

Meeting of the Official Board of Meridian Pastoral Charge

April 13, 2021 (via Zoom)

Roll call: Rev. James deBeer, Diane Trudeau, Jamie Scharf, Janice Harrison, Georges Cormier, Michele Ammeter, Julie Ringash, Ron Manness, Margaret Porter, Jane Manness, Nancy Langlois (7:47). **Regrets:** Judy Manness

Call to order: Chair Diane Trudeau called the meeting to order at 7:04

Opening prayer: Rev. James opened in prayer

Adoption of the Agenda: MOTION: *That the agenda be adopted as circulated.*
Jamie/Michelle CD

Adoption of minutes: MOTION: *That the meeting minutes from the MPC meeting November 10th 2020 and the addendum from the January 21st 2021 meeting be adopted as circulated.* Michelle/Julie CD

Minister's report: Reverend James deBeer

Not much has changed since our AGM a couple months ago. Our suspension of in-person worship has been ongoing. The current suspension began in mid-November 2020. I have been preparing worship services to be watched online on YouTube as well as a Children's Time video. We have continued to have fellowship online on Zoom Sunday mornings. It has been generally the same people who attend the Zoom fellowship and I know it's not everyone's 'cup of tea.'

I had floated the idea of a Lenten Study using a resource called 'We make the Road by Walking' but as I was getting a sense people were fatigued with online things, I decided to offer some Lenten resources families could do at home, including a resource called 'Lenten Gardens' which offered a song, craft, story, recipe, etc. each week.

For Holy Week, I put together kits which included the palms that would have been distributed Palm Sunday as well as some other materials for crafts and activities for families to do at home. They seemed generally well-received, and people seemed to enjoy even the opportunity to say hi as they were picking them up at the three churches.

Triduum services were all online: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

As we go forward, we'll continue to pay close attention to updated Public Health Protocols and each church will decide how and when to open. I believe there is a general consensus that once the weather improves we will try some outdoor worship services or even just for fellowship and then hopefully be back to in-person worship in September. But, as we know, nothing is written in stone and it is ultimately the decision of each board. We had two funerals in our charge: one for Mike Brelis of Avonlea and one for Colleen and Bill Norton of Starbuck. Both were challenging in terms of the health protocols and hard on the families but I tried to offer pastoral care as best I could under the circumstances.

Worship Report: Michelle Ammeter worship chair

The Worship Committee has not met since the meeting reported on in September, so there is no new report. However, we would like to extend our thanks to Rev James for all the hard work he has put into making sure we have exceptional services available on- line. He has also ensured there is a Children's time every week as well. If you haven't taken a look at the Children's time it is well worthwhile. The next Worship Committee meeting will be just before the September Board meeting

Ministry and Personnel: Chair Julie Ringash reporting

There has not been a Ministry and Personal (M&P) meeting since the last Meridian Board meeting. I have been in contact with Rev. James and he has no concerns other than the challenges of provided worship leadership during a pandemic. I will call a M&P committee meeting as soon as it is feasible .If there are any M&P concerns please speak to a member of the M&P committee. Thank you to Rev. James for the wonderful job you are doing producing online worship services.

Regional Council - Prairie to Pine: Diane Trudeau Region 5 Rep

*Communication with Prairie to Pine is via their newsletter.

*In the Prairie to Pine newsletter, there is a reminder to Communities of Faith to **please send two copies of your Community of Faith's 2020 Annual Report** to the Committee on Community of Faith Support: one hard copy mailed to Prairie to Pine Regional Council, 1622B St. Mary's Road, Winnipeg, MB R2M 3W7, and an electronic copy (if you've saved the report on a computer) to **PrairietoPine@united-church.ca**. These annual reports will be available for reference by the Committee on Community of Faith Support, staff, and other committees/commissions who may have need to see them.

*General Council 44 has been moved to 2022.

*I attended an Ash Wednesday service via Zoom.

