

**Passed**

**MEETING OF THE OFFICIAL BOARD OF MERIDIAN PASTORAL  
CHARGE**

**NOVEMBER 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Present:** Rev. James de Beer, Diane Trudeau, Ron Manness, Jane Manness, Margaret Porter, Michelle Ammeter, Julie Ringash, Nancy Langlois, Georges Cormier, Judy Manness, Jamie Scharf, Janice Harrison

**Call to order:** Chair Diane Trudeau called the ZOOM meeting to order at 7:05 PM. The meeting started with The Lord's Prayer.

**Motion:** That the agenda be accepted as presented. Nancy/Ron Carried

**Motion:** That the minutes of the September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021 meeting of the MPC be adopted as circulated. Jane/Georges Carried

**Reports:**

**Minister:** Rev. James deBeer

In the couple of months since our last meeting, we've been successfully having in-person worship at all three of our faith communities. Attendance has been lower than what we had pre-pandemic and I'm trying to ensure there is online content available for people who cannot yet attend in-person. I've also been trying to utilize the technology available in Sanford and Domain in terms of multimedia parts of the worship service.

Avonlea held a celebration of life for Veronica Black in October. The family seemed pleased with the help and support of the church.

The Legion in Sanford has decided there will not be a Remembrance Day service held in the Church in Sanford due to current Public Health Restrictions.

The Prairie to Pine Regional Offices (formerly known as Manitoba NW Ontario Conference) will be moving to the Centre for Christian Studies. It will save a considerable amount of money needed to pay rent.

Looking to Christmas, if current health orders remain in place we may be restricted in how many people can attend:

*\*If Communities of Faith have a protocol requiring proof of full vaccination or exemption to attend worship, there are no additional capacity limits imposed by public health orders.*

*\*If there is no vaccination policy in place or if the policy/protocols do not require proof of full vaccination or proof of medical exemption from those who are over the age of twelve and are eligible for vaccination, attendance at worship is limited to 25 people or 33% of the capacity whichever is greater (section 22(1)), with the noted requirement that “measures are implemented to ensure that persons attending the service are reasonably able to maintain a separation of two metres distance from other persons at the service other than persons who reside at the same private residence.”*

I suppose we'll have to decide how to proceed closer to Christmas.

Personally I'm quite tired and a bit depressed but I know a lot of people are right now. My apologies if this is being reflected in my creativity and worship leadership.

**Worship:** no meetings—committee meets once yearly

**Ministry & Personnel** Julie Ringash chair

\*no meetings since September 21<sup>st</sup>

\*Rev Peter Mitchell will provide pulpit supply in Sanford for Christmas Eve.

\* Rev Peter will be the worship leader for Avonlea and Sanford on February 13, 2022 when Rev. James is taking vacation leave

**Regional Council – Prairie to Pine:** Diane Trudeau rep

Communication with Prairie to Pine is via their newsletter.

There is little to report for this meeting just the latest Covid update and a note from Prairie to Pine Regional Council regarding Community of Faith policy toward Covid.

### **Covid Update Oct.26**

If there is no vaccination policy in place or if the policy/protocols do not require proof of full vaccination or proof of medical exemption from those who are over the age of twelve and are eligible for vaccination, attendance at worship is limited to 25 people or 33% of the capacity whichever is greater (section 22(1)), with the noted requirement that “measures are implemented to ensure that persons attending the service are reasonably able to maintain a separation of two metres distance from other persons at the service other than persons who reside at the same private residence.” For many sanctuaries that means a number much lower than either the capacity or number stated above in places where full vaccination is not required.

**Prairie to Pine Regional Council and its staff have no authority to interpret these Public Health Orders** .The governing bodies of communities of faith and their ministry personnel are responsible for interpreting them and getting clarification when and where needed. These Public Health Orders do not clearly cover every activity that we may hold in a church building so some

interpretation is required. If you want some assistance with interpreting the orders you can send an email along to the following email address outlining the specifics of your question and noting that you are a faith based community/church: Manitoba Government Inquiry [mgi@gov.mb.ca](mailto:mgi@gov.mb.ca) or Sabina.Mian@[gov.mb.ca](mailto:gov.mb.ca) or call at: 204-795-0783

The Public Health Orders are the restrictions that are mandated. Churches (businesses and other locations) can determine their own protocols. **Any protocols that you design must adhere to the Public Health Orders but may be stricter than those outlined in the Public Health Orders.**

**We are moving!** The Prairie to Pine Regional office will be moving to the Centre for Christian Studies (60 Maryland Street, Winnipeg) in December. We would like to thank all the congregations that offered us space.

### **Church reports:**

**Starbuck:** Margaret Porter chair:

We are very happy to be back to in-person worship and are grateful to the congregation for having full vaccination status which allows us a little more freedom during worship. We look forward to the day when the rest of the normal service can be restored – particularly choir and fellowship. Meanwhile our thanks go out to the members of the congregation making our lay services successful.

