

Trinity United Church Leadership Team Meeting
Trinity United Church
Wednesday, September 09, 2026, 6:30 p.m.
Held in-person, Meeting Room

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

Regrets: Sylvia Lyall, Diane Routledge

Call to Order Tanis called the meeting to order at 6:31 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 was shared by Julie, from Diana Butler Bass on “standing on Holy Ground”.

Correspondence:

A thank you note was received from Carson Pehura for the grade 12 graduation gift he received.

Approval of Minutes from June 23

Motion: Donna/Kelly to approve the minutes from June 23.

Carried.

Discussions and Decisions:

1. In June, 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.

During the summer, we continued to have extensive internet issues. Bell MTS were out often, and the “fixes” have been interesting. We now have a separate extra modem in the sanctuary devoted only to the sound booth and zoom laptop. It is connected to those two devices by Ethernet cord and not wifi. It’s upload speed is not high (5 mb/s, but zoom is only supposed to require 1-2). We still have the sanctuary wi-fi that could be used by the zoom laptop if something happened to the new bell modem. Then we have the office modem which is an access point for

all office things as well as Trinity guests. The phone cameras should access the sanctuary wifi for the most reliable connection.

Meanwhile, Byte Me is quite clear that our internet reliability and speed will only be solved by a switch away from BellMTS. We have not done that primarily because our email addresses have been mts.net for a long time and changing them would require several steps. We also were not able to determine what email would be a good replacement. We have recently discovered that our website domain could support email addresses that could be set up either through Microsoft or through our A+ Computers (who service our website). We could create email addresses like office@trinityunitedportage.ca or minister@trinityunitedportage.ca or even ones more name specific. We also noted that mymts.net email has not been reliable for us in recent months for a variety of reasons. Jacquie plans to be in touch with our website supporters to see what arrangements or costs would be available through them, knowing that Byte Me could set us up through Microsoft if the A+ options are not acceptable. It would take several months to migrate our email and make sure that our mymts.net email would also be transferred. However, once that was completed we could make the choice to shift our internet providers, to allow for a better online or zoom experience.

Costs to migrate email: Jacquie is waiting to hear back from A+ Computers (Winnipeg) with a quote. Feedback about internet providers and what we should do about our online worship? It was decided the follow plan will be followed:

Step One: Changing email addresses – we need to find out what costs are involved in migrating our email. We will wait until the next meeting and expect to have information by then.

Step Two: To contact River City A/V to give us recommendations about the best way for us to offer online worship – zoom, YouTube, google, cameras, zoom etc. etc. etc. We will ask for estimates and recommendations as soon as possible to allow for timely decisions as information is made available.

Step Next/maybe simultaneously: To determine whether we should change internet providers (if Shaw/Rogers for example would provide a better upload speed due to better cable and equipment)

2. Chairs – 14 new chairs have been ordered to date, and mostly positive feedback has been received. There is a question about whether we need to have a variety of chairs available for people's needs. Do we need to have a few chairs "with arms" available for those who cannot get in and out of them without? We will investigate possible options, as well as check our inventory of chairs in the building before we exhaust our chair budget.

Motion: Donna/Cassandra to allot \$5000 of the chair donation money to Costco chair orders.

Carried.

Reports:

Worship Review and Plan

June 28 – On the last Sunday before we began the summer schedule we used the theme of “Fireflies”. We said goodbye and thank you to Pam – Tanis presented a gift from the church.

Summer service schedule: Attendance has been good – 80-100 most Sundays

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. It’s estimated that there were over 120 people who stayed for lunch, so attendance was likely higher yet. The joint choir had more than 30 singers.

This fall, we will use the third (and final) piece of curriculum in our Seeking Series. “Seeking Justice Together”. It offers material for worship as well as several Sunday School age groups.

We will hold communion services at Trinity on September 13, and on the first of Advent November 29.

World Communion Sunday on October 4. - a joint service at McKenzie United

A meeting for this service is planned for September 16.

Orange shirt day September 30, but on September 27 we will invite people to wear orange and place tie orange ribbons on the steps in preparation for Orange shirt day.

Calendar Review – note Finance meeting will need to change to accommodate the dates when Jacquie’s away as well as getting information from the bank.

Joint Coordinating Team: Next meeting is September 17 at Trinity.

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

Greg will work to put a group together and plan a meeting with the ministers in the near future.

M&P Report:

Summer flooring project - This year’s project came in significantly higher at \$1,221.33, compared to last year at \$496.62 (\$725 increase) due to higher costs in both labour (27 hrs this year, 9 hrs last year with 2 people) and materials. The quote provided before work started was \$500 (based on last year’s quote).

Labour	2026: \$540.00	2025: \$180.00
Materials	2026: \$681.33	2025: \$316.62

Motion: Diane/Cassandra that we approve the cost of the flooring of \$1221.33 to be taking from the UBF. **Carried.**

Julie has gone to an 18 hour/work week. We have applied to Restorative Care for reimbursement for 80% of the 22 hours/week that Julie is unavailable to work (after 15 days).

