Meridian Pastoral Charge Official Board
Meeting Minutes
Nov. 14, 2023 PASSED

Present: Rev. James deBeer, Jamie Scharf, Jane Manness, Stuart Maness, Nancy Langlois, Barb Kirk, Georges Cormier, Margaret Porter, Cathy Beavis, Diane Trudeau

Call to Order - 7:04pm

Opening
Rev. James read an article about decision making focusing on opting for hope and considering the pros not just the cons. And then prayed

Minutes from September 12th, 2023 meeting

MOTION: Jamie/Diane - accept minutes as distributed. carried

Committee Reports: Minister
Worship
Ministry and Personnel
Meridian Interchurch
Prairie to Pine

SEE FULL REPORTS IN APPENDIX I

MOTION: Stuart/Nancy - to accept committee reports as presented. carried

Treasurers Report

- Thanks to Starbuck for their donation – that will help in next year's budget
- Diane wanted to know if our regional allocation changed after the 2018 restructuring. We'd have to look back at historic reports to decide.

MOTION: Georges/Michele - to accept treasurer's report as presented. carried

Church Reports: Avonlea
Sanford
Starbuck

Old Business

We voted on Remit #1 - Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization within the United Church of Canada

Yes - 7, No - 0, Abstain - 3 (1 ineligible)

ACTION: Jamie - submit Meridian Pastoral Charge's vote of Yes on the above remit as instructed.

Correspondence
Gifts with Vision catalogs.

New Business:
Thank You
- Starbuck United for it's recent donation to Meridian Pastoral Charge
- Georges for presenting Rev. James appreciation gifts so well

James
- Has ideas for Lent, book club, studies but please bring your ideas him
- Any confirmation opportunities? Hoping for classes in Spring for confirmation in Fall

AGM prep
- Diane puts the report together - reports due to her on Feb. 4th (meeting 27th in Starbuck)

Color Band

MOTION: Cathy/Diane - That Meridian Pastoral charge make $100 payment to MICC to cover the deficit for this event. e-Transfer to Robbie. Carried

MICC Advent Service
- Dec. 3: Starbuck joining Lutheran for a music item and Avonlea/Sanford to add another music item
- Offering going to Food Bank (monetary or non-perishable)
- MPC is required to bring 4 dozen dainties

Advent Gathering - New Music supplement
- Come Let us Sing (paper and online)
- suggestion to include it in next year's budget
- gatheringworship.ca
- https://thenletussing.ca/

Dates to note:
- Feb. 11th James is away
- Dec. 24th James online service
- Dec. 31 everyone is invited to join Avonlea at 10am

MOTION: Michele - meeting adjourn
8:22pm

APPENDIX I

REPORTS

Minister

I don't' have much to report at this time.

Services seem to be going well and I'm preparing for Advent and Christmas, including the Meridian Inter-Church Advent service, the Blue Christmas service with Pastor Debra and the joint Christmas eve service between Starbuck United and Trinity Lutheran. Thank you for purchasing the web cam as it has made things a lot more user-friendly for streaming.

Thank you also so very much for the gift for Clergy appreciation.

I just wanted to address a couple of things:

- I haven't been able to attend the Meridian Inter Church meetings because of an on-going personal appointment I have that conflicts with the meeting time Tuesday mornings. I'm a bit restricted in terms of flexibility of appointment times with health-care professionals. I apologize to Cathy for leaving her without a wing-man, especially at a time when important decisions are being made (re: the concert and subsequent monetary shortfall). I'm hoping the rectify the situation as soon as possible.
- There were so many times during the pandemic that we had to pivot, having come out of it this year, perhaps I've settled into a routine without more creativity and thinking outside the box as it were. But I'm open to new ideas and suggestions on worship and/or gatherings outside of worship for faith formation, fellowship such as studies, book club, discussion groups, Sunday School, Confirmation, etc.

Thank you continuing to invite me on this journey together as we live out our faith and ministry through the church in our neck of the woods.

James

M&P Report

The Meridian Pastoral Charge M&P committee held a Zoom meeting hosted by Rev James Nov 7 with all members of the committee connected.

James started the meeting with a moment of meditation.

We reviewed the worship leadership schedule with James currently being in Sanford every Sunday with Avonlea and Starbuck using all or parts of the services through you tube or James printed message on alternating Sundays. Pulpit supply will be used by Sanford on Christmas Eve and Avonlea on Easter this coming year.

We looked at James workload pertaining to Service prep, Bulletin prep, You Tube presentations, Pastoral care, Meetings.

Please contact James with pastoral care and personal sacrament needs in your church family. James can be reached by email, text or phone.

We discussed the possibility of Continuing Study plans ie Sabbatical, but there isn't anything for this year.

There could be confirmation classes and Bible study if there is sufficient interest. Pease contact James.

Submitted by Stuart Manness
For: Julie Ringash
Michele Ammeter
Judy Cormier

Interchurch Committee Report

We have had two meetings since Sept 12/23. Father Gabriel is still working on a poster to promote our Meridian.

Advent Worship Service will be on Sunday, December 3 at 7:00 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church in Starbuck. Pastors will speak with the theme of Peace, Hope, Joy and Love. Sanford/Avonlea will present a musical item. James will say a prayer. Our Meridian charge is responsible to bring four dozen dainties. The monies collected during the Offertory will go towards the food banks. Also people are encouraged to bring a non-perishable item or monetary donation toward food banks.

