

# Meridian Pastoral Charge 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Sanford United  
Church



Avonlea United  
Church



Starbuck United  
Church



## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| P 3     | Agenda   |
| P 4     | Mission Statement                                  |
| P 5-9   | Minutes form the 2019 Annual Meeting with Addendum |
| P 10-11 | Minister's Report                                  |
| P 12    | Chair's Report                                     |
| P 13    | Committee Reports Worship                          |
| P 14    | M&P  |
| P 15    | Prairie to Pine                                    |
| P 16    | Church Reports Avonlea United Church               |
| P 17-18 | Sanford United Church                              |
| P 18    | Starbuck United Church                             |
| P 19    | Meridian Inter-Church Council                      |
| P 20-21 | Meridian Pastoral Charge Financial                 |
| P 22-23 | Meridian Pastoral Charge Budget for 2021           |





Treasurers  
Correspondence

Old Business  
MPC Governance Document Approval  
Flyers Update  
Tech Soup

New Business  
Election of MPC Board Members – Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary  
MPC Trustees  
MPC Covenant Approval  
MPC Budget for 2021  
MPC Financial Audit

Confirmation of MPC Meeting Dates:  
Tuesday 13 April 2021 – Starbuck – 7 PM  
Tuesday 14 September 2021 – Avonlea – 7 PM  
Tuesday 09 November 2021 – Sanford – 7 PM  
Tuesday 08 February 2022 - Starbuck – 7 PM (AGM)

Call for Adjournment

**MISSION STATEMENT  
FOR MERIDIAN PASTORAL CHARGE**

**To worship;**  
**To celebrate the church year;**  
**To be a loving presence in our community during crisis and joy;**  
**To nurture the Christian Faith to individuals of all ages.**





## **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, 8<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 43<sup>rd</sup> 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**

Avonela \$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





## MINISTER'S REPORTS -2020

### Meridian Pastoral Charge AGM Minister's Report January 2021

As I look back on 2020 preparing this report for our Annual Meeting, I think of the pioneers who laid the foundations of our churches—many of whom are your ancestors. They didn't just build a church building from ground up, they built a church community, through hard work, sweat, tears, sacrifice but above all faith, hope and love. Many pioneers came here with little more than the clothes on their backs. They came to this land which, although beautiful and bountiful, is in many ways harsh and unforgiving. Yet, inspired by their faith and need of community, they began our churches 'from scratch' and lived out the Gospel, empowering the light and life of Christ to flourish. Celebrations, lamentations, caring for those in need; they showed us that we don't just go to church, but we are the church 24/7.

2020 has been a year for pioneering again, so to speak. Our need to follow Public Health restrictions, protect the vulnerable, support health care workers and essential workers meant we could not carry on as usual with our normal church routines, particularly gathering in person Sunday mornings. As difficult as that was, it was even more painful for those who had loved ones in care homes or other circumstances where visiting and care was hindered or made impossible. Hearing many of your own personal experiences of not being able to say goodbye to loved ones is heartbreaking and my heart and prayers go out to you. Please be assured that those who have passed on are with God and are now embraced by eternal light and life.

While I do not claim my experiences of 2020 to be on par with those of our pioneering ancestors, it felt a bit like being a pioneer constructing an infrastructure which would enable us to gather as church online, over the phone, emails, texts, YouTube and Zoom. Thank goodness much of this infrastructure was already laid out, waiting to be harnessed and thank you to those who lent their technical know-how to enable us to tap into these resources.

Moving to becoming a church that gathers mostly online was exciting in terms of the opportunities it opened, but was also very scary—for me personally at least—and there were times I confess I was tempted to despair. I thank you all and laud you for your patience, understanding and openness to these new virtual ways of being church. The Christmas Eve service in particular was very affirming and nourishing for my spirit because of your embrace to fully participate and share your videos, music, and photos. I know very well from my experiences this past year that recording yourself to go online is extremely daunting so thank you for sharing your beautiful selves with our communities of faith and beyond.