It was determined that Leadership Team, M & P, and JCT will be committees attended by both ministers. Julie will resource Finance, Grief team, Building Use/Storage and Elijah will resource Trustees, Stewardship and Property

Julie plans to share a verbal announcement this coming Sunday about her reduction in time. She also plans to write an article about her current health status so that people have the information.

Tanis will offer a leadership team update on Sunday.

Finance Report to the end of August 2026:

We are aware of a bunch of expenses coming up. We are also aware that e-transfer donations have substantially dropped. The e-transfer issue that was reported early in the summer has been fixed and there are new security measures in place. People should feel confident that they can donate securely in whatever way is most convenient for them.

Motion: Donna/ Diane to approve the finance report as presented.

Carried.

CE/Faith Formation/Sunday School: Cadence will now be attending university and living in Winnipeg. We have no plan for Sunday School at this point. We are also at a transition point where we need some Sunday programming for young children, rather than older children, although we do have (perhaps three) 11-12 year olds who come now and then, who might be employed as helpers, if they are there. But we need leadership to steer the ship.

Cassandra would be willing to reach out to parents to feel out the possibilities.

Group Study: We have no particular plans at present. There is an age cohort of youth who might be ready for confirmation, but the first step will be to figure out what sort of schedule might fit for their particular needs.

UCW – The joint worship services had a send-off lunch at the end of August, with the UCW hosting. The next meeting is scheduled for September 16 with their annual fall auction.

Stewardship: Stewardship is exploring different ideas around revenue generation.

Sunday Care Team: Summer services have been pretty quiet – one person was on call, rather than having two. September & October's schedules are available, and we will see what needs emerge. Our team is down to 4 or 5 people - Donna, Mary Lou, Amy and Stephanie. Alan has indicated he likely won't be available very much and when he is, wants to be "back up only." We have the schedule made for September and October, but if there is anyone people can think of to ask if they would join, please let Stephanie know. House group months are difficult for care

team members as most house group jobs conflict with being on care team (so it's one or the other).

TriniTidings: the next issue will go out September 25 (print copies) & 28 (email version). The submissions need to go in next week.

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. The cameras are fully functional. The accessibility feature has been fixed. The next phase is to connect the cameras for the remote controllers/tablets for ministers or user groups.

The nursery school has reported a leak in the roof and some resulting flooding. There will be some expense to get it fixed.

Donna has removed a great deal of the overgrowth in the fencing over by the nursery school, to remove a bunch of the shelter. She also painted the windows around the church. (including some carpentry on some rotten window frames). Thanks to her for all of that work!

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

Trustees: Correspondence received from Mitchell Omichinski. This is to inform you that at the Trustee Meeting of June 25, 2026 a resolution was passed to recommend Trinity undertake the expenditure of installing an audio visual security system at the west door, similar to the recently installed system at the east office door. This is to address access security issues ongoing with BBBS. Estimated cost is \$5000.00. This entrance is of frequent use by BBBS in providing their services to the community, and similar to the main office, an audio visual system will provide a more convenient and efficient way to ensure authorized access to Trinity at large. The Property Committee is aware of this recommendation, and the issues surrounding building security, and supports its adoption.

Plan to meet again December 03.

Motion: Donna/Diane to approve the expense of \$5000 from UBF to provide a/v access at the west door. **Carried.**

Prairie to Pine

- From the minutes of our last meeting: 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. We have not pursued the \$225.00 Rona gift card to purchase a picnic tables. It is left to Kelly and Elijah to bring the idea of the 100 Tables project to the conversations about church future and sustainability.

Kelly provided the following update for information:

- Thoughts/prayers are with the people of Nepal and the Nepali community around the world, impacted by the flash floods and landslide in an area on the Nepal-Tibet border that happened Aug.26,2026.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with those who will be returning to classes at various educational institutions-students and teachers, support staff, bus drivers, parents and guardians.
- Let's promote ALF Youth Retreat (Adolescents Learning about Faith) for Gr.7-12. Date: Oct.23-25th at Minnedosa United Church Theme: Faith in Film (exploring how movies can connect with and shape our faith.) We noted that Elijah will be taking Christopher and Elijah to this event if others were interested.
- National Day of Truth and Reconciliation/ Orange Shirt Day is Sept.30th-also Sunday, October 4th is the national day in support of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirit People.
- Please visit and support the Canadian Museum of Human Rights to learn about many stories of persecution and hope. See the New Palestine exhibit once it is completed this fall.
- Stewardship seconds and Offering Invitation and Prayers are now available. See seasonal themes from Pentecost to Advent for worship resources. Refer to the Stewardship in Worship webpage.
- Read newsletter about the Indigenous Church.

Membership Status Update:

New members:

Transfer:

Removals/Deaths:

Members:

Louise McManus, September 03, 2026

Adherents & Other:

Brian Erickson, July 13, 2026

Next Meeting: October 21 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

Closing Prayer was led by Elijah

Adjournment: was called by Tanis at 8:23 pm

_____ Tanis Essery, Chair

_____ Julie Baker, Acting Secretary