

MERIDIAN PASTORAL CHARGE MEETING

September 10, 2019
at Sanford United Church

Present: Jamie Scharf, James de Beer, Michele Ammeter, Julie Ringash, Ron Manness, Cliff Harrison, Stuart Manness, Jane Manness, Malcolm Kirkpatrick, Nancy Langois, Diane Trudeau

Regrets: Margaret Porter

Welcome: Malcolm Kirkpatrick opened the meeting with welcoming remarks then the meeting was chaired by Jamie Scharf

Opening Prayer by Rev. James de Beer

Minutes

The minutes from the April 9th, 2019 were not read at the meeting. Board members read them prior to the meeting and were asked for errors or omissions.

It was noted that Jamie Scharf was not mentioned as chair of that meeting.

Also, noted in the M&P report that the number 4 should not be under the section **Who is working on the above tasks.**

In the Avonlea report, it should read “one baptism” not “on baptism”.

Motion: to adopt the previous minutes as amended. Michele Ammeter/ Ron Manness Carried.

Financial Report

Meridian Charge – Treasurer’s Report – at August 31, 2019

Bank Balance - \$ 22,452

Manse investment - \$110,000

M & S – budget \$7500

Rev. James – category E - \$59,430

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

Expenses –	2019 Budget	Jan - Aug
Worship Leader –	\$7200	\$4240
Travel –	\$1500	\$689
Presb- Regional Regional mtgs	\$3718	\$1859
Telephone -	\$1050	\$708
Office/Worship-	\$1500	\$771
Miscellaneous -	\$500	\$460
Secretary -	\$1320	\$750
Treasurer -	\$500	\$0
Credit Union -	\$50	\$0
Salary -Pension-Benefits	\$72,950	\$48,634
Travel	\$3500	\$1636
M & S	\$7500	\$1356
Total	\$93,780	\$61,103

Cliff prepared the report to the end of August. He pointed out the expenditures for the Regional meeting were not budgeted in the original budget and so the miscellaneous column may be wrong.

He also suggested at the November meeting a decision must be made about the Manse money. This will be needed at the January meeting as a motion.

Motion: to accept the Financial Report. Stuart Manness/Malcolm Kirkpatrick. Carried

Reports

Minister Report

I am very pleased to report that I was fully admitted into the Order of Ministry of the United Church of Canada on Sunday June 16, 2019 at the Prairie to Pine Region inaugural gathering in Brandon. It was very much an honour to be received so lovingly and enthusiastically. In deepest gratitude, I thank the faith communities of Meridian Pastoral Charge for their love and support during that phase of my journey and as we move forward together in faith.

I am also profoundly grateful for my call and your acceptance of me to serve you in ministry. I will endeavour to do my best to serve you, the United Church and the world to share the life and teachings of Jesus.

Since our last meeting, we celebrated the mysteries of the Resurrection of Christ on Good Friday and Easter. There was two baptisms in Avonlea April 28 and two in Sanford on May 5.

On May 31, I met with Elizabeth Brown of Trinity United to talk about the Fresh Start program available for congregations with new ministers. We thought that two of the modules might be a good fit right now:

1. Church Size and Its Implications: *Remembering the basics of Church Size Theory during a time of transition can help us see our situation anew.*

7. Entering a New System: *The purpose for this module is to help participants understand that congregations are living systems and that the way new people enter the system can have a substantial impact on their ministry. This module provides some tools for new leaders and their congregations to get to know each other, and learn about the congregation's history, culture and expectations.*

With your approval I will contact Rev. Elizabeth about time/dates.

This fall (probably November) I would like to have another study series available for those who wish to participate. I was thinking a good resource to use was a book I received at my admission called "The Theology of the United Church of Canada" a first-of-its-kind publication putting all the theology of the UCC in one book.

At the Regional meeting, I was also asked to let my name stand to be on the Executive Council which I did and so beginning this September I will be a part of that Council

As always, I am open to feedback about ministry as well as anyone who would like Pastoral Care.