I encourage us all, as congregations and as individuals, to frequently reflect on our experiences of this pandemic and what lessons we have learned and can learn about ourselves and about being effective disciples of Christ. Our ongoing experience of being a church online I think invites us to consider how we want to continue harnessing these resources even as things (hopefully this year, 2021) return to 'normal.' It also must be noted that many in our faith communities do not have access to online resources and so we must work to ensure no one is left out or left behind.

2020 has been a year of struggles and tribulations, sadness and uncertainty—and not just because of the pandemic but also because of upheaval, illness and the death of loved ones. Thank you to everyone who reached out to one another, offered support and through determination and creativity, found ways to live out our mission:

*To worship;  
To celebrate the church year;*

*To be a loving presence in their communities, in times of crisis and joy;  
To provide for the Christian nurture and nourishment of all ages.*

I'm sure many of us are more than ready to turn the page on 2020, but, as I've said, I think it's important to remember and learn from this crisis and also to celebrate the positive. During any end-of-year time, there is a plethora of lists: top 10 google searches, top shows, top new phrases we've started using (I'm thinking 'zoom-bombing' or a whole new meaning to 'red-alert'). I recently read one in the Free Press on Top positive things that have happened in 2020 and I'd just like to highlight a few:

- 1) We adapted:** The pandemic asked us to roll with so much, but we were able to see that we can cope...we figured out new ways to being church...we've thought about what a 'new normal' might look like...we've seen how many of our social structures—specifically how we care for our very old and our very young—need to be overhauled. We kept going even when it felt like we couldn't.
- 2) We went outside:** maybe not all of us, but for me personally I spent much more time outside in 2020 than I have in years and it was good for my mental, spiritual and physical health. We even had some worship services and Sunday School outside which was fun. I still fondly remember those first few gatherings we had outdoors in late Spring and how excited we were to see each other in person.
- 3) We started hard work:** events around the world, particularly in the US, but also in Canada and Manitoba, have invited us to have difficult conversations about personal, institutional and cultural racism, white privilege and how we can bring about a more just and equitable society.
- 4) We showed up for ourselves:** a number of families in our communities spoke of how the pandemic, although hardly relaxing in multiple aspects, 'cleared the calendar' and meant more time to spend as a family, try new hobbies, read lots of books and watch lots of shows. "We started to have meaningful discussions about the cult of productivity and measuring one's self worth by how much one produces..."
- 5) We took care of each other:** we checked in on each other, we delivered groceries to each other, we shared our baking experiments, we shared our shaggy, scruffy faces on Zoom and Google-meet. "Every time we sacrificed precious time with family and friends in the name of greater-good public health, we took care of each other...Every time we put on a mask, washed our hands, kept our distance and stayed home, we took care of each other."

I know we are all looking forward to coming back to the Church building and seeing each other again, as soon as it is possible for all of us to do so. We miss each other's smiles – we miss each other's hugs – we miss each other's voices – we miss each other's encouragement and exhortation. The apostle Paul often wrote in his letters to different Churches how much he always looked forward to seeing his fellow believers to encourage them and strengthen their mutual faith:

*"First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you... without ceasing I remember you always in my prayers, asking that by God's will I may somehow at last succeed in coming to you. For I am longing to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift to strengthen you— or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other..." (Romans 1:8-15)*

My friends, may we always continue to grow deeper in our love for one another, whether we are present in the body or not. May we always look forward to our fellowship, because we are always united in one Spirit.

**"I have much more to say to you, but I don't want to do it with paper and ink. For I hope to visit you soon and talk with you face to face. Then our joy will be complete." (2 John 1:12)**

**Rev. James deBeer**

## **Meridian Pastoral Charge Chairperson Annual Report - 2020**

Well it has been a long year highlighted by an unprecedented 21<sup>st</sup> century pandemic the likes of which have not been seen since the Spanish Flu of 1918. I think that I echo the thoughts of many of the congregants that hope - with all of the vaccines coming to the health system - we as a society can put the pandemic behind us sometime in 2021.

