

,Meridian Pastoral Charge Board Meeting Minutes

Nov.18, 2025(Zoom)

Present: Jamie Scharf, Georges Cormier, Diane Trudeau, Nancy Langois, Jane Manness, Margaret Porter, Rev. James DeBeer, Janice Harrison, Michele Ammeter and Melanie Stanley.

Regrets: Cathy Beavis, Stuart Manness

Call to order at 7:10

Rev. James began the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes from Sept 16, Omission: Jannis Harrison sent her regrets

Motion : Georges Cormier moved Diane Trudeau seconded that the minutes of the Sept.16, 2025 meeting be accepted as circulated.

Carried

Committee reports

Minister

Rev. James spoke about the different services and the 3 charges will have over the advent season.

Worship

Detailed outline for the 2025 - 2026 year in September 16,2025 minutes.

We are about to begin Advent 1 (Worship Year A) on November 30th.

Onnolee Scharf is directing a joint Choir for the Meridian Interchurch Service at Springstein Mennonite on Nov. 30. 7:00PM.

Rev. James has given us candle lighting readings.

Special Advent services and events will be determined by individual churches.

Communion will be held when Rev. James leads worship in person.

Virtual Blue Christmas - Rev James / Rev Deborah - Saturday, Dec. 20th.

Christmas Eve: Starbuck. 5PM. Rev. James

Sanford. ?? Pulpit Supply

Avonlea. 7PM. Rev. James

December 28th, 2025 - individual church decision to be open.

2026 Season of Lent

Shrove Tuesday, February 17th

Ash Wednesday, February 18th

Lent 1 : February 22nd

Remember: Pentecost - May 24th, 2026. "United 101 Service"
10AM / Sanford / Communion / Potluck lunch

Respectfully submitted
Jane Manness

Ministry and Personnel – They have not met since the last meeting so there is nothing new to report.

Meridian Interchurch-

The Inter-Church council met the morning of November 18 at LaSalle Fellowship Church.

The Meridian Inter-Church Advent Service will be held Sunday November 30 at Springstein Mennonite Church at 7pm. All are welcome. There is a joint choir with our 3 United Churches (Avonlea, Sanford and Starbuck) which will perform 'Advent Candlelight Carol'.

We have been asked to bring 3 dozen dainties/baked goods.

The Meridian Inter-Church group estimates that 2026 may be the 55th anniversary of the Council. One idea to celebrate the anniversary is to have a dinner and invite all the people of our congregations involved in leadership roles: those on boards, councils, committee's etc. As well as past pastors/ministers. A possible date would be in April 2026. Think about if this is something you'd be interested to participate in.

Prairie to Pine – Prairie to Pine Regional Meeting

The Region met virtually on November 13. Here are some highlights:

1) A newer position in the Region is the 'Growth Animator'. Led by Jordan Cantwel.

Sort of an 'all purpose' support provided by the Region, the Growth Animator has discussed everything from reimagining use of church buildings, to planting churches for underserved populations, to building community partnerships. Two of the most common topics communities of faith explore with them are discerning God's purpose and vision for their ministry, and developing collaborative relationships with neighbouring churches.

Sustainability of ministry is another key concern for both urban and rural churches. We all know that society has changed, and those changes have had major impacts on churches. The Growth Department was created to support communities of faith as they seek to adapt to these new realities.

2) St. Andrew's College is launching the Oliver & Gruchy Learning Centre. A new initiative aimed at fostering critical thinking, community engagement and a commitment to justice. Named after Dr. Edmund Oliver the first Principal at St. Andrews and Dr. Gruchy, the first woman ordained to Ministry in the United Church of Canada. The learning centre will create a student-centred learning environment that encourages explorations in theological studies, social justice

and leadership. It will also serve as a hub for learners to explore ongoing educational opportunities.

3) **Towards 2035**, a presentation by Rev. Cameron Fraser, out of the General Council Office, Director of Growth and Ministry Development. He works out of Regina, SK.

The presentation was very interesting. The meeting is now on YouTube. Here is the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TD9yVao6QWk>

Cameron's presentation begins at around 14:00 and goes till 46:00. It is about a Resource that will soon be available for congregations to use to have discussions about their vision for the future. Here is an excerpt:

The vision of Towards 2035 is about envisioning the future presence of the church. While it names and understands the declines we're seeing in the United Church and Churches in general, the vision is not about bemoaning decline. It's about remembering Church Union was a vision for a church for Canada that was still defining itself; what it meant to be a church that Canada needed as best as they could name it. And it leaves us the question, what is our vision now? What is the church that we understand Canada to need in 2035 and beyond? And how must we shape ourselves? And what does faithfulness look like now? Not for the survival of an institution, but for the sake of the good news that we are not alone, that we live in God's world.

