

Trinity United Church Leadership Team Meeting
Trinity United Church
Wednesday, May 20, 2026, 6:30 p.m.
Held in-person, Meeting Room

Present: Kelly Haapamaki, Sandra Falk, Alan Brown, Mitchell Omichinski, Tanis Essery, Cassandra Pehura, Elijah Mwandila, Sylvia Lyall, Diane Routledge, Julie Baker (via telephone)

Regrets: Donna Matthews

Call to Order 6:32pm

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 offered by Elijah Mwandila

Correspondence:

Thank you note received from Patti Schidlowsky & Jame Schidlowsky for use of our beautiful sanctuary for their violin & piano recital.

Discussions and Decisions:

Reports:

Update Coltart Family Donation – Julie was in touch with Jocelyn Coltart to communicate our decision not to accept their offer of furniture but to thank them for thinking of us.

Update on Girl Guide Little Library: Mitchell has met with Guides to find an ideal location on the south side that allows him to continue his gardening without the library interfering with what he needs for access. Manitoba Hydro, the City, Rogers & Bell have all been notified and the site is ready for the dig.

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

Greg has called another meeting for Sunday, June 07, following worship. It will be the second meeting (from April 05) to discuss the financial stability of Trinity. We will pass on this date to anyone you think would be interested in attending. It will be included in the newsletter and in the announcements between now and then.

Worship Review and Plan

May 3 – Guest musician Sadie Cochrane added her clarinet to the mix. Thanks to Sadie.

Coming up in Worship:

May 24 – Pentecost Sunday (Julie)

May 31 – Regional Meeting (formerly known as Conference Sunday) Norman Collier will lead worship at Trinity

June 7 – Communion Sunday (Elijah)

June 14 – “Mosquitos” (Julie)

June 21 – Angela Roulette is confirmed as guest speaker. Julie will lead the service and Angela will take an essentially extended sermon time.

We will offer her ceremonial tobacco as appreciation of her time with us. It was agreed that since Angela made the offer to come and share time with us, we would not pay her additional honouraria.

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

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 to bring to their May meeting), and will request help from each of the other churches (last year, for example, Trinity brought the desserts).

At the planning meeting for August 30, a proposal was put forward to hold a joint ecumenical service again for World Communion Sunday on October 4. McKenzie United offered to host such a service.

The Leadership Team agreed that they would be willing to participate in a joint service on this date.

No baptism requests are pending at this time. It is recommended that we set a date for another opportunity in the fall.

Calendar Review

Joint Coordinating Team: The coordinating team met on April 30. Next meeting is September 29 in MacGregor.

M&P Report: Sandra reported. They approved the following leave times for staff:

Elijah - June 8-22 study leave, Aug 3-18 vacation,

Julie - June 29-Aug 4 vacation,

Jacquie - June 15-19; July 13-17; Aug 3-7 vacation. The office will be staffed by volunteers only mornings during Jacquie's vacation and closed in the afternoons.

Don - June 29-July 10 vacation.

Pam is willing to train on the Sundays in June for the Zoom volunteers: Max, Tanis and Diane. We will need volunteers to begin for the Sundays in August.

The annual deep cleaning of the floors (summer) has been an ongoing challenge over many years. Current staff require direct and constant supervision, and even then he has not done a good job. Last year a quote of approximately \$4000 was received for the kitchen, hallway, parlour, office hallway, bathrooms and bathroom hallway from Taylor Janitorial. Instead, Jacquie (with Kelly's help) was contracted separately to do the work for \$725 including supplies. This year she will not be an option. The M & P committee is struggling for a solution. They wonder whether it belongs with the Property Committee at this point, or whether it is an expectation of a staff position, and therefore still the M & P committee's responsibility. There was much discussion but no specific action plan was created.

There was also conversation about what budget would be available for a new, industrial vacuum to replace the small battery powered vacuum currently being used. An option of a backpack vacuum was discussed, although it is not clear whether everyone going forward could handle that kind of equipment. There was confusion about what vacuum's are currently in the church and whether they are all broken or even fixable. Discussion was tabled to obtain more clarification, but the leadership team was certainly open to spending money on required supplies for cleaning, including a good vacuum.

Julie provided an update on her health status. She is currently following the instructions of the retinal surgeon (hence her participation over the phone) to "position" following a secondary retinal detachment after the emergency surgery a month ago. She has received more lasering, and the hope is to avoid going back into the operating room. Julie also shared that she will be moving back into a more active chemotherapy treatment starting in June. This treatment will take a day/week, and it is not clear what the side effects will be. Through her vacation in July, some of these answers should become clear. It is hoped that by the time we reach the fall we will know whether Julie will need to access restorative care and move to part time work, or how many work hours per week may be sustainable for her.

Finance Report: Alan presented the financial statements on behalf of the Finance Team.

Motion: to accept the report for information, as presented

Moved: Alan
Seconded Cassandra
Carried.

CE/Faith Formation/Sunday School: Cadence is willing to offer a Sunday School program until the end of the school year (June 28). We have not yet asked her if she would be available in August, should any children attend the summer services.

Group Study:

UCW Report: Petunia sales exceeded last year's 491 with 547 this year. Bravo!

Stewardship: Will next meet June 24.