That being said, it is felt that the Meridian Pastoral Charge has managed to move the yardsticks ahead in several areas. A large thank you goes out to the committee that put together the governance documentation for the Meridian Pastoral Charge. This was no small undertaking. Also hand in hand with the governance document was the finalization of the covenants for not only the Meridian Pastoral Charge but also the covenants for the individual congregations. A big 'Thank you' to everyone involved in pulling these documents and declarations together.

With the pandemic running rampant in parts of Canada and throughout the world, it is remarkable that our congregants - and for that matter the congregants of other faiths throughout the world - have pulled together to weather the storm. This is a testament to our deep-rooted belief and hope for a brighter future. I am a strong believer that the congregations will be stronger than ever once we move into 2021 and beyond.

I have reserved my last statement for our Minister for the Meridian Pastoral Charge. Without his strong leadership in guiding us through these tough and what seemed liked unforgiving times, I think we as a Pastoral Charge could have been left 'wanting'. Without hesitation he has bore the brunt of the pandemic solitude by conveying to our households through in-person services, on-line services and outdoor activities to bring us the word of god every Sunday. Without his strong guidance and perseverance, I think that our faith would have been shaken to the core. Thank you Reverend James deBeer.

I sincerely hope that 2021 brings renewed hope for everyone.

Sincerely

MC Kirkpatrick  
**Chairperson Meridian Pastoral Charge**



## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### MPC Worship Report

Meridian Annual Worship Committee meeting was held in Sanford September 1, 2020 at Sanford United Church. All members were present, with Michele Ammeter chairing.

After the annual meeting in February 2020, Colleen Norton was the chair of the Worship Committee. Sadly, she stepped down from the committee during the summer and passed away Dec 27th. Colleen was active on many committees over the years and we will miss her.

Generally most in person special dates in 2020 were cancelled. Services were held virtually during the COVID 19 pandemic. 2020 scheduled dates were:

- 1) Scripture readings for the 2020 church year were from Year A until Advent 2020.
- 2) Communion dates were to be: January 5 (Epiphany), March 1 (1st Sunday in Lent), April 12 (Easter), May 31 (Pentecost), October 4 (WWC), November 29 (Advent 1),
- 3) Inter-church Advent Service event was scheduled for November 29.
- 4) MPC Blue Christmas Service was be on Monday December 21.
- 5) Christmas Eve Services was a joint service on YouTube for all 3 congregations.

This year there were significant changes to the services as we all adapted to the pandemic. Things changed continually as the Public Health Orders during the pandemic changed. Rev James quickly adapted to the needs of Meridian Pastoral charge and had a service posted by March 17th on You Tube, just days after the pandemic was declared and the first case was announced in Manitoba. It was a praiseworthy job of ensuring that we had a service available online when we were unable to meet in person. A Children's Time post was also available shortly thereafter. This fall Rev James ensured there was both a virtual service and that we were able to get a printed version of the service to our congregation members unable to take part online.

We do not know when we will be able to meet in person again but have developed a set of guidelines for each congregation to use when this is possible. They were implemented in September, but there were very few services at that time and the guidelines may need to be reviewed prior to use again, and will be dependent on Public Health Orders in particular.

*Respectfully Submitted by;*  
**Michele Ammeter**





Submitted by  
Diane Trudeau  
Prairie to Pine Representative

## CHURCH REPORTS

### AVONLEA CHURCH CHAIR 2020

On behalf of the board I would like to extend greetings and best wishes in these challenging times and present my report for the year 2020. The past year was difficult for the church community due to Covid 19. Avonlea church had closed in person services March 7<sup>th</sup> to help prevent the spread of the disease. We had hopes at that time, the closure would last a month and then we'd be able to meet again after that. As we all know now it wasn't that simple. Reverend James organized on line virtual services for all three churches of the Meridian, as well as children's time on line. And, he had organized an outdoor gathering in June when restrictions were eased, which was a much needed relief to three months of isolation. We started in person services again August 9<sup>th</sup> practising social distancing, and other social protocols. In September the board had a meeting and decided to continue with in person services. We established protocols such as; people were to wear masks inside the church, to not exceed 25% of capacity, use hand sanitizer, social distance, post pone Sunday school, eliminate after service snacks and coffee, and greatly reduce singing. November the 8<sup>th</sup> the board decided to close the church indefinitely, due to the code red implemented by Manitoba Health.

