

**Meridian Pastoral Charge Meeting  
April 9, 2019**

**Present:** Leith Saunders, Diane Trudeau, Jane and Stuart Manness, Ron Manness, Rev. James deBeer, Cliff Harrison, Julie Ringash, Margaret Porter, Nancy Langois, Michele Ammeter, Jamie Scharf

**Regrets:** Malcolm Kirkpatrick

**Welcome** – Jamie opened the meeting with a warm welcome to all.

**Opening Prayer**

Reverend James opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Minutes**

The minutes from the November 13, 2018 were read and the corrections were as followed:

Mari Arran should have been Marti Arran

Braxton Ford should have been Braxton Smith

the correct spelling of “interment”

**Motion:** to accept the minutes as corrected Cliff/Michele. Carried

**Financial Report**

**Meridian Charge – Treasurer’s Report – at March 31, 2019**

**Bank Balance - \$ 26,945**

**Manse investment - \$110,000**

**M & S – budget \$7500**

**Monthly Allocations – Avonlea and Sanford - \$2300, Starbuck -\$1542**

<u>Expenses –</u>	<u>2019 Budget</u>	<u>1st Quarter</u>
<b>Worship Leader –</b>	<b>\$7200</b>	<b>\$2544</b>
<b>Travel –</b>	<b>\$1500</b>	<b>\$408</b>
<b>Presb/UCC Alloc-</b>	<b>\$3718</b>	<b>\$1859</b>
<b>Telephone -</b>	<b>\$1050</b>	<b>\$265</b>
<b>Office/Worship-</b>	<b>\$1500</b>	<b>\$89</b>
<b>Miscellaneous -</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$207</b>
<b>Secretary -</b>	<b>\$1320</b>	<b>\$240</b>
<b>Treasurer -</b>	<b>\$500</b>	
<b>Credit Union -</b>	<b>\$50</b>	
<b>Salary -Pension-Benefits</b>	<b>\$72,950</b>	<b>\$18,371</b>
<b>Travel</b>	<b>\$3500</b>	<b>\$627</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$93,780</b>	<b>\$24,610</b>

There was some discussion about the on-line Sunday School curriculum but it was put to New Business

**Motion:** to accept the Financial Report as presented Cliff/Michele. Carried

## **Committee Reports**

### **Minister's Report**

I'm pleased to announce that I had a successful interview with the Office of Vocations interview panel and they will be recommending my admission to the Order of Ministry in the UCC. I have my last course session this Thursday, April 11 and I anticipate passing. My professor will be issuing a grade by April 23 which means I've completed all the requirements laid out for me by the admissions committee.

Since our Annual General meeting, I've continued to meet regularly with the Meridian inter-church committee as well as with my fellow clergy in our Meridian area.

We began Lent with a Ash Wednesday service with Trinity Lutheran in Starbuck and during Lent have been participating in a Lenten book study with an enthusiastic group made of parishioners from Sanford and Avonlea. It's always great to do activities that bring us together in unity as Meridian Pastoral Church of the UCC.

Upcoming events include Holy Week. We will celebrate Maunday Thursday at Trinity Lutheran in Starbuck, Good Friday at Avonlea United, with Easter Sunday according to our Sunday Schedule.

Also upcoming is a possible Faith Night with the Winnipeg Goldeyes on June 7 and the Union Point service June 23 followed by the Meridian Inter-Church baseball tournament in Brunkild at 2:30.

I've been meeting with families preparing for baptisms and always enjoy visiting parishioners in their homes.

Reverend James deBeer

**Worship** – reported in September 2018

### **M&P**

When working through whether Meridian Pastoral Charge (MPC) will be able to call Rev James or if we will have another 1 year appointment, MPC has managed to fall into a crevice as a result of number of special circumstances this year. None of these are insurmountable, but they are complicated and may require some patience and preparation on our part for unknown dates.