*covid restrictions remain at 25 people for weddings and funerals

*drive in services - people can get out of their cars

*outdoor gatherings at 25

* P to P Annual Meeting: May 28 to 30 via Zoom

Church reports:

Avonlea: Chair Ron Manness reporting

Covid is still the talk of the day! And likely will continue to be for some time. We need to get back to in church services, because I think the novelty of on-line services are losing some interest among the congregants. However, we are still restricted by the provincial code red

regulations and if we have a third wave the code red could likely last for a few months longer. Hopefully, we can have an outdoor meeting by June. James continues to do the best he can given the challenging times. Thanks James.

Avonlea board had a reorganization meeting February 18th and most people on the board continued in their same positions. Ron Manness chair, Cliff Harrison vice chair, Brad Arran secretary, and Linda Manson treasurer. The meeting was held online. There was discussion regarding the cost and problems with the alarm system. There has been some false alarms which have become a nuisance. About a week prior to the meeting the board decided to purchase a large screen TV supplied and installed by TEC video from LaSalle for a cost of \$3,976. We hope to receive significant support from Shell which should reduce our cost for the TV and sound system. The TV system is internet compatible which could open many possibilities for us providing we can access an affordable service provider.

Linda Manson updated us with a recent financial report last week. Apparently we have received a third \$5,000 covid payment and member contributions have been good so far.

Veronica Black has been taking treatments for cancer and has found it challenging. Please keep her in your prayers.

Sanford: chair Jamie Scharf reporting

The life and work of Sanford United Church continues in new ways as we push through the challenging times the global Covid-19 pandemic has created. We are truly thankful for the effort that Rev. James puts into the very meaningful online services every week. It is amazing to see how that skill refines and improves over time.

Our outreach committee remains active in doing good work in our community and our building has become a bit of an expansion space to community groups looking for enough space to meet public health restrictions.

As for business, we still haven't selected a date for our 2020 Annual meeting as we continue to enjoy the leniency the Region has given it's communities of faith during the pandemic. Last time it was discussed we were hoping for an in person annual meeting in the fall sometime. The last Official Board meeting was on Feb. 3rd when we discussed only a few items: 1. approved the 2021 budget 2. approved Nancy Langlois as our trustee on the MPC board of trustees 3. decided to postpone our annual meeting.

We also approved a Motion for a baptism by email on March 31st. Rev. James will be performing a baptism in our congregation on April 24th.

We also attempted some mid-week online "get togethers" with the main intent as general fellowship but also hoping to introduce some business items to the congregation as a pre-discussion to the annual meeting. Those being we need to name a Board of Trustees and introduce the topic of our current financial situation eating into our financial reserves.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to organize one in big enough size to add the business discussion so we've simply enjoyed some good fellowship with the few that have shown up.

On a more exciting note, Rural Connections Manitoba Ltd. has donated Fibre Optic internet service from their new network to Sanford United. We are excited to explore what opportunities come with internet service in our building

Starbuck: Chair Margaret Porter reporting

We are saddened to have experienced another Easter unable to worship together but are so grateful for work of James in keeping the church functioning so smoothly.

The funeral of Bill and Colleen Norton took place in March and again it was very sad to be only able to join remotely including local broadcast from the cemetery. It was, however, a lovely service and thanks again to James. The family hopes to have some sort of memorial occasion when we are able to gather in person. We continue to hope and pray for an end to this pandemic and the damage it has caused to so many and look forward to the day when church as we know it may return.

Meridian Interchurch Council: (MPC) Judy Manness reporting

Chairperson from Starbuck Trinity Lutheran, Harry Ammeter, has stepped down. A thank you card and gift from the committee was given to Harry for his decades of service on this committee. In lieu of filling the chair position each Church will host and chair meetings on a rotational schedule. The secretary position, recently vacated by Ronda Karlowsky, Oakbluff Bible Church, due to work schedule conflict, will be rotated each meeting. I will coordinate and send out the meeting minutes, remind members of upcoming meetings etc. I am sending out invoices (\$100) this week to member churches. This year Starbuck United Church will be responsible for paying the MICC dues (due in June). Several of the member churches have resumed in person worship. We are still reviewing "Love Does" by Bob Geoff.