Rev. James deBeer

NOTE: Action It was decided that everyone should look at the modules in the United Freshstart Program (<https://unitedfreshstart.ca>) to decide which one we think is the most important and get back to James by the end of Sept.

Worship Report

MERIDIAN WORSHIP ANNUAL MEETING

August 27, 2019 Sanford United Church

Rev James, Marianne Litster, Jane Manness, Colleen Norton, Julie Ringash

1. Opening Prayer – Rev. James
2. Comments about previous year. Any additions to agenda. - none
3. Scripture readings for the church year – Year C, Year A begins at Advent

Special Congregational Days:

Communion dates – October 6, December 1, January 5, March 1, April 12, May 31.

Recovenanting Service – with Sunday school etc, each congregation can pick their own date for a recovenanting service.

World Wide Communion – **October 6**

Thanksgiving - **October 13**

Time Change (fall back) – **November 3**

Remembrance Day – **November 11**, James will lead the Legion Service in Sanford. Avonlea will get another minister to lead their service

Hanging of the Greens – Reign of Christ, November 24. Each church will pick their own date & time.

Inter-church Advent Service – December 1 at Brunkild

Advent – **December 1, Communion**, James will pick Advent readings. Lectionary readings Year A begins.

White Gift Service – Each church to do their own service.

Christmas Eve Service – Starbuck 5:00 pm, with Rev. James, Avonlea 7:00pm, Sanford 7:30 pm with Rev. James.

December 29 – Avonlea will have a morning church service.

2020

Epiphany – **January 5, Communion**

Meridian Annual Meeting – **February 11, Avonlea 7:00 pm**

Lent – **March 1, Communion**, with Liturgy of Ashes. Rev. James will get Lenten reading options.

Time Change (spring ahead) – **March 8**

Maundy Thursday – **April 9**, with Trinity Lutheran Church

Good Friday - **April 10**

Easter - **April 12, Communion**

Mother's Day – **May 10**

Pentecost – **May 31, Communion**

Union Point service and Interfaith service? – June 28?

5. Order of Service - any changes?

- Passing of the peace at the end of services, will discuss at local worship committee meetings
- Longest night/blue Christmas Friday December 20th, will discuss at local worship committee meetings
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - January 18-25 – Meridian/Inter-church Rev. James to follow-up
- Fall book study, the Theology of the United Church, also a Lenten book study
- Easter Saturday vigil? - will discuss at local worship committee meetings

6. Other business

-schedule for Meridian Worship chairperson and attendance at Meridian Board meetings.

Year	Chair person	Responsible for Annual Report	Attends Meridian Board Meetings
2019	Sanford	Sanford	Sanford
2020	Starbuck	Starbuck	Starbuck
2021	Avonlea	Avonlea	Avonlea
2022	Sanford	Sanford	Sanford

7. Next meeting – Tuesday September 1, 2020, Starbuck 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Ringash

Ministry & Personnel Report

M & P has not formally met since the Congregational meeting, although we will soon. As everyone is aware Reverend James was admitted to the order of Ministry in the united Church of Canada at the Regional Meeting in Brandon in June. As a result, Meridian Pastoral Charge was able to call Rev James to Minister here.

Scheduling for services & pulpit supply is completed in a rotating schedule and the pulpit supply schedule is available for September through to the end of November. It is also on the Meridian website. Starbuck organized pulpit supply for Sept – Nov. Sanford will for Dec to Feb, and Avonlea for March to June.

M & P will be looking for information to continue scheduling on; upcoming special services requiring James or may mean no pulpit supply is needed, Christmas Eve service times, Communities of Faith Annual meeting dates (to ensure pulpit supply is available), and a confirmation of the annual meeting date.

M & P is looking for Meridian Board feedback on:

4. Second Sunday of the month service times when Starbuck has joint services with Trinity Lutheran. For everyone, the least confusing seem to be to have Sanford take the time slot September to December and Avonlea in the New Year. The question to discuss is when is the change best to occur?
5. Region indication of contract requirement for Ministers offering pulpit supply to the charge more than 4 times in one calendar year. M & P has not heard any follow-up request from the Region. Does the Meridian Board want to move forward on this process with any of the ministers that do more than 4 services?

