

PRESENT: Ray Orr (Chair), Fran Erven (Chair Elect), Maxine Gray, Barry McNabb (7:15pm), Barb Kingdon (7:12pm), Colleen Wallace, Gord Kingdon(7:20pm), Heather Currie, Michelle Gunderson, and Kathy Platt.

REGRETS: Julie Hutton (Past Chair), Nicole McLenehan  
Quorum present.

PRAYER for those affected by the major highway accident today at Hwy 1 & 5.

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Chair Ray Orr

REFLECTION: Worship, Learning and Membership

Colleen shared reflections of her childhood church in a small community, and then about volunteering this week at the church in Heritage Village for a school tour – she played the pump organ (just like the one from her childhood). Her discussions with the grade two children showed how few church experiences many of them have had – this led to an “aha” moment for Colleen, that we as a church need to keep this in mind as we move forward – how can we introduce more families to the wonderful world of faith and community?

Next Meeting: Property Committee

HOLY MANNERS: Ray highlighted a couple of the “manners”

- Welcome the Conflict of Ideas: different points of view and respectful debate are helpful!
- Honour the Decisions of the Body

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

- Acknowledgment of our Sunday School leaders – see New Business

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Agenda for this June 15, 2023 meeting.

**Motion: moved by Maxine Gray and seconded by Colleen Wallace**

**“...That we, the Council of the Minnedosa United Church accept the Agenda for the June 15, 2023 meeting as amended.”**

**CARRIED**

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES: no errors or omissions.

Minutes from the March 15, 2023 Council meeting.

**Motion: moved by Fran Erven and seconded by Maxine Gray**

**“...That we, the Council of the Minnedosa United Church accept the Minutes of the March 15, 2023 meeting as circulated.”**

**CARRIED**

Minutes from the April 4, 2023 Zoom Council meeting (re: hiring a Care Taker)

**Motion: moved by Barry McNabb and seconded by Fran Erven**

**“...That we, the Council of the Minnedosa United Church accept the Minutes of the April 4, 2023 Zoom meeting as circulated.”**

**CARRIED**

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- Sanctuary Lighting: Barry Mc. had just received some feedback today. Robert Shannon, who has a background in this area, sent a letter with some thoughts and is willing to help with selecting better lighting options.
- Jon Kowal, an electrician also came to look at our Sanctuary room and suggested that the size of the space will require “commercial lights”.

Barry will continue with further research.

CORRESPONDENCE

- RRFA: Thank you card and honorarium for facility use in March.
- Confirm Nov 26 date for Strathclair Theatre Chorus concert.
- IPC Canada Photo Services: wondering if we would like to do a directory this year. Council discussed this and decided that we don't need a new directory at this time.
- UCC: Category 3 Remit (Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization). Council will look at this Remit in the fall (response is due March 2024)

NEW BUSINESS:

- Motion to empower the Council Executive to make all decisions related to the operations of Minnedosa United Church on behalf of the Church Council until the next Council meeting in September 2023.

**Motion: moved by Barb Kingdon and seconded by Heather Currie**

**"...That we, the Council of the Minnedosa United Church agree to empower the Council Executive to make all decisions related to the operations of Minnedosa United Church on behalf of the Church Council until the next Council meeting in September 2023 ."**

**CARRIED**

- Discuss fundraising for Mission & Service, and Theological Colleges  
(This was referred to the Church Life and Outreach report.)

-Addition to the Agenda: acknowledgement for Sunday School teachers.

It was agreed that a gift of appreciation was in order for Colleen Wallace and Mary Dalton, for all of the time, effort and enthusiasm they have devoted to the Sunday School program over the last few years.

It was suggested that each lady will receive a gift card from Inspire Studio, as well Colleen will get a gift card from Boho Soul and Mary will get a gift card from Farmhouse 50.

**Motion: moved by Maxine Gray and seconded by Gord Kingdon**

**"...That we, the Council of the Minnedosa United Church agree to purchase Gift Cards for Colleen Wallace and Mary Dalton, in appreciation for their dedication to our Sunday School program, for a total amount of \$100 to be paid from the Legacy Fund."**

**CARRIED**

REPORTS:

OFFICE: Michelle G.

APPENDIX "O"

\*Circulate the sign-up sheet for volunteers to count offering.

FINANCIALS: FS 23-03, FS 23-04 and 23-05

Barry Mc reviewed the statements for March, April, and May 2023.

**Motion: moved by Barry McNabb and seconded by Gord Kingdon**

**"...That we, the Council of the Minnedosa United Church accept the Financial Reports for the months of March, April, and May 2023 as circulated, including the cheque register for the above months."**

**CARRIED**

REGION 5 (PRAIRIE TO PINE): Barb Kingdon  
APPENDIX "P"

The 2023 Annual Meeting was held in Winnipeg, June 1-4. (See attached report)

Barb highlighted an opportunity at Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre near Beausejour MB: "Mamawe Ota Askihk – Sharing Life Together Here on Earth", a spiritual gathering for land based learning from August 21-25. All ages are welcome (under 18yrs accompanied by caregiver), a balance of Indigenous/non-Indigenous people.

FUNDRAISING:

- Fun Fest August 19<sup>th</sup>

Fall Supper? / AOTS Pancake Supper & Fair Trade Friday? / Christmas Tea/Bake Sale (Referred to Church Life and Outreach report)

NOMINATIONS: no activity since the Annual Meeting.

COMING EVENTS:

- Friday Feasts? (Referred to Church Life and Outreach report)

(Committees and church groups are asked to submit dates for any activities to the church office, for good coordination and communication of all events. Ideas for fundraising should come to Council through the Church Life/Outreach Committee to ensure it fits with our ethos.)

MINISTER: Kathy P.

- Funerals continue steadily (at church and graveside)
- She actually has a wedding to officiate this summer! (Off site)
- Kathy is unable to lead the worship service at the PCH on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in July, and with no substitute or pianist available that service will be cancelled. Instead, Kathy plans to host a tea party for UC folks at the PCH on July 6<sup>th</sup>. Linda Bertram has agreed to lead the service at the PCH on the second Tuesday in August, when Kathy is away on vacation.
- The recent Pride Sunday and Indigenous Peoples Day of Prayer Services were important and sensitive focuses for our congregation and took careful planning and extensive research/learning for Kathy to prepare.
- Kathy has vacation time from August 8<sup>th</sup> to Sept 5<sup>th</sup>.

## **COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

PASTORAL CARE: Heather Currie

APPENDIX "Q"

CHURCH LIFE AND OUTREACH: Kathy Platt (for Nicole)

- Together We Can parent/child group ends on June 21<sup>st</sup>. The next application for funds is due by August 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Gord and Wanda Kingdon will coordinate the Fall Supper again. A possible date is October 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Arrangements will be made to communicate with the congregation in the fall about planning for events such as: monthly lunches & fundraising for M&S and the theological colleges, Friday Feasts, Christmas Tea & Bake sale, etc. Sign-up sheets will be circulated as needed.

WORSHIP, LEARNING AND MEMBERSHIP: Colleen Wallace  
APPENDIX "R"

PROPERTY: Gord Kingdon  
APPENDIX "S"

- Gord will assemble a crew to help clear the Sanctuary before painting.

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL: Maxine Gray  