The board had three regular meetings this year (two in person and one by conference call) and many discussions by email. Meetings were well attended. This year Judy Manness, Brad Aran, and Norman Manness are at the end of their terms and we thank them for their service. I am hopeful they will allow their names to stand for another term. Linda Manson had indicated this would be her last year as treasurer, but lately stated she would continue one more year due to the Covid 19 commotion. There's always room for more on the board so feel free to volunteer. We would encourage young people to become involved, even if you would like to attend a meeting or two just to see what it's all about. Just mention it to Ron or Cliff and we'll make it happen.

The United Church of Canada over the last three years has introduced new procedures, and a restructure of governance. We are no longer a member of the presbytery. Presbyteries have been replaced by regional councils and our regional council is called Prairie to Pines. The Prairie to Pines region runs approximately from Thunder Bay to Brandon. I had mentioned this in last year's report and I'm repeating it to remind you of that. Our (Avonlea) covenant or agreement with P to P has been presented to the region and has been approved. The Meridian pastoral charge had to review and rewrite its governance manual and that too has been forwarded to P to P and has been approved. It now needs to be ratified by the membership at our Meridian annual meeting. My thanks to those on the Meridian board involved in creating this document especially Michelle Ammeter, Jamie Scharf, and Malcolm Kirkpatrick. From our governance discussions we have discovered that we need to update our list of trustees for Avonlea. I have spoken to Shelley Robson, Stuart Manness, and Don Johnson about serving in that capacity. They have agreed to let their names stand. We will need to have a vote of support at our annual meeting to ratify this group.

Our annual meeting at Avonlea will be held virtually this year to avoid spread of Covid and to comply with government restrictions. We have it slated for January 19<sup>th</sup> 7:30 PM (Tuesday evening). Cliff will be sending out the meeting details.

I would like to thank Reverend James debeer for coming up with methods to continue fellowship at the churches under the challenging health restrictions. For example, he performed a baptism for Bennett Johnson and conducted the ceremony in the church with only the parents and Bennett in attendance. And as I said before he performed many church services including Christmas Eve on YouTube.

Thanks to everyone that has supported the church so faithfully. Without the volunteer and financial commitment we wouldn't last too long. On behalf of the board I would like to wish everyone the very best in 2021. There will be some difficult days ahead, but if we hang in there, support each other, and be patient I'm sure we will be okay. *Ron Manness*

### **SANFORD UNITED CHURCH CHAIR for 2020**

Chair – Jamie Scharf / Secretary - Tammy Klippenstein / Treasurer-Norm Dyck

Minister - Rev. James deBeer

Member at Large - Nancy Langlois

#### Sub Committees

Worship- Barb Kirk, Ken Boyd, Nancy Langlois, Tammy Klippenstein

Sunday School Teachers: Onnolee Scharf, Nancy Langlois

Property & Maintenance: Todd Ringash, Norm Dyck, Marc Nolette, Blair Johnson

Project Comm – Pat Schnell, Nancy D., Nancy L, Tammy K, Kelly Epler

Rentals -- Jamie Scharf

Cards – Nancy Langlois

M&P Representative - Julie Ringash

Outreach Committee- Barb Batulla, Barb Kirk, Onnolee Scharf and Julie Ringash

Board meetings were held on Jan. 19 (Annual Meeting), April 23, and July 23.

2020 has been the most unusual year for Sanford United that I can remember. In fact, I'd be surprised if anyone could say there was ever another year in history with such uncertainty and change. The COVID-19 pandemic has created many challenges and some opportunities like nothing ever before. And this came at a time when Sanford United and the Meridian Pastoral Charge was just learning how to operate in the new United Church governance structure. Safe to say, there has been very little "doing it the normal way".