MOTION: *That the reports be accepted as presented* .Georges/Jane CD

Treasurer's Report: Georges Cormier presenting as of March 31, 202

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
	<u>S</u>	
INTEREST	\$496.21	As projected
AVONLEA	\$7350.00	As projected
STARBUCK	\$5100.00	As projected
SANFORD	\$7350.00	As projected

AVONLEA M&S/WD	\$0.00	
STARBUCK M&S/WD	\$0.00	
SANFORD M&S/WD	\$0.00	
CERB- GOVERNMENT FUNDS	\$0.00	
S/H Dividend	\$67.20	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	** Expressio n is faulty **	
DISBURSEMENTS		
PAYROLL AND BENEFITS JAMES	\$20056.71	
PAYROLL PULPIT SUPPLY		
ACCOUNTING AND LEGAL		
UCC ASSESSMENT		
WORLD DEVELOPMENT		
MISSION AND SERVICE		
WORSHIP LEADERSHIP		
PULPIT SUPPLY EXPENSES	\$110.88	
MILEAGE EXPENSE - JAMES	\$390.32	
TRAVEL EXPENSES OTHER	\$0.00	
BULLETINS		
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$98.60	
WEBSITE DOMAIN	\$136.50	
TELECOMMUNICATIONS		
REGIONAL ,MEETINGS	\$0.00	

REPAYMENT TO CERB		
CAPTIAL-COMPUTER	\$2979.68	
TRAINING/WORKSHOPS	\$24.99	
BANKING FEES	\$20.00	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	** Expressio n is faulty **	
RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS	** Expressio n is faulty **	
	TERM DEPOSIT	CHEQUING ACCOUNT
JANUARY 1, 2021 BALANCE	\$95000.00	\$28963.41
DEPOSITS (total receipts \$93590.36 and Manse TD \$15000 transfer)		\$20363.41
DISBURSEMENTS	\$0.00	\$23817.68
MARCH 31, 2021 BALANCE	\$95000.00	** Expression is faulty **
LESS O/S DEPOSITS		0
PLUS O/S CHEQUES		\$0.00
RECONCILED BANK ACCOUNT	\$95000.00	** Expression is faulty **
BALANCE PER BANK STATEMENT	\$95000.00	\$25509.14
DISCREPANCY	\$0.00	\$0.00

MOTION: *To accept this financial report as presented .Georges/Ron CD*

Issues arising from Financial Report:

1. Georges will add a column for Sunday School
2. Discussion re weddings/funerals/ rent of church...who is responsible?
3. James will be paid mileage for funeral out of Meridian
4. Georges requests membership numbers from each church

Correspondence: Whole People of God curriculum now available for purchase

Old Business:

1. Covid update—still not able to have sufficient numbers for live services
2. All annual reports to be sent to Prairie to Pine. Send as hard copy and E-copy
3. Flyers on hold until September. Approximately \$830 for 2500 issues as quoted. Ron Manness to talk to Malcolm Kirkpatrick and get back to Board as Ron feels dollar value quoted is too high. Reminder: NO flyers for Starbuck
4. Question: Do all churches have their Trustees in place? Trustee info on US web site. Each Trustee Board mandated to meet once a year.

New Business:

1. Marriage services conducted beyond the charge can be registered through one of our 3 Meridian churches
2. Copyrite issues...United Church very open. Society of Composers, Authors, & Music Publishers of Canada (SOCAN) recommended for on-line licensing. James said there is no charge for the You Tube as it is for worship presentation.
MOTION: *That MPC purchase the \$15 license from SOCAN.* Jamie/Michelle CD
3. Question: from Georges: Do we need to make a motion every time we spend money? Answer: Once a budget line is set up and passed at the annual meeting, expenditures should be noted, but there is no need for motions when items fall within the budget amount set up.
4. James requests a Worship meeting in May/June re issues that need to be discussed NOW. With internet in our churches (coming to Sanford now and strong probable for Avonlea) regular services, can possibly be broadcast. Service times? Other?
5. Summer schedule: All closed in July with only Avonlea returning in August
6. Julie to order Whole People of God for whole year
7. Diane thanked all for their timely reports
8. Upcoming meeting dates:
 - a. September 14th, 2021 in Starbuck at 7 PM
 - b. November 9th, 2021 in Sanford at 7 PM
 - c. February 8th, 2022 in Avonlea at 7 PM
9. Meeting adjourned at 8:18 by Michelle Ammeter

Recorded by secretary Janice Harrison