Respectfully submitted,
Michele Ammeter
M & P Chair

Regional Rep. Report

The United Church of Canada
PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL
Inaugural Meeting June 13-16, 2019
Keystone Centre, Brandon, MB

The theme of this conference was WALK WITH ME.

“Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus... and talking with each other about all these things that had happened.” (Luke 24:13-14).

The Emmaus Road story describes what it's like to be with Jesus on the road of change. It also reminds us the journey we are on is shared not only with God who enlightens the path, but with one another, What we will become will be affected by how we are with one another on the way.

As we lived with this Scripture and the notion of journeying, it was felt this passage was an apt description of the United Church of Canada in these days of new structures and uncharted roads.

Decolonization:

Know that an intercultural church is the vision for the whole church, regardless of the creation of an indigenous/intercultural gathering as the body for connection, support, and leadership. It was called up the Regional Council, Executive, committees and leaders to decolonize the governance and leadership as a way to become an intercultural church.

Discussion-How are we in colonizing mode? Am I part of the way we continue to colonizing? Are we developing a cultural understanding? Are we inclusive of other's music, language or spiritual traditions.

Committee on Community of Faith Support

This committee's mandate is to support Communities of Faith. By reviewing the annual reports and covenants a clear picture of each Community of Faith will be drawn. Through speaking to ministry personnel and others the Life and Work of Ministry in each Community of Faith is understood.

YAAG (Young Adults and Youth) members were very active with their own agendas but were included in some table group discussions. They introduced themselves at the meeting by identifying their pronouns as either: “She, her- He, his. They also led some songs and participated in skits on the theme of “On the Road to Emmaus”.

Gathering Music – We sang uplifting songs with actions from More Voices United and Country Blend male choir sang on Friday night. We sang songs in Cree language and were treated to the Hoop Dance to the beat of drums.

Visioning and Priorities- There were table group discussions about; mandate, vision statement, networks and clusters, the United Church manual's purpose (C.2.4,A-E). The following were decided upon:

a) Joining our collective hearts, voices, and resources to witness to the gospel and vision of Jesus for a compassionate and just society, both in Canada and around the world,

- b) local, regional, national, and global initiatives and partnerships (community, ecumenical and interfaith) for ministry, mission and justice work.
- c) ministry with children, youth, and young adults
- d) honouring and living into intercultural mission and ministry
- e) living in covenant with Mother Earth and All My Relations in the Earth community.

There were other reports from various committees, motions and proposals re:

- Responsibilities Retained by Regional Council
- Affirming regional council, responsibilities retained by the “Regional Council”
- Property policies and processes

Moderator Richard Bott’s speech.

Theme – What We Believe

He spoke about belief and actions are intertwined:

- Uplifting our belief in God
- Nourishing -worshipping together
- Inspired – through scripture
- Transformed – through prayer and sharing with God
- Empowered – spiritual friendship – discuss faith journeying
- Developed – by service – sharing with people and living out our beliefs

Other points discussed over the weekend were:

- Oversight Visits are not longer- it will become a self assessment.
- Covenants are to be completed by the end of September.

Final Gathering- Celebration of Ministry Service was on Sunday.

Remember - We are on a “learning journey”- Change take time. Remember the journey is NOT the destination and the “destination” may change.

Closing prayer

- Be with Me ... God,
- Travel with me ... Neighbour
- Talk with me ... Friend
- Share with me ... Stranger
- Help me grow ... Church
- Shape me until I understand the word Community and life become “we”.

Now what is our next step?

Submitted by Diane Trudeau

Prairie to Pine Regional Rep.