The band "The Color" played at the Caisse Community Centre in La Salle on Friday, November 3 at 7:30 pm. Around 200 people attended and it was a great evening. However, we had a shortfall of $1045.00. A motion was made that the Meridian Interchurch Committee put in $345.00 and the churches put in $100.00 each to cover the shortfall.

Submitted by Cathy Beavis
Meridian Interchurch Committee Member for Avonlea Church

Prairie to Pine Region Report
Remit
Meridian Pastoral Charge Board Members held a Zoom meeting with Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister for Prairie to Pine. She provided the background to the necessity for the Remit and answered questions.

In the Prairie to Pine weekly newsletters, links are available to numerous resources regarding the remit including speakers from the Prairie to Pine, Living Skies and Norther Spirit Regional meetings.

Submitted by
Diane Trudeau
Prairie to Pine Representative for Meridian Pastoral Charge

Avonlea United Church

Worship continues at 11;00AM. We have discovered it is Rev. James in the pulpit that gives a boost to our attendance, not the time of the service.

Our first meeting of the fall was Sept 19th. For the last two years, we have been reviewing our church policies. This year we are ready to present Board and Cemetery Policies at the 2023 Annual Mtg in January.

We have discussed the Autonomous National Indigenous Remit. Some of the Board and congregation participated in a very informative Zoom presentation by our Prairie to Pine Executive Minister Shannon McCarthy. We are beginning to realize how little we know about Indigenous culture and history. We hope to visit the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Center in Beausejour in the new year.

We will begin the Advent Season on Friday, Dec 1st with the Hanging of the Green and Pizza. During the Season, we will participate in the Advent Interchurch Service, have a Memory tree, join the LaSalle churches and community in a food drive, make our ice candles for the Blue Christmas Service, all of this brings us to the Christmas Eve service at 7:00PM with Rev.James.

We've tried to do some decluttering this fall and our maintenance crew, continue to replace and repair in needy areas. Things are looking good outside and in.

We welcome all to coffee and Informal Worship on Dec. 31st. 10:00AM.

Our next Board mtg is Nov.21st. We will set a date and prepare for our Annual Mtg in January.

Respectfully Submitted
Jane Manness

Starbuck Report

It is good to be back having Sunday services after the summer break.
The lay services seem to be going well and we thank Rev. James for his preparation. Also thanks to the service leaders.

The main event of the summer was the successful sale of the church site which means we are relived of all the responsibilities connected with it. At the recent extraordinary congregational meeting it was decided to give $10,000 of the proceeds to the Meridian Pastoral Charge and the Trinity Lutheran Church respectively.

The choir is already rehearsing Christmas music for the upcoming Cantata which we hope will be the usual success. Also we are jointly hosting the Ecumenical Advent service with the Lutherans this year.

We look forward to continued fellowship and worship throughout the fall and winter.

Margaret Porter
Chair

Sanford United Church Report

Although our Board hasn't meet officially, we continue to have good informal discussion about an upcoming "Visioning Event" in which we intend to have a good discussion about how Sanford United wishes to continue looking forward. This event will happen in about a week.

On Oct. 29, we celebrated the 70th anniversary of our current building in Sanford with an interesting historic summary by Julie Ringash after service and then enjoyed looking at some pictures and building blueprints during fellowship.

We had our annual Remembrance Day service with the Sanford Legion again. Thanks to Nancy Langlois for doing a wonderful job of leading the service this year.

We'll also be hosting our Christmas Craft Sale on Nov. 25th.

Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Scharf

MPC Financial report 10 months ending Oct 31/23

REVENUE	ACTUAL	PROJECTED	DIFFERENCE	NOTES
ALLOCATIONS	$73500.00	$88200.00	-$14700.00	83%
INTEREST	$1200.00	$1235.00	-$35.00	
M&S/WD	$0.00	$6900.00	-$6900.00	
S/H DIVIDEND	$25.32	$0.00	$25.32	
OTHER	$10224.00	$225.00	$9999.00	Rev e-tranf $224/ gift/SUC
TOTAL RECEIPTS	$84949.32	$96560.00	-$11610.68	88%
DISBURSEMENT				
PAYROLL JAMES	$73195.46	$89413.00	-$16217.54	
PAYROLL OTHER	$0.00	$1000.00	-$1000.00	
UCC ASSESS	$3838.00	$3838.00	$0.00	
M&S/WD	$0.00	$6900.00	-$6900.00	
PULPIT SUPPLY	$0.00	$450.00	-$450.00	
MILE EXP JAMES	$3372.05	$5000.00	-$1627.95	
TRAVEL OTHER	$0.00	$1200.00	-$1200.00	
BULLETINS/OTH	$200.00	$700.00	-$500.00	
OFFICE SUPPLY	$682.07	$550.00	$132.07	Rev $224
WEB DOMAIN	$0.00	$136.50	-$136.50	
MEETINGS	$300.00	$800.00	-$500.00	
CAPITAL	$328.13	$2000.00	-$1671.87	
BANKING FEES	$14.00	$50.00	-$36.00	
SUNDAY SCH	$280.33	$400.00	-$119.67	
TOT DISB	$82210.04	$112437.50	-$30227.46	73%
REC/DISB	$2739.28	-$15877.50	$10391.45	
CH ACC BAL	$29665.67			As at Oct 31,2023
Included in the OTHER revenue and OFFICE SUPPLY there is a reversing entry of $224				