in our communities.
- We celebrate First Nations, Inuit and Metis people's values, customs, language and culture in Indigenous Communities of Faith within our geographical area known as a Keewatin Circle.
- The People of the Philippines also need our prayers from the magnitude 7.8 earthquake on June 8th.

- A project idea... 100 Tables brought a new type of UC presence to life in communities across the country. Congregations placed picnic tables outside their church doors that had been transformed into sites of welcome and service to the neighbours in the area.
- Have we received a \$225.00 Rona gift card to purchase a picnic table? We are eligible to do so. For project inspiration, visit the Map of 100 Tables. 115 communities of faith participated in the initiative. Tables offered space for connection and a chance to share their understanding of Jesus' Invitation to the table.
- Conversations about food security, Truth and Reconciliation and 2S and LGBTQIA and Pride were shared along with food. The painted tables were eye catchers. (Contact P to P. Growth team to discuss project concepts. [100 Tables: Creating Spaces of Welcome | The United Church of Canada](#) It is nice to see the ways that churches continue to live out our tradition of services and invitation in their neighbourhoods as we imagine the future of the United Church of Canada.

Kelly will do some further investigation about the the 100 Tables project. She and Elijah will bring the idea of the 100 Tables project to the conversations about church future and sustainability. Would the table be a helpful metaphor as we consider our relationship to the community?

Membership Status Update:

New members:

Transfer:

Removals/Deaths:

Members: Carol Zacharias, June 08, 2026 (note – a funeral for Carol will likely take place in August – there is investment in having a lot of music in that service so it needs to be when singers/musicians are available)

Adherents & Other:

Next Meeting: September 9 6:30 p.m.

Closing Prayer was led by Elijah

Adjournment: was called by Tanis at 7:35 pm

_____ Tanis Essery, Chair

_____ Julie Baker, Acting Secretary