Inter-Church no report

Motion: to accept the committee reports. Malcolm Kirkpatrick/Michele Ammeter. Carried

Church Reports

Avonlea Church report

Worship at Avonlea have been moving along well with the leadership of James de Beer. We've been blessed with a decent number of young families. Without the children our numbers would be low and I've noticed the Sundays where we had no Sunday school the service was much quieter. Sunday school will be starting next Sunday and after church we will be going to La Barriere Park for a pot luck/wiener roast. Generally the speaking the atmosphere is a positive one. Revenue seems to have increased some since our hiring of a full time minister, but there likely will be challenges in the more distant future. This year we had a baptism for Cameron Lampertz June 2nd and Dean Mortimer April 28th. June 16th we celebrated the Sunday school windup and held the heritage service at Union Point June 23rd. Avonlea church was closed for the month of July and reopened August 4th. This fall Avonlea was to have had their services at 11 AM, but at the request of M&P will be continuing a 9:30 start and starting in January will have to start at 11 the second Sunday of each month. This change created some confusion for the Avonlea board and a lot of discussion. The main concern was how would we best inform our membership of this alternating time change. We will do our best to make it work, but it is quite probable that some of our members will come at the wrong time to church. One of our thoughts is that these decisions should be discussed and decided at the Meridian board level first and then forwarded to committee. We had our last board meeting in April and a couple of short after church meetings since. And are planning to meet later in September.

Ron Manness

Sanford United Church

Sanford United had our normal summer break from regular worship services from June 16 to September 7. However before our break we celebrated 2 baptisms on May 5:

- Sarah Perrett (daughter of Anne and Allan)
- Julie Dufault (Alison and Denis)

Over the spring/summer, we were able to help a local family in the community get through a rough time by providing occasional food donations. This was mainly through the work of one of our hard working congregation members and I'm happy to report that we hope these hard times are over as that same member has helped find employment for the family.

Over the summer, we are also able to get a minor electrical upgrade done at our church and discussions continue about what we are going to do about repairing/replacing our front door.

Our first service after the summer break on September 8 and energy is again building towards a meaningful Fall and Winter season at Sanford United.

Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Scharf
chairperson

Starbuck United Church

As there have been no church services since June there is little to report. The first service of September was a joint service with the Lutherans so we are looking forward to our first service on the 15th.

We will be having a baptism on the 29th the daughter of Jerrilyn and Larry Dutchak, grand daughter of Mervin and Joanne Schrof.

A sign has been added to the church site which has a link to the history of the church on the Manitoba Historical Society website.

Margaret Porter

Motion: to accept the church reports. Ron Manness/Michele Ammeter. Carried.

Correspondence

We received:

- a copy of The United Church "2018 Year in Review".

-a letter from St. Andrew's College asking Communities of Faith to consider designating one Sunday in the coming year as "College or Vocation Sunday" to show the importance of St. Andrew's College.

Matters Arising from the minutes

The Hub

Jamie emailed Sandi Franklin about our invitation to the Hub. Apparently it got emailed to the email address of the treasurer. We will wait until we get another invitation or an email regarding this issue.

Constitution

A sub committee was struck consisting of Jamie Scharf, Michele Ammeter, Reverend James de Beer and a representative from Avonlea United Church. They will present an update at the November's meeting.

New Business

Covenant

All Communities of Faith and Pastoral Charges are required to write a Covenant to the Prairie to Pine Region. Covenants must be presented to their local boards, passed, and then mailed: Regional Office – 1622 B St. Mary's Rd. Winnipeg, MB. R2M 3W7

Diane Trudeau presented the Meridian Pastoral Charge's covenant.

Note Action: It was decided that the covenant would be emailed to all board members so they can review it and provide feedback. A motion to accept the covenant will be done through email. Board members will email their vote to Diane Trudeau in the next two weeks. (d.trudeau8@gmail.com.)

Next meeting topics

Discussion-How is the minister's alternating schedule work?

M&P will report at the next meeting on the size and effort regarding creating contracts for pulpit supply.

Adjournment: motion was made at 9:11 pm by Malcolm Kirkpatrick

submitted by

Diane Trudeau

Secretary for Meridian Pastoral Charge