1. Rev James is planning to “change status“ and be admitted to the Order of Ministry of the United Church of Canada at the Inaugural meeting of the Prairie to Pine Region in Brandon in mid-June, 2019. Therefore, his continued relationship with MPC could be a “Call” to an ordained Minister in UCC rather than an appointment to a Minister of another denomination, as it currently is. So there are some additional things and different timelines that are relevant (more information later).
2. Rev James had his interview for acceptance by the National Office of Vocations (OV) April 1. James reported the interview went well and (pending a passing mark on his last course which he should receive April 23) that they will be recommending him for ordination into the UCC.
3. Judy Hare asked general Council Staff to clarify: when James is actually eligible to have a final conversation about a future pastoral relationship; when the Regional Pastoral Relations Commission (PRC) can assist the relevant charge to engage in an interview process; and also process relevant forms. The OV Committee will make that final decision in May sometime.

4. The fact that we have had the conversation about continuing is what was needed by March 31. The PRC can work with us now that that has happened.
5. While it sounds like all is good there are considerable number of unknowns; a fair amount of work that must be done for unknown deadlines, and to be submitted in unknown formats. These include:
  - a. Meridian Charge can update our Ministry Profile;
  - b. We need to have some conversation with Rev James as to whether there are changes to the position description that we or he would like to make;
  - c. We must get the Financial Viability done because it will need to be submitted to PRC either through the Church Hub or on paper (in progress);
  - d. The Regional Pastoral Relations Commission will appoint someone to work with us on this when it meets the second Tuesday of April, 2019;
  - e. It is possible that in the relatively soon (and in the middle of our ongoing preparation) we will need to have our Church Hub Profile prepared. We do not know what information will be required and what format it will take. Hopefully, the required information will be similar to the Ministry Profile.
6. Since the effective date of what comes next will be July 01, 2019 regardless of the form (appointment or call), the latest opportunity for processing for either is at the Regional PRC meeting the second Tuesday of June, 2019, with forms due the Friday before that.
7. This means having a duly called meeting of the Meridian Pastoral Charge Congregation before submission for processing, at which our appointed liaison from the PRC must be present. We will need a motion from the meeting which includes terms of the call (which may not be available until OV is completed their work or as quickly as we would like).
8. It may be that all of the stuff we prepare will be processed through Church Hub depending on the timing of the HUB becoming functional, but the timelines will remain the same for final approval by PRC. This will affect how we submit information, whether it is in paper form to the office or online through the not yet functioning Church Hub system.
9. Judy seems to have no doubt we can make these timelines work given that there were about three months when we started and Meridian and Rev James have made their intentions clear. However this also depends on the OV Committee. The big take away is that, provided there are not any major hiccups, we are working towards a call not appointment hopefully!

Who is working on the above tasks:

- 4) a) Ministry Profile Update – Michèle & James, with some input from each charge to update some information,
- 4) b) Position Description changes – Michèle & James with follow-up at the MPC board if needed,
- 4) c) Financial Viability – Cliff & Michèle,
- 4) d) Regional Council Appointment – PRC at their meeting on April 9, 2019,
- 4) e) Church Hub Information - Chairperson of the Meridian Pastoral Board and the Chairperson of the M & P Committee (from minutes of Annual meeting).

## Regional Council

### Prairie to Pine Regional 5 Rep. Report

As the Regional Rep for Meridian Pastoral Charge to Prairie to Pine Region, I have had a couple of email correspondences with Heather Lea, Chair of Committee on the Community of Faith:

1. We have been asked to send a copy of our Annual Report.
2. We must send in a list of Community of Faith Chairperson name and email address
3. We also must plan a covenanting service to Prairie to Pine Region- it was suggested “**the Governing body of the Community of Faith or a few designated people will draft the covenant with the ministry personnel or Pastoral Charge supervisor. The covenant needs to be approved by the Governing Body and the Communities of Faith made aware.**” A sample covenanting service from St. Lukes by the Lake Community of Faith.

