

Minutes
Starbuck United Church council meeting
Wednesday September 16, 2020

In attendance : Margaret Porter, Len Pedersen, Ann Pedersen, Michele Ammeter, Sharon Masse, Ellen Saltiss, Janis McMorran, Melanie Mosset, Rev. James DeBeer.

Meeting was called to order at 7:01

Rev. James began the meeting in prayer.

A motion to accept the minutes from our previous meeting as presented was made by Melanie Mosset, seconded Len Pedersen. **Carried**

Matters arising from minutes.

Michele will be taking over as M&P chair.

Ministers report

No report

Chair report submitted by Margaret Porter

I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer in these very odd circumstances.

As you know our first service of the season is on 13th of September and as that happens to be the 2nd Sunday of the month we shall be joining the Lutherans for their service. Things will be a bit different from before and as it stands now face masks will be required as will social distancing and signing in. Also be prepared to answer all the usual covid questions.

On the 20th we are having our first Lay service and I propose that if the weather is good enough we meet on our church site for "bring your own chair, coffee and snacks for fellowship before the service and we shall worship there also. As you probably know there will unfortunately be no music. The service will consequently be much shorter than we are used to. If the weather does not cooperate we will be in the Lutheran Church and I am afraid there will be no coffee.

One thing for sure about this fall's services is that nothing is for sure. Things may and probably will change as we feel our way through this pandemic. The important thing is that we navigate it together and hopefully with patience and compassion. We must look forward to being together and looking after one another.

Worship Report submitted by Michele Ammeter

Meridian Annual Worship Committee meeting was held in Sanford September 1, 2020. All members were present

2020/2021 dates:

- 1) Scripture readings for the church year are from Year A right now, Year B begins at Advent. A link to the Lectionary is available on the MPC website.
- 2) Communion dates are: October 4 (WWC), November 29 (Advent 1), January 3 or 10th (Epiphany), February 21 or 28 (1st Lent with Liturgy of Ashes), April 4 (Easter), May 23 or May 30 (Pentecost).
- 3) Each congregation will schedule their own Recovenanting services, White Gift Sunday, Hanging of the Greens Memory Tree as the timing suits best.
- 4) Inter-church Advent Service event is scheduled for November 29, LaSalle Fellowship at 7:00PM.
- 5) MPC Blue Christmas Service will be on Monday December 21 in Sanford
- 6) Christmas Eve Services are: Starbuck at 5:00 pm (with Rev. James), Avonlea at 7:00pm (with rev James), and Sanford at 7:30 pm.
- 7) Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - January 18-25.

- 8) Holy Week services are: Maundy Thursday Trinity Lutheran (April 1st); Good Friday Avonlea (April 2, 10am); Easter Sunday (April 4) services are Sanford at 9:30am (with Rev James), Starbuck at 11:30 (with Rev James) and Avonlea at 11:00am
- 9) Union Point service and Interfaith service will be June 27.

Other Information

- The Worship Committee recommended that MPC Board budget for 1 pulpit supply for each congregation annually if needed (for a total of 3). This may not be required each, but could be used for Christmas Eve, Easter Sunday or any other required service as the local board feels is needed.
- The Worship Committee recommended to the MPC board that MPC Board request anyone attending services wear a mask, even if it is not a provincial or UCC requirement. As was noted by one member of the committee, if children can do it in school 5 days a week, we can manage for a service once a week.

Order of Service Changes

This year there are significant changes to the Order of Service, and things may continue to change regularly as we adjust due to the Pandemic requirements, as we work to try to keep all members safe, and figure out what works and what does not. The changes at this point reflect the need to minimize the movement of air (and therefore droplets) within the sanctuary. They include:

- Rev James will record the service weekly and post it after the service for folks who feel they are unable to attend service.
- We will not be handing out bulletins (at this point) because there will be no responses and no singing in the service so are unnecessary, but a bulletin will be posted online and can be printed that way for anyone that wishes.
- There will be no singing hymns. Some forms of music are alright, some are not. Anything that spreads air droplets is not alright including singing and instruments which require air. As such we will be only having 2 hymns (1 verse & chorus) in each service (again with no singing). Piano will be OK, flute is unfortunately not..
- Communion will take place but using purchased, prepackaged, individual communion servings that Rev James has sourced. These will be distributed prior to the service, again to minimize movement of people and folks will stay in their seats.
- There will be readers for the first reading, but they can't use the microphone and need to ensure return to seats conforms to requirements, or they can adjust where they sit for the service.
- Attendance, photos, or sign in sheets will need to be taken for contact tracing purposes. While Greeters can't shake hands and hand bulletins to folks they can potentially take attendance and point out the offertory plate & communion juice/wafer pkg and remind folks of the entry & exits as needed, although this will be up to each congregation.
- A list of "duties" for the greeters will be developed and circulated. It will also be on the bulletin board for review

M & P report – no report

Pastoral Care report -no report

Prairie to Pine report submitted by Diane Trudeau

The Prairie to Pine Regional meeting is planned for a virtual meeting in September.

The Prairie to Pine newsletter provides update and information important to C.O. F for protocols and timelines for reopening:

Diane Strickland, a Trauma Counsellor, critical incident responder and United Church Minister who shared a series of four videos with the church called the PandemicPracticum, has made two new videos to assist Ministry Personnel and lay leaders as they make decisions about re-opening and begin re-engaging. They are accessible through: <http://www.knox-united.com/making-faithful-decisions-on-re-entry---part-1.html>

Financial Support for Congregations:

Erik Mathiesen, the Chief Financial Officer of the United Church of Canada and Clyde Harris presented the latest instalment in the United-in-Learning webinars with <https://united-in-learning.com/index.php/webinars/recordings/350-congregational-finances-august-12>

We finally have received feed back from P2P regarding the covenants. Additions will be made and covenants will be returned. These covenants will be passed at the P2P meeting in September.

A motion to approve reports as presented made by Ellen Saltiss, seconded Michele Ammeter.

Carried

Treasurers Report

General Fund Balances

Chequing	\$ 11,699.25
Shares	5.00
Term Deposit	\$212,967.13 (expected to mature at over \$217, 000 October 16)

Memorial Fund Balances

Chequing	\$ 166.76
Shares	5.00
Term Deposit	\$ 3,943.84

Expenses since last report have been monthly allocation to Meridian Pastoral Charge and lawn mowing. Taxes (\$743.21) are due October 24, 2020.

Taking into account all the donations (including Fetterman fund) and regular expenses, we are currently running a deficit of approximately \$10,000 per year.

The term deposit has been previously invested for 2 year periods.

It is recommended that we split the large term deposit into some smaller amounts to cover the expected shortfalls for at least the next 2 years. Suggest one at \$185,000. and 3 smaller of equal amounts.

Len and Ann Pedersen, Treasurer

A motion to approve the treasurers report as presented was made by Ann Pedersen, seconded Michele Ammeter.

Carried

Old Business

The family of Pat Johnson donated \$2000 to the church.

New Business

- 1) We will hold our first church service of the year on Sept. 20 on the United Church property at 11:30.
- 2) **A motion to donate** \$300 to the Trinity Lutheran Church to assist in Covid operations was made by Michele Ammeter, seconded Ellen Saltiss. **Carried**
- 3) Michele has created a list of readers and greeters. The list will include the new Covid protocols and procedures.
- 4) The money from the fire insurance term deposit matures on Oct. 16, 2020
It was acknowledged that each year we are about \$10,000-\$15,000 short on donations to fulfill our financial responsibilities for our budget. It was decided that we would take some money out of the term deposit to help out with the next couple years.

A motion to pull out \$50,000 to be reinvested as we see fit on the maturity date of Oct.16 and with the remainder to be reinvested for 1 or 2 years into a term deposit was made by Ann Pedersen, seconded by Michele Ammeter.

Carried

A motion to adjourn was made by Michele Ammeter at 8:13