# Meridian Pastoral Charge Board Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2024

PASSED MINUTES

**PRESENT**: Rev. James DeBeer, Shelley Robson, Jamie Scharf, Jane Manness, Georges Cormier, Margaret Porter, Michele Ammeter, Diane Trudeau, Cathy Beavis

**REGRETS**: Nancy Langlois, Angie Cormier

**Call to Order** 7:00 p.m.

Rev. James opened with a prayer.

**Minutes of the November 14, 2023 meeting: One correction:** Michele Ammeter was in attendance. **One addition**: the meeting was held on Zoom.

**MOTION**: Rev. James/Michele that the minutes of the November 14, 2023 meeting be accepted as amended. Carried.

**Committee Reports** See full reports in Appendix I

### Minister

-Rev. James also reports that he is a Pastoral Supervisor of the Valley Pastoral Charge (Dominion City and Greenridge) until further notice.

### Worship

-Jane says her report reflects all the planning for the 2024-25 church year.

-Jane added that the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada is on June 10. 2025. Of note, Sanford Church will host a worship service, picnic, and games on June 8 in Sanford- rain or shine. This is also Pentecost Sunday. Each church will need a representative on the organizing committee to plan this which will likely start meeting in March 2025.

### Ministry and Personnel

-Michele submitted the 2024-25 Meridian Pastoral Charge Schedule. She says the schedule can be flexible.

## Meridian Interchurch

-Cathy submitted her report from June 3, 2024. She attended a Meridian Interchurch meeting today and will have more to discuss in New Business.

-Cathy says no one applied for the Meridian Interchurch Scholarship which was $1500 (for one individual or can be shared between 2 individuals). The scholarship money will be set aside until next year. The scholarship is handed out at the Interchurch Picnic in June.

## Prairie to Pine Region

-No report.

**MOTION**: Georges/Michele that the reports be accepted as presented. Carried.

## Treasurers Report

-report submitted on August 31, 2024. There were no questions.

**MOTION**: Georges/Cathy that the report be accepted as presented. Carried.

## Church Reports

### Avonlea

-Possibility of a baptism for October.

### Sanford

-No questions.

### Starbuck

-No report

**MOTION**: Jamie/Jane that the reports be accepted as presented. Carried.

## Old Business

1. MPC still needs a Prairie to Pine Region Rep. Diane is bowing out after 9 years. Main responsibility is to be current with the issues by reading the weekly Prairie to Pine newsletter. There is a plan for meetings to be in-person for 1 year and then the next 2 years will be Zoom meetings. Could church chairs please ask their congregations if anyone is interested.

## Budget

-struck off the agenda, there was no business to discuss.

## Correspondence

1. Jamie presented a Certificate of Thanksgiving for 2023 from the Mission and Service Fund. The Meridian Pastoral Charge donated $7346. There was also some promotional information for the Mission and Service Fund.
2. St. Andrew's College regarding Vocation Sunday. Rev. James has the information.

## New Business

1. The United Church of Canada 100th Anniversary in June 2025. Each church should appoint 1-2 reps and make their names known to the MPC at the November 2024 Board Meeting. Consider who we should invite to this celebration.
   Jamie suggests we should have budget plans for this event before the MPC Annual Meeting in February 2025.
   Sanford Church has agreed to host the event. Avonlea Church would forego their Sunday School Wind-up and Union Point Service in June 2025.
   Michele has early copies of church services and will share these with the Board.
   Hymns will be from the old hymnals. Consider attending the event in 1925 dress.

2. Cathy shared with the Board an announcement that October 11, 2024 will be a Living Well in the R M of MacDonald presentation at the Oak Bluff Hall. This is sponsored by the MacDonald Service to Seniors. The cost of the event is $10, and the DeLuca Brothers are catering. More details are on the MSOS website.

3. Cathy reports that the Interchurch Committee needs a fundraiser. One is tentatively planned for March 2025 and may be considering Matt Falk (Christian comedian) as the headliner.

4. Georges and Cathy report that a columbarium is available for non-denominational inurnments in the St. Hyacinthe Catholic Cemetery in LaSalle. Margaret also added that Starbuck Cemetery also has a columbarium for non-denominational inurnments.

5. Cathy presented to the Board that the Interchurch Committee would like MPC to host the Advent Service on December 1, 2024. The Interchurch Committee would like an answer by October 8, 2024. Some discussions re renting the Domain Hall (second choice) or using the Lutheran Church in Starbuck (first choice). Rev. James will speak to Pastor Deb about this. The third choice would be to find an alternative church in the area. MPC is responsible for organizing the lunch and coffee.