#### Under Bylaws B. Community of Faith

#### B.2 Governance Requirements for All Communities of Faith

##### B.2.1 Responsibilities

1. There should be 1 rep for every 100 members in a Community of Faith.
2. There will be a regional meeting June 13 – 16<sup>th</sup> in Brandon and monies from MPC must be set for the cost to attend.

Submitted by  
Regional Rep, for Prairie to Pine Region  
Diane Trudeau

**Interchurch** – no report as they met earlier that day.

## Church Reports

### Avonlea United Church Report

Ron said not much has happened lately. No meetings since their annual meeting. There was on baptism and this information will be in the September report.

### Sanford United Church Report to Meridian Pastoral Charge - April 9, 2019

The life and work of Sanford United continues through the dedication of both our long time congregation members and our newer members. The worship committee is doing a great job of blending some of our traditional worship style with new ideas coming from Rev. deBeer and other congregation members. For example, on April 7th, we had an enlightening presentation during service from Barb Batulla and Doug McAndrew about their recent trip to Uganda to visit the child they have

been sponsoring and see the work of two aid organizations first hand. We are also planning to have a children's musician (who is a daughter of one of our congregation members) come to augment our Sunday School program.

Our building gets used as a gathering space for MHRD and other community programs. So it was a welcome improvement to have a new kitchen counter and sink and stove installed in the basement in March.

We have 7 members participating in the Lenten Bible study and continue to participate in a group of Sanford/Oak Bluff people volunteering at Siloam Mission in Winnipeg.

Our project committee just wrapped up our annual plant sale fundraiser and the Spring Dinner is happening April 13 at the church.

We are expecting to have at least one more baptism before our traditional summer break from worship services.

Our Board will not have a formal meeting until the Fall of 2019 as we continue to use email to make decisions as necessary.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jamie Scharf  
chairperson

### **Starbuck Chair report April 2019**

This has been a very satisfactory year so far and we have recently celebrated the 90<sup>th</sup> birthdays of two members of our congregation. While a reminder of the passage of time it is also an example of the continuity of the church.

We recently hosted a very successful pancake supper and were able to make a meaningful donation to the Mood Disorder charity.

We have also enjoyed fellowship in our pre service coffee time and a breakfast at the rink. While we are a small community we are a strong one and made better by the addition of the Rev. James to our family. Also we are buoyed by the support of our Lutheran friends and neighbours. We continue to look forward with optimism.

Margaret Porter

**Motion:** to accept the church reports as reported. Nancy/Ron Carried.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

IPC Canada Photo Services emailed James to see if MPC wanted to do a photo album. After some discussion and learning that Avonlea made their own album we decided we would not go with IPC Canada and each church would make their own.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Minister's Appointment/Call update**

**Constitutional Update**

nothing new. A sub committee will be appointed at the Sept10th meeting.

**Funeral/Wedding Policy Update**

nothing new

**Website Update**

is up and running and update by Sanford and Starbuck. The tutorial was very helpful. Avonlea has not started using it. As far a payment. Starbuck United Church will pay HpxMedia's bill for the development of the website then donation will be made to Starbuck United Church and a charity tax receipt will be issued in return.

**NEW BUSINESS****Covenant with Prairie to Pine**

sub committee of Rev. James, Jane M and Diane will work on it.

**Region 5 Prairie to Pine Meeting June 13 – 16.**

\$175 fee. Hotels are \$119 per night. Billets may be available.

Motion: that we cover submitted expenses for Diane and James for regional mtg in June.

Michele/Ron. Carried.

**Leith's last meeting**

James has been with Meridian Pastoral Charge for 1 year this Easter. This is her last meeting with us and she said she has enjoyed her time and meeting such wonderful people. MPC thanked her for all her guidance and support.

**Adjournment:** 9:01 pm by Michele

**Next meeting** – Sept10th 7 pm Sanford

Respectfully,  
Diane Trudeau