In person worship stopped in March due to public health orders but thanks to our very capable and dedicated minister we quickly transitioned to online worship without missing a Sunday! Our services continued online all through the summer. Giving us our first opportunity, worship during the summer months! Thankfully, the COVID-19 situation had improved enough for us to resume in person worship on Sept. 13th. This was not normal worship but rather modified to meet public health orders. None the less, it was very satisfying to be together in person once again. Unfortunately, that didn't last long as public health order changed again at the end of October making it necessary to switch back to online worship only. This also meant we were not able to host the annual Remembrance Day service that is always so meaningful at Sanford United. As the year of online services progressed, the method has been refined and it's interesting to watch the progression as all services are still currently available on YouTube. The "climax" of the year's online service was the Christmas eve service where the participation from so many members from the entire pastoral charge was very rewarding to watch!

Some other highlights from 2020 are:

- The formation of an outreach committee who managed not only organize us better to do more of God’s work in this world (locally and abroad) but also increase the awareness of our church in the community. In fact, we decided to post our own “Christmas in NOT cancelled” mailing to the entire Sanford community in December just in time for the “Glow of Love” drive-by event which replaced an in-person Blue Christmas service.
- The installation of a new front door to our building.

Respectfully submitted, *Jamie Scharf*

**STARBUCK UNITED CHURCH CHAIR for 2020**

2020 has been a challenging year, not only for us but for people all across the world. Unprecedented has been an over used word perhaps but certainly sums it up. The tragic losses suffered are hard to grasp and it has been very difficult to deal with. People have lost family members, income and, in many cases, their way of life. We have all been tasked with staying apart and we have had to cope with the loss of in person fellowship and worship as well as the rest of our social lives. This has been hard on our small congregation. We have been unable to meet since March. However there has been some light in the darkness. We are particularly fortunate to have the services of Rev. James who has risen to the challenge in so many ways. The on line services (and particularly Christmas Eve) have been very special and have been much appreciated. Our thanks to him! Thanks also to Diane and Michelle for keeping bulletins and reflections circulated.

Our congregation has been hit hard by tragedy and we deeply mourn the loss of Sonya and now Colleen. Colleen was a very giving person who's service to the church was outstanding. We are forever grateful for her contribution as active council member and chorister. Both of these wonderful people went far too soon and will be greatly missed.

Now we must look forward with hope to the future. The arrival of vaccines gives optimism that things will be changing for the better in the foreseeable future and we are eager for the time when we may meet safely in person and return to more “normal” life. What a joy it will be when we are able to enjoy the simple things we formerly took for granted like coffee together before the services!

Our Annual meeting will not be taking place in the usual way but we hope anyone with concerns will contact council members with them and they will be addressed.

I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year and hope that as it progresses we will see each other back in church where we belong.

*Margaret*

## **Annual Report of the Meridian Inter-Church Council (MIC) for 2020**

The churches that make currently make up this council are: Avonlea, Starbuck, & Sanford United, Oakbluff Bible, La Salle Community Fellowship, Springstein Mennonite, St Hyacinthe RC Parish, Trinity Lutheran (Starbuck) and St Paul's Lutheran (Brunkild), Mary, Mother of the Church (RC), Winnipeg. The annual fee was raised in 2020 to \$100 to cover the cost to support the Baccalaureate service awards. The United Church payment alternates between the three parishes: Avonlea for 2020; Starbuck in 2021 and Sanford in 2022. *MIC bank balance as of Dec 31, 2020 is \$1565.56.*

The current committee, with 1-3 representatives from each church group, meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 am, approx. 9 times/year, on a rotational schedule – with meetings in churches or member homes, September to June. MIC Meeting minutes are shared with Jamie Scharf from Sanford United and Melody Mosset from Starbuck United. At each meeting we intimately share and support what is happening in each of our churches. As a committee we focus on Christian Unity regardless of differences that separate the churches.