**Sanford:** Jamie Scharf chair

Our return to in-person services this fall had a slow start but in the last few weeks they have reached near full house (well at least full according to current public health orders). Thanks to our local worship committee for stepping up to lead services every 2nd Sunday when Rev. James is scheduled to be at Starbuck. And also thanks to Rev. James for the extra work to deal with this lay leader situation. On Oct. 31, we enjoyed his children's time and reflection with the help of our technology by streaming those videos off YouTube and onto the projector screen in our sanctuary.

Our Board meet on Oct 27th to discuss a few business items:

- The financial situation is OK
- Will need to replace our roof soon but are optimistic that the community will help with that expense
- We plan to have an annual meeting on Jan. 23, 2022 to cover both 2020 and 2021. The plan is for the annual report to cover both years as well.
- We have a congregational meeting scheduled for Nov. 14 for the sole purpose of approving our Board of Trustees

We are hopeful for things to continue "gaining momentum".

**Avonlea:** Ron Manness chair:

In person church services are going well despite Covid restrictions. The attendance is down some and likely will be until all health restrictions are removed. The Sunday school is carrying on but numbers attending are low. I could be wrong, but I fear that there could be long lasting damage to participation in the future. We may not get back to normal. However, we have had good financial support from our Manitoba government and our members, so we are doing well for now.

We had a celebration of life for Veronica Black October 15 at our church, officiated by James. The event was restricted to vaccinated only.

The board has decided to hook up to the internet, and will be going into an agreement with the provider Full Throttle. This will allow us to download and upload video and control our thermostat.

**Inter-church:** Judy Manness reporting

\*Inter-Church Advent Celebration: Nov 28 @ 7pm. - in person at St Hyacinthe church and virtual. 80 people can currently attend. Church choirs will pre-record and submit their work to be shared. No live choirs for safety reasons. Readings will be done in-person. Parts will be assigned at Nov 9 meeting.

\*Baseball tournament: Only LaSalle Fellowship showed up. Formed 3 teams and played round robin. Had fun. LSCF won tournament.

\*Proposal made/carried for one page ad in Headingly Headliner. St Hyacinthe preparing draft. Thinking for Advent. Advertising services offered at MIC Churches.

\*Planning begun for a 2022 MIC youth event. More info to come.

\*Request made for Funeral & Cemetery costs to be shared at next meeting - Nov 9. Could Sanford Church and Starbuck church forward any info to me.

**Motion:** To accept reports as presented. Ron/Michelle Carried

Georges Cormier presented the **financial report** showing a bank balance of **\$22,953.24** as of September 30<sup>th</sup>. It was noted that the UCC Presbytry fees remained the same as last year.

**Motion:** To accept the financial report as presented. Georges/Michelle. Carried

### **Old Business:**

1. Ron Manness has talked to Malcolm Kirkpatrick re the proposed mailers. Malcolm is prepared to pursue the mail out when the time is right. Looking at some 2500 flyers/postcards. Printing would be about \$200 and posting would be added on to that. The Board decided to wait until closer to spring with the hopes of loosening restrictions and covid numbers
2. Interchurch Christmas ad is going in The Headingly Headliner. Funding via the Inter-church council
3. Questioned as to whether the RM have church info up on their page.
4. Website: Google address needs to be changed

### **New Business:**

1. Jane Manness reported that the Gathering Magazine is working on an online site called Gathering Worship. Not yet ready but an excellent resource for Rev James and the individual churches. Costs are \$75 for a one year subscription which includes one printed copy as well. Request that Meridian Charge purchase this resource for Rev. James.  
**Motion:** When the service is available, Meridian Pastoral Board will purchase the Gathering Worship package for James. Jane/Jamie Carried
2. Discussion around wafer packages and Communion. It was decided to use up the remaining packages and the move on to another delivery method next time
3. Judy Manness reported on the November 28<sup>th</sup> Inter-church Advent Celebration. This will be a live event at St Hyacinthe church in La Salle with 80 people allowed to be in the building. This will also be available on line at a later date. All readings will be live. The Scharf family will represent Meridian Charge with a musical number. Offering will be in support of Teen Challenge
4. Christmas Eve services will be Starbuck @ 5 with Rev James, Avonlea @ 7 with Rev. James and Sanford @ 7:30 with Rev. Peter Mitchell
5. Question re what the trustees are to discuss at their yearly meeting. Decided the most important part is that the names of the trustees be recorded each year in the Meridian Annual meeting minutes. There is a link to the manual for trustees on the UC website.

**Correspondence:**

1. Minutes for Mission booklets
2. Certificate from M & S acknowledging payment received for \$6495.

Next meeting will be **The Meridian Annual** on **Feb 22, 2022**. All reports to be to Jamie by Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022

**Motion:** To adjourn. Ron Manness Time: 8:15 PM