Sunday Care Team: Over the last months, the team has been primarily supporting one individual consistently, but in winter there have also been a few people come in to warm up, asking for clothing, food, water, etc. Currently 6 active care team members have been scheduled in teams, and thus far the schedule has been manageable with people generally doing 1-2 Sundays per month. We had said it was a 6-month pilot which requires evaluation at the end of June. From the care team perspective, it is going pretty well and seems to be a good use of volunteer time. Does leadership team want us to continue in August when we reconvene at Trinity? It was agreed that it would be good to have the team continue going forward as long as we have volunteers. We would like to see them be available for the Summer joint services. Julie noted that it has eased the pressure on her time when she is also responsible for leading worship and connecting with the rest of the gathered congregation.

TriniTidings: An issue will go out this weekend. Any last minute entries might still be able to be fit in. Otherwise the next issue will be in September.

Property:

Proposal around security –

Mitchell Omichinski, joined the meeting to share the following report, on behalf of the property team:

Safety and security of the church property and its staff has been in past and continues to be a concern to the church community and members. Over the past few years, church property has been subjected to numerous instances of theft; the latest was a laptop from the sanctuary. Garden hoses, plants, even a tree has disappeared from church property. Break-ins have occurred rendering property loss and damages to external and internal structures to the church building. A few years ago, church personnel had an occasion to be concerned for their safety when a person entered the building clearly under the influence of meth-amphetamine. When the police are called to investigate the more serious events, the first question they frequently ask is "where are your surveillance tapes" which we do not have. Over the past few years some attempts have been made to improve security, such locked doors during office hours, and remote access from the office desk. But the system was never complete to allow legitimate church access in a straight

forward and efficient manner. The time to address the safety and security issue for this church is a more fulsome manner and to complete and compliment initiatives already taken is long overdue.

We have received a quote from ASA alarms for an audio video intercom service to be installed at the office desk to allow verification of individuals entering the church office and to remotely grant them access. Also included in the quote are surveillance cameras which will monitor activity outside the church along its perimeter 24/7/month. A meeting was held April 30th where stakeholders in Trinity concerned with safety and security met with ASA to go over and improve upon the level of security service these systems will provide. This quote for safety and security improvements has been reviewed by members of the safety, building and trustee committees as well as ministerial and office staff. It was agreed that rather than installing base stations in minister's offices, a phone could be purchased (for much less) that would allow remote access not only if a minister was in their office, but also if another group was in the lower hall or meeting room and wished to monitor door access, etc.

Upon approval by the Leadership Committee to proceed with safety and security measures outlined as above and detailed in the attached quotes from ASA, the firm will be notified to proceed with contracted services, and a timeline will be established for installation. In the interests of minimal disturbance to the front garden space, the installation of the exterior security cameras will be suggested as the first phase. This installation will require wiring along exterior walls backing the garden areas. A second phase of installing the audio / visual intercom service will complete the security upgrade for Trinity. It is anticipated that project will be completed by mid-summer. If approved by Leadership, I am willing to volunteer my time to manage Trinity's interests in this project and liaise with ASA Alarms.

Motion: to accept the security system proposed by the Property team for the outdoor system quotes from ASA Alarms, including a dedicated phone. (\$3287 & \$5900) Money to come from the Unspecified Bequest fund.

Moved: Sandra

Seconded Alan

Carried.

Mitchell Omichinski is stepping aside from leadership of the property team for the summer while he is very busy with outdoor commitments, but will re-engage with the team in the fall.

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

Trustees: Will meet the week of June 22-26. Date to be determined.

Affirming Ministry: The Pride Parade in Portage this year is June 27. No other information has been shared. Do we wish to do anything in conjunction with Pride this year? We do not know

yet whether the route will go past the church like it did last year. Note – the Winnipeg Pride Parade is June 7.

While we wait for more information, we will add something to Trini tidings to see if anyone is interested in going in the parade, or organizing something outside of the church for those who cannot or choose not to walk, depending on the route.

Prairie to Pine Region:

- Various ministry personnel from the Tri- Region (Northern Spirit, Living Skies, and Prairie to Pine) – not Julie or Elijah, however - attended a retreat for clergy called "The Great Exhale:" "A Gentle Pause for Faithful Souls." A note from Kelly: Hope your long weekend was a gentle pause, Trinity people!!
- Rural Life Sunday (held on the same day as Mother's Day) remembers the people and communities who work with and on the land by raising food and fibre and to recognize the ongoing crisis occurring in rural areas of the nation and worldwide.
- May is Asian Heritage month_and we remember those in our Regional Council with Korean Heritages. Communities of Faith at Broadway Disciples United Church, having Filipino heritage and others bring their cultural gifts, traditions and perspectives to broaden the diversity of the Communities of Faith throughout PPRC.
- "Things We Tell Ourselves" is a 10 week series of learning sessions and workshops to see new opportunities, engage with new ideas, meet other lay leaders and re-imagine the church of the future and start building it now. Those who are interested can contact the region.
- June is Pride month and Indigenous People's Month.
- Into the Future: Neechi Camp for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Youth is happening again this summer: July 2-6 in Fisher River. In the past, two youth from our congregation have attended this reconciliation event.
- UCC Office Admin. Conference is happening Oct.5-9. Registration deadline- Aug.1,2026 Jacque will likely attend this event.

Membership Status Update: there have been no membership changes this month!

New members:

Transfer:

Removals/Deaths:

Members:

Adherents & Other:

Next Meeting: June 23 @ 6:30pm

Closing Prayer Elijah

Adjournment:

_____ Tanis Essery, Chair

_____ Diane Routledge, Secretary

DRAFT