Our Mission Statement: “Our mission as the Meridian Inter-church Council is to be the visible sign of unity of the body of Christ to our church communities of LaSalle, Sanford, Starbuck, Domain, Brunkild, Springstein, and Oak Bluff, through Scripture, prayer, worship, and service. We are a support to one another by sharing Christ's love as clergy and lay-people at all times and in all places. In Christ's name we share our peace and the comforting word of God's Grace with one another and our communities.” *We are looking at inviting other churches in the surrounding areas, including Winnipeg, to join the committee.*

One Baccalaureate Service award of \$500 was presented to Tamara Church of St Hyacinthe RC Parish.

The *Meridian Inter-church Family Baseball and BBQ* service was cancelled with hopes to organize in 2021.

The book we are currently reviewing is ‘Love Does’ by Bob Goff.

Shawnda Muir from Mary, Mother of the Church spoke to the group on marriage enrichment courses and divorce. Links available on the church website. Ernie Weins spoke to the group in November of another ministry of sharing the loving, non-violent, Jesus.

The Advent service, adapted from Rick Warren's “The Purpose of Christmas”, hosted by La Salle Fellowship, was virtual due to Covid. Aiden Penner was hired to put the service together and online on Sunday Dec 1 at 7pm. There was participation from all churches and 340 households have viewed the service. No collection was made but supporting youth in need was encouraged. Positive feedback has been received.

Rev James and myself are the United Church representation on the Meridian Inter-church Committee.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Manness on Jan 2, 2021, MIC Treasurer  
Email: [judy.manness@aiecommunications.com](mailto:judy.manness@aiecommunications.com)



**MERIDIAN PASTORAL CHARGE 2020 FINANCIAL REPORT**  
 Meridian Financial Statement for the year ending December 31, 2020

| <b>RECEIPTS</b>            | <b>AMOUNTS</b> | <b>NOTES</b>  |
|----------------------------|----------------|---|
| INTEREST                   | \$2096.66      | As projected  |
| AVONLEA                    | \$29250.00     | As projected  |
| STARBUCK                   | \$20400.00     | As projected  |
| SANFORD                    | \$29250.00     | As projected  |
| AVONLEA M&S/WD             | \$3000.00      | As projected  |
| STARBUCK M&S/WD            | \$2000.00      | As projected  |
| SANFORD M&S/WD             | \$1495.00      | Commitment was \$1000   |
| CERB- GOVERNMENT FUNDS     | \$6098.70      | Covid-19 relief. About \$800 has to be repaid due to duplication. |
| <b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>      | \$93590.36     |   |
| <b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>       |                |   |
| PAYROLL AND BENEFITS JAMES | \$77279.90     |   |
| PAYROLL PULPIT SUPPLY      | \$1006.80      | Reduction \$6.337.20  |
| ACCOUNTING AND LEGAL       | \$160.50       | Reduction in accounting fees as treasurer doing the work          |
| UCC ASSESSMENT             | \$4184.00      |   |
| WORLD DEVELOPMENT          | \$3000.00      |   |
| MISSION AND SERVICE        | \$3495.00      | Sanford had an additional \$495.                                  |
| WORSHIP LEADERSHIP         | \$755.10       |   |
| PULPIT SUPPLY EXPENSES     | \$417.34       |   |
| MILEAGE EXPENSE - JAMES    | \$2335.96      | Lower due to COVID-19   |
| TRAVEL EXPENSES OTHER      | \$0.00         | Lower due to COVID-18   |
| BULLETINS                  | \$330.00       | Lower due to COVID-17   |
| OFFICE SUPPLIES            | \$292.03       |   |
| WEBSITE DOMAIN             | \$136.50       |   |

