

2019 MERIDIAN PASTORAL CHARGE ANNUAL MEETING

February 24, 2020
at Avonlea United Church

Attendance: Malcolm Kirkpatrick, Cliff Harrison, Stuart Manness, Jane Manness, Janice Harrison, Margaret Porter, Barb Kirk, Julie Ringash, Judy Cormier, Nancy Langlois, Jamie Scharf, Linda Manson, Diane Trudeau, James deBeer (by phone)

Regrets: Ron Manness

Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm

Opening Prayer – James opened the meeting with a prayer

Agenda as prepared by Chair

Election of Chairperson/Recorder of Minutes

Secretary- Diane Trudeau volunteered

Chairman – Malcolm Kirkpatrick- nominated by Linda Manson/Margaret Porter Carried

Corrections and Adoption of Minutes from the Annual Meeting February 5, 2019

Motion: to adopt the minutes as circulated Jamie/ Cliff. Carried

Reports:

Minister's Report

James added via the phone that he hoped people would not hesitate to contact him by any means if there are any concerns. He likes to get feed back from the congregation whenever possible. James also mentioned that he has learned through this last year of his life's journey to NOT take anything for granted. Life can be very fragile.

Worship Report

A question to the worship committee is "Why does the order of worship not include any of the letters from Paul?" It was explained the lectionary readings follow a 3 year cycle and the reading would probably be in one of those years.

Ministry and Personnel

Question to this committee was, "Is there a list of pulpit supply?". Yes, it would be circulated. Also, is this committee addressing the rules and procedure for Jame's short term disability? Yes. It was also pointed out that the name "Tom Manness" should read "Tom Manson".

Regional Council Prairie to Pine

No additional info needed.

Church Reports

Avonlea United Church

There was a comment by Ron Manness via Cliff Harrison that the Meridian Pastoral Charge should have a way of supporting itself rather than relying on the Manse money. Fund raising ideas would be discussed in New Business.

Sanford United Church

Added to this report by Jamie was that Sanford United Church has run its second deficit year. Also added were the funerals of Irene Grills and Vern Parker.

Starbuck United Church

Margaret add John Marshall's funeral.

Meridian Inter-Church Council

Jane asked when the World Day of Prayer was to be held? James said March, 8th at Trinity Lutheran Church. 7 pm.

Motion: to adopt the reports as amended and presented. Michele/Jamie Carried

Financial Report

Cliff explained the 2019 Financial Report

Motion: to adopt the Financial Report as presented Cliff/Michele Carried

Correspondence

Peter Mitchell asked if Meridian Pastoral Charge would sponsor him as he wants to keep his United Church of Canada status as a minister.

Old Business

Constitution

Malcolm is working to update it and ensuring it measures up to United Church of Canada manual. He will present it at the April meeting.

Hub – we still need to get on it.

Contract vs Pulpit Supply

If a minister preaches 4 times or more they need to sign a contract in order to receive benefits. T4s must be provided if a minister earns over \$500 and that would be more than two Sundays.

Action: M&P study and present at the next meeting whether a "Contract Minister" or "Pulpit Supply" is best for us.

There needs to be a broader discussion on how we can reduce our Pulpit Supply expenditures. James is flexible to help us and provide resources as needed. He would even do a 3rd service on Sundays.

United Fresh Start

James contacted Rev. Elizabeth and explained about his condition and he would get back to her when he was feeling better.

New Business

Category Remit # 1

The proposal entitled “Amendment to the Basis of Union’s Article 10.0 on Ministry Personnel” was unfinished business from the 43rd General Council’s 2018 meeting in Oshawa and so now is being addressed. General Council has authorized this Category 1 Remit to Regional Councils to test the will of the church with respect to this change. At present 10.0 under Ministry and Personnel states, “The Order of Ministry shall be open to both men and women.” The amended 10.0 will state, “The Order of Ministry shall be inclusive of persons of all gender identities.”

Motion: to support the proposed amendment. Michele/Margaret Carried

Fishing Tips – How Curiosity Transformed a Community of Faith

by Rev. Dr. John Pentland

This book describes how to increase congregational numbers. Communities of Faith/churches have to look at how the young people of today communicate (using social media) and through those means advertise yourself. Through the board’s discussion it was mentioned to be cautious of confidentiality issues. Neighbour Talk was a suggestion - speak to one neighbour a month about which church you attend and why. It also suggested to change the word “Sermon” to “Reflection” as it seemed less preachy. This idea was well accepted. The author was also suggested to put news about your church in neighbourhood flyers.