And this question of what comes next brought together national staff leaders and regional council executive ministers in the fall of 2024 to look honestly at where we find ourselves collectively and where we might be heading. They came together with love for the church and asked big hard questions like what is the likely future of the United Church of Canada if the current path continues? What might it take to shift this trajectory? And what does leadership look like when it comes from a place of faith and not a place of fear? It was becoming increasingly clear that a whole church response was necessary to begin a conversation towards a whole church strategy rooted in a sense of call but informed by our reality and the realities in the church and beyond. And that was fueled by a vision of a resilient, inspired, diverse, and multigenerational church that is called in love to witness and to minister across a vast country and in rural and remote communities and in urban centers in coast to coast to coast.

To be whole church means that each part each part in its own context is asking the same question in harmony with each other. What is the church that is needed in this moment and in the years to come? and how can we best be what our neighbors and our neighborhoods need us to be giving the realities we're experiencing. Towards 2035 is rooted in a conviction that God is present and active in our time and in our places. Towards 2035 asks us to pay attention and to perceive what God is doing and to discern how we will respond. ***The final stages of being edited and will be available within a few weeks and that will be a tool that will allow conversations to happen wherever you find yourself.***

Church Reports

Avonlea

*One Church Board meeting held September 22

*October 12th Thanksgiving collection for Holy Cross Food bank

*November 11th—Rev de Beer gave message at Domain Remembrance service

- *On going work with Insurance Company re needed improvements
- *November 23—pot luck lunch and hanging of the greens
- *November 30th—Presentation from Val Christie on the work of The Westgrove Family Resource Center on Doncaster. Monies and item collection for this cause.
- *Glow Light Memorials, poinsettias, ice candles for December.
- * The Longest Nite service Sat. Dec 20th—Blue Christmas
- *Dec 24th—Christmas Eve Service @ 7 with Rev. James
- *December 28th 10 AM informal service

Sanford

Christmas craft sale is coming up. Craft night coming up on Dec. 4.

The Remembrance day service was held for a full church. Thank you to Rev. James for writing the service. Kelly read it. Nancy, Tammy and Marc all read parts as well.

Starbuck- We are looking forward to the Advent Season . We shall be well represented in the Ecumenical Advent Service on the 30th November.

The Cantata with the Trinity Lutheran church will take place at 11.30am on the 21st December'

We are very much enjoying having James every week at our regular services.

Margaret Porter

A motion to accept the reports as shared made by Diane Trudeau, seconded by Nancy Langlois
Carried

Treasurers Report

MERIDIAN PASTORAL CHARGE

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE 10 MONTHS ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2025

Income

Remittances

Avonlea	\$26,000.00
Starbuck	25,700.00
Sanford	25,550.00

Other	<u>5,000.00</u>	Donation from Sanford United Church
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Total Income	\$86,187.50
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Disbursements

James Payroll	\$84,933.88
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UCC Assessment	4,715.00	
Pulpit supply expenses	238.01	palms
James mileage expenses	3,209.25	
Misc	350.00	James gift for Minister appreciation
Office supplies	487.09	Ann Gat mag, ms office subscribe, Zoom Plat
Banking fees	<u>11.00</u>	
Total Disbursements	<u>\$93,944.23</u>	
Receipts over Disbursements	-\$7,756.73	
Transfer from Manse	<u>10,000.00</u>	
Receipts over Disbursements	<u>\$2,243.27</u>	
<u>October 31, 2025</u> Balance in checking account		<u>\$18,328.42</u>

A suggestion that the 3 boards should meet before the AGM to discuss finances to try and have an idea of what each church can do to help with the MPC projected budget to keep the 3 churches open. Originally 2027 was the crucial date but now it looks like it may be 2028/2029. We will look in early January for a meeting.

Motion: Georges Cormier moved, Janice Harrison seconded that the report be accepted as presented.

Carried

Old Business

-Joint service for the 101 Anniversary. May 24th is the discussed date. 10:00 at Sanford.
Communion and a potluck lunch.

Correspondence –

New Business

-Jan 11, Avonlea AGM, January 25 Starbuck AGM, Feb. 8 Sanford AGM
MPC AGM February 24 7:00p.m at Sanford
-All reports need to be sent to Stuart Manness by February 10th.
-Could we get Daryl a \$25 gift certificate for making the childrens' stories so interesting?
Georges Cormier moves that MPC buys Daryl a \$25 gift certificate, Michele Ammeter seconded.

Carried

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 moved by Michele Ammeter.

Next meeting will be the AGM on February 25 at 7:00p.m. in Sanford.

Secretary for November 18, 2025 Melanie Stanley