|  |              |                       |
|--|--------------|-----------------------|
| TELECOMMUNICATIONS   | \$435.15     |                       |
| REGIONAL ,MEETINGS   | \$0.00       | Lower due to COVID-17 |
| <b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>   | \$94028.28   |                       |
|  |              |                       |
| <b>RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS</b>                                 | -\$437.92    |                       |
| TRANSFER FROM MANSE-TD   | \$15000.00   |                       |
| CHEQUING ACCOUNT RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS                       | \$14562.08   |                       |
|  |              |                       |
|  | TERM DEPOSIT | CHEQUING ACCOUNT      |
| JANUARY 1, 2020 BALANCE  | \$110000.00  | \$14401.33            |
| DEPOSITS (total receipts \$93590.36 and Manse TD \$15000 transfer) |              | \$108590.36           |
| DISBURSEMENTS  | \$15000.00   | \$94028.28            |
| DECEMBER 31, 2020 BALANCE  | \$95000.00   | \$28963.41            |
| LESS O/S DEPOSITS  |              | \$3495.00             |
| PLUS O/S CHEQUES   |              | \$4229.66             |
| RECONCILED BANK ACCOUNT  | \$95000.00   | \$29698.07            |
| BALAMCE PER BANK STATEMENT   | \$95000.00   | \$29698.07            |
| DISCREPANCY  | \$0.00       | \$0.00                |

Please note that there were 3 different individuals working on the financials in 2020, so some of the disbursement categories could have been combined, such as payroll other and worship leadership.

**Submitted by Georges Cormier, Treasurer January 15, 2021 (unaudited)**

## MERIDIAN PASTORAL CHARGE BUDGET FOR 2021

Meridian Projected Receipts and Disbursements for the year ending December 31, 2021

| RECEIPTS                   | PROJECTED  | NOTES                           |
|----------------------------|------------|---------------------------------|
| INTEREST                   | \$2000.00  | Same as previous year           |
| AVONLEA                    | \$29400.00 | Same as previous year           |
| STARBUCK                   | \$20400.00 | Same as previous year           |
| SANFORD                    | \$29400.00 | Same as previous year           |
| AVONLEA M&S/WD             | \$3000.00  | Same as previous year           |
| STARBUCK M&S/WD            | \$2000.00  | Same as previous year           |
| SANFORD M&S/WD             | \$1000.00  | Same as previous year           |
| CERB- GOVERNMENT FUNDS     | \$0.00     |                                 |
| <b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>      | \$87200.00 |                                 |
| <b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>       |            |                                 |
| PAYROLL AND BENEFITS JAMES | \$79500.00 | As per UCC                      |
| PAYROLL PULPIT SUPPLY      | \$1000.00  | 1 pulpit supply for each church |
| ACCOUNTING AND LEGAL       | \$0.00     |                                 |
| UCC ASSESSMENT             | \$4522.00  |                                 |
| WORLD DEVELOPMENT          | \$3000.00  | Same as previous year           |
| MISSION AND SERVICE        | \$3000.00  | Same as previous year           |
| REPAYMENT OF CERB          | \$870.00   |                                 |
| PULPIT SUPPLY EXPENSES     | \$450.00   |                                 |
| MILEAGE EXPENSE - JAMES    | \$6000.00  | \$500/month at .41/km           |
| TRAVEL EXPENSES OTHER      | \$1200.00  |                                 |
| BULLETINS                  | \$700.00   |                                 |
| OFFICE SUPPLIES            | \$550.00   |                                 |
| WEBSITE DOMAIN             | \$136.50   |                                 |
| TELECOMMUNICATIONS         | \$500.00   |                                 |

|  |             |  |
|--|-------------|--|
| REGIONAL ,MEETINGS                           | \$800.00    |  |
| Capital-Computer                             | \$3000.00   |  |
| <b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>                   | \$102228.50 |  |
|  |             |  |
| <b>RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS</b>           | -\$15028.50 |  |
| TRANSFER FROM MANSE-TD                       | \$0.00      |  |
| CHEQUING ACCOUNT RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS | -\$15028.50 | Our checking account bank balance as at December 31,2020 was \$28,963. Therefor, there will not be a withdrawal this year from the Manse term deposit of \$95,000. |
|  |             |  |