Nomination and Election of New Board Members

Treasurer

It is very difficult to get a treasurer so it was suggested that Meridian Pastoral Charge hire a bookkeeper to make the position easier. The bookkeeper’s duties would be:

- have signing authority
- pay bills
- create monthly statements

The bookkeeper’s salary would be \$600 per year. They would NOT do the fiscal report. Cliff would work with them until April. **However we still need a Treasurer. Each congregation is to asked to see if they can get a volunteer by the April meeting.** After we get a Treasurer, Malcolm will send out a motion to accept them.

Motion: we hire Karen Elliot as bookkeeper for Meridian Pastoral Charge with a salary maximum of \$600 per year. Michele/Margaret Carried.

Motion: Cliff will be the reviewer of the books. Linda/Jamie Carried

Chairperson – Malcolm Kirkpatrick

Vice Chair – Diane Trudeau

Motion: to accept Diane as Vice Chair Michele/Margaret Carried.

Secretary – Jamie Scharf

Motion: to accept Jamie as Secretary Michele/Nancy Carried.

Attendance

Dates are set for meetings. If you are unable to attend please see if you can get someone to represent you.

Budget 2020

Discussion re:

Telephone – to save \$1100 per year, Jamie will change the church number to Jame’s phone. James was fine with this.

Treasurer – bookkeeper amount will change from \$500 to \$600 per year for making payments and monthly statements.

Allocations – Avonlea - \$2450, Starbuck \$1700 and Sanford \$2450 per month. Manse investment withdrawal - \$15 000. Use carryover - \$6000.

Motion: to accept the amendments to eliminate the phone expense of \$1100 and change the Treasurer amount of \$500 to \$600 to pay the bookkeeper with a total of \$97 586.00 Michele/Jamie Carried.

Motion: to accept the amended 2020 Budget using \$15 000 from the Manse account. Cliff/Jamie Carried

M&S Donations

Avonlea \$3000

Sanford \$1000

Starbuck \$2000

2020 Board Members

Chairperson – Malcolm Kirkpatrick

Vice Chair – Diane Trudeau

Secretary – Jamie Scharf

Worship Chair – Colleen Norton

M&P Chair – Michele Ammeter until May and Julie Ringash continues

Regional Council Rep – Diane Trudeau

Members at Large

Avonlea – Jane Manness

Sanford – Nancy Langlois

Starbuck -

Church Chairpersons

Avonlea – Ron Manness

Sanford – Jamie Scharf

Starbuck – Margaret Porter

2020 Meeting Dates

Tuesday, April 14 2020 – Sanford 7PM

Tuesday, September 8, 2020 – Starbuck 7 PM

Monday, November 9, 2020 – Avonlea 7PM

Monday, February 8, 2021 7 PM -Annual Meeting at Sanford

Adjournment by Jamie Scharf at 9:23 PM

Addendum to February 24 Meridian Pastoral Charge Draft Minutes March 19, 2020

This is to certify that during the 24 Feb 2020 Annual Meridian Pastoral Charge (MPC) Meeting meeting held at the Avonlea Church in Domain Manitoba that there were no volunteers for the position of MPC Treasurer. In lieu of and in addition to the Treasurer position being filled at a later date, there was a motion to accept Karen Elliot as bookkeeper (not Treasurer) which was passed by the Board.

On 12 Mar Cliff Harrison moved (via email) that Georges Cormier be nominated for Treasurer of the MPC for a two year term. Jamie Scarf seconded the nomination. There were twelve votes in favour of the nomination and zero votes against the nomination. The motion was unanimously approved by the MPC Board. Georges Cormier is MPC Treasurer for a two year term.

On 17 Mar Cliff Harrison moved (via email) that Georges Cormier (MPC Treasurer) and Karen Elliot (MPC bookkeeper) be given signing authority for the Meridian Pastoral Charge (Financial). The motion was seconded by Michele Ammeter. There were twelve votes in favour of the motion that Georges Cormier and Karen Elliot be granted signing authority for the Meridian Pastoral Charge and zero votes against the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by the MPC Board.