Meeting adjourned by Michele at 810 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:** NOVEMBER 12, 2024 AT 7 P.M. BY ZOOM.

## APPENDIX I

### Ministers Report

Meridian Pastoral Charge

Board Meeting

September 10, 2024

Over the course of 2024, it feels like there are more and more things to worry about—serious things—things that have the power to keep us up at night to say the least. Things in the news, things in politics, things in our communities. As someone who has always had an interest in the news, in world events, and the conversations of society, I can now better appreciate the feelings of those who just want to shut off the news and watch another re-run or read a good book. When I was a teenager I worked at McDonalds for about a year and when a bus stopped by we were inundated with orders. One quickly learns to not focus on the number of orders but just on the one you're working on now so as to not get overwhelmed. The state of the world, however, makes it seem impossible to just focus on one thing—there is just so much going on. To make matters worse, we've been deceived by some who purport to tell the truth but have brewed the perfect concoction of half-truths and bold faced lies with which to prey on those searching for a particular narrative rather than the truth.

Maybe the answer is: just don't worry! Let it go! There's nothing you can do about it after all. It's (mostly) all far away, on the other side of the world. Plus we have more than enough to

worry about here. But then again, the reason we worry is because we care. We worry because we believe in right and wrong.  We believe in justice. We believe in peace. We believe in truth. So naturally when we see obfuscation, when we see manipulation, war, terrorism, the slaughter of innocents, when we see rights being taken way we worry because we know it's not right.

So how can we direct that energy, the power of our worry, into something powerful, impactful, a force for good in the world? I don't know! I still haven't figured it out. I still worry. I have to cope with it. Maybe coping is the gravity-like force that restricts me from becoming a radical. I wonder if those society has deemed 'radical' just couldn't cope anymore. They reached the limit of what they could put up with, they were fed up with waiting for the world to change and just went out and changed it themselves. People like Louis Riel, Nellie McClung, Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela. Is that what I'm supposed to be doing?

Honestly, I don't think I have what it takes to lead a revolution (for now anyways). So I still have to cope. But just coping isn't the vibe I want. I want something more. I want to direct my energy in a positive life-giving way…which in my experience involves two important things: choosing your battles and finding times of peace for your spirit. When I think of 'choosing your battles', I think of the war in Ukraine. I know with almost certainly that I could not end the war tomorrow. There is nothing within my power that I can do to end it. So… I need to direct the energy I expend worrying about it towards something positive; things that I can do. And the small simple things do a heck of a lot more than we sometimes give them credit for. For example, just trying to be a little more patient with each other and taking some time to listen to each other would do us a world of good. So first choose your battles. The corollary is: know when to take a break from battling. Take time for peace. Look after yourself and carve our time for yourself in your life.  A peaceful heart and mind can help you spend less time on worry and have more times of joy, passion, wonder, and love. Take the time to do the things that bring you peace.

Peace, hope, love—these are the reasons we are doing all this work as Avonlea, Sanford and Starbuck United churches. It's the reason we're meeting as a board; to guide our Churches, our Meridian Pastoral Charge, to change the world in the ways we can.  To follow the life and teachings of Jesus to transform our world into God's Kingdom.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. James

**Meridian Worship Report 2024 - 2025**

September 10, 2024

Meridian Worship Committee met on August 27th at Sanford church.

Rev. James and all churches were represented.

2024/25 reps are: Sanford: Barb Kirk, Julie Ringash

Starbuck: Margaret Porter, Diane Trudeau

Avonlea (Chair): Angie Cormier, Jane Manness

2024/25 Worship Schedule compiled by Michele Ammeter

Avonlea: Rev. James every Sunday 9:30 AM

Starbuck: Rev. James every other Sunday at 11:30AM. Lay leader alt. Sundays/ joint services with the Lutheran congregation 2nd Sunday of every month.

Sanford: Sunday 9:30AM live stream. 11:00AM Rev. James in person. They will try 9:30AM/11:00AM until December.

6 Communion dates to be determined by each church:

WWCommunion/Thanksgiving, Advent 1, Epiphany, Lent 1, Easter, Pentecost

Recovenanting Service - Rev.James will include in a Sept service

Lectionary Year: Sept - Year B / Advent 1 - Year C

Time change: fallback - Nov 3rd, 2024 / spring forward - March 9th, 2025

Nov 11th, Remembrance Day Services

Hanging of Greens : date and activity individual decisions

Advent and Lent readings: Rev.James will provide to committee members

White Gift / Memory Tree / Blue Christmas - individual decisions

Christmas Eve : Starbuck 5:00PM

Sanford 7:30PM

Avonlea 7:00PM - pulpit supply

December 29th: individual decisions

Season of Lent: March 9th, 2025: Lent 1, Communion, Liturgy of Ashes

Maundy Thursday ???, Good Friday 10:00AM Avonlea

Easter: March 20, 2025 Rev. James at Avonlea / Starbuck

May 11, 2025: Mother's Day

June 15, 20025 Father's Day

100th Anniversary Year of United Church of Canada (June 10th) 2025

Discussion : it should be a "United" service.

Date June 8th - rain or shine at Sanford

It is Pentecost Sunday / Worship / Picnic / Games

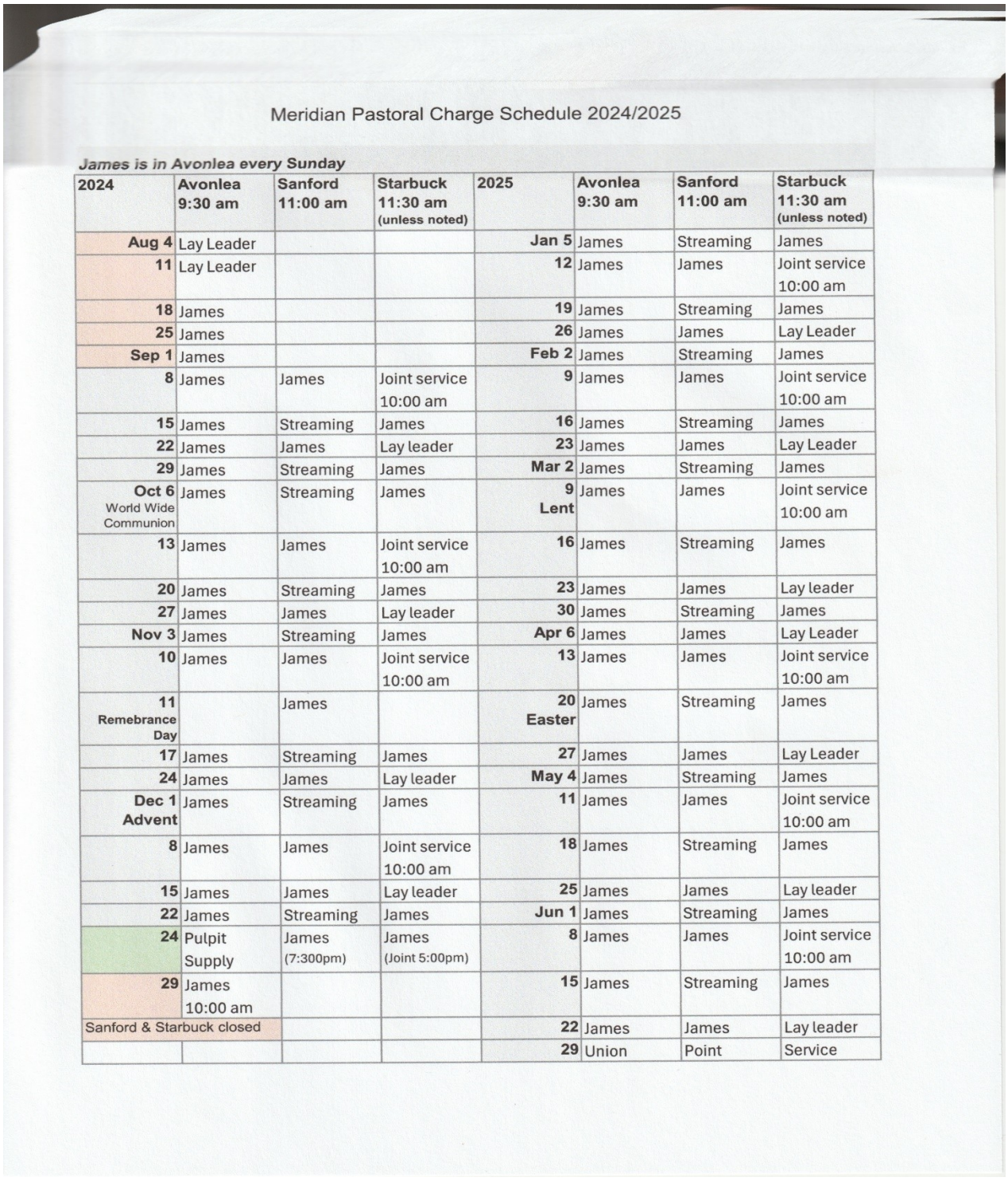
Anniv Mtg: Tues, March 11. 2025 7:30PM Sanford ??Zoom

Next Worship Mtg: August 26th, 2025 Sanford

Submitted by Angie Cormier/ Jane Manness (Avonlea Worship Chairpersons)

**Ministry and Personnel Report**

Meridian Pastoral Charge Schedule 2024/2025



Meridian Pastoral Charge Schedule 2024/2025

*James is in Avonlea every Sunday*

| 2024 | Avonlea 9:30 am | Sanford 11:00 am | Starbuck 11:30 am (unless noted) | 2025 | Avonlea 9:30 am | Sanford 11:00 am | Starbuck 11:30 am (unless noted) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aug 4 | Lay Leader | | | Jan 5 | James | Streaming | James |
| 11 | Lay Leader | | | 12 | James | James | Joint service 10:00 am |
| 18 | James | | | 19 | James | Streaming | James |
| 25 | James | | | 26 | James | James | Lay Leader |
| Sep 1 | James | | | Feb 2 | James | Streaming | James |
| 8 | James | James | Joint service 10:00 am | 9 | James | James | Joint service 10:00 am |
| 15 | James | Streaming | James | 16 | James | Streaming | James |
| 22 | James | James | Lay leader | 23 | James | James | Lay Leader |
| 29 | James | Streaming | James | Mar 2 | James | Streaming | James |
| Oct 6 World Wide Communion | James | Streaming | James | 9 Lent | James | James | Joint service 10:00 am |
| 13 | James | James | Joint service 10:00 am | 16 | James | Streaming | James |
| 20 | James | Streaming | James | 23 | James | James | Lay leader |
| 27 | James | James | Lay leader | 30 | James | Streaming | James |
| Nov 3 | James | Streaming | James | Apr 6 | James | James | Lay Leader |
| 10 | James | James | Joint service 10:00 am | 13 | James | James | Joint service 10:00 am |
| 11 Remebrance Day | | James | | 20 Easter | James | Streaming | James |
| 17 | James | Streaming | James | 27 | James | James | Lay Leader |
| 24 | James | James | Lay leader | May 4 | James | Streaming | James |
| Dec 1 Advent | James | Streaming | James | 11 | James | James | Joint service 10:00 am |
| 8 | James | James | Joint service 10:00 am | 18 | James | Streaming | James |
| 15 | James | James | Lay leader | 25 | James | James | Lay leader |
| 22 | James | Streaming | James | Jun 1 | James | Streaming | James |
| 24 | Pulpit Supply | James (7:300pm) | James (Joint 5:00pm) | 8 | James | James | Joint service 10:00 am |
| 29 | James 10:00 am | | | 15 | James | Streaming | James |
| Sanford & Starbuck closed | | | | 22 | James | James | Lay leader |
| | | | | 29 | Union | Point | Service |

**MERIDIAN PASTORAL CHARGE INTER-CHURCH REPORT** June 3, 2024

Our mission as the Meridian Inter-Church Council is to be a visible sign of unity of the body of Christ to our church communities through scripture, prayer, worship and service. Nine churches in southern Manitoba make up this council. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:30 at the churches in a rotational schedule. We don't have meetings in December or during the summer months.
At each meeting we share what is happening in each of our churches.
Our committee begins with a psalm reading and we discuss the reading and how it is relevant to our churches. We have had three meetings since the last Avonlea meeting.
Some of the highlights have been:
Our barbecue and baseball windup is on Wednesday, June 5 th . Dinner at 6 pm and baseball at 7 pm. Our recipients will be presented with our scholarship at the baseball tournament. The deadline was extended to May 31 st and we will pick the recipient/s at our next meeting.
A memorial plaque in honour and remembrance of Cynthia Bisson will be presented to Brunkild Church at the barbecue/baseball windup.
The barbecue is rain or shine. If it is raining we will have the event in the Brunkild Hall and we play games after supper.
Father Gabriel is still working on the MICC Congregational Poster and hopes to have time this summer to complete it.
St. Hyacinthe Church is still working on whether they will have a columbarium in their cemetery. Anybody, not just Catholics will be able to use the columbarium as long as they respect the rules of the cemetery. They found out the cost was comparable to a ground plot.
Our next meeting is tomorrow June 4 th at St. Hyacinthe Church.

Respectfully submitted June 3 rd , 2024 by Cathy Beavis

MPC FINANCIAL REPORT AUGUST 31, 2024

| REVENUE | ACTUAL | PROJECTED 2024 | DIFFERENCE | NOTES |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ALLOCATIONS | $58800.00 | $88200.00 | -$29400.00 | |
| INTEREST | $3690.08 | $1200.00 | -$35.00 | |
| M&S/WD | | $6900.00 | -$6900.00 | |
| S/H DIVIDEND | $13.44 | $25.32 | $25.32 | |
| OTHER | | $225.00 | -$225.00 | Min gift/SUC |
| TOTAL RECEIPTS | $62503.52 | $96550.32 | -$34046.80 | |
| | | | | |
| DISBURSEMENT | | | | |
| PAYROLL JAMES | $65736.55 | $98209.56 | -$32473.01 | |
| PAYROLL OTHER | $247.00 | $741.00 | -$494.00 | 247x3 |
| UCC ASSESS | $4588.00 | $4588.00 | $0.00 | |
| M&S/WD | | $6900.00 | -$6900.00 | |
| SERVICE SUPPLY | $0.00 | $300.00 | -$300.00 | i.e. Palms, etc |
| MILE EXP JAMES | $2720.85 | $5020.00 | -$2299.15 | |
| TRAVEL OTHER | | $300.00 | -$300.00 | Travelling Min. and meetings |
| MISC | | $500.00 | -$500.00 | Min Appr, etc |
| OFFICE SUPPLY | $556.88 | $550.00 | $6.88 | |
| WEB DOMAIN | | $136.50 | -$136.50 | |
| MEETINGS | | $500.00 | -$500.00 | PtoP, etc |
| CAPITAL | | $500.00 | -$500.00 | |
| BANKING FEES | $8.00 | $30.00 | -$22.00 | |
| SUNDAY SCH | | $300.00 | -$300.00 | |
| TOT DISB | $73857.28 | $118575.06 | -$44717.78 | |
| | | | | |
| REC/DISB | -$11353.76 | -$22024.74 | $10391.45 | |
| Jan 1 Bank Bal | $26832.46 | $26832.46 | | T/D $80,000 |
| Receipts | $67503.52 | $96550.32 | Add $5000 fr T/D | -5000 |

MPC FINANCIAL REPORT AUGUST 31, 2024

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Expenditured | $73857.28 | $118575.06 | | |
| August 31 bal | $20478.70 | $4807.72 | $9807.72 | $75000.00 |

## Avonlea Church Report

September 2024

Our last Board Mtg was June 3rd in person. These last few years, the Board and Cemetery Committee have worked hard at reviewing and renewing our policies.

June 9th, we had a fun time at La Barriere Park for our S.S. windup and congregational picnic.

Our Heritage Service at Union Point was cancelled this year because of construction on Hwy #75.

July - closed

August - 9:30AM summer worship with Rev. James.

September - This coming year, we are looking forward to 9:30AM worship with Rev. James every Sunday.

- SS begins Sept 8th.

We are thankful for the core of faithful attenders who always look forward to worship, coffee and fellowship.

Always, thankful to Rev James for the time and energy he puts into every Sunday morning preparations.

Submitted by Jane Manness - Avonlea Chairperson

## Sanford United Church Report

2024-09-10 Meridian Pastoral Charge Official Board Meeting

We returned to in-person worship services on Sept 8 after our usual summer break. This is our first experience with alternating worship times and we're hopeful that attendance numbers will not be negatively affected by that. Our plan is to use multiple communication channels to make sure everyone is aware of the next service time. This includes website, outdoor sign, email, Facebook, and so on.

Over the summer, our Board met to appoint a committee to recommend a new cleaning person for our building. We are happy to report we have Myka de Guzman (a new person to the Sanford community) as our church cleaner starting in September.

We have the baptism of Hudson Woroniuk happening on Sept 22. Our building continues to be well used by the community.

Looking forward to reporting on more action in the future as our committees all ramp up after the summer break ready to do great work in Sanford and beyond.

Jamie Scharf

Chair

Shelley Robson, Secretary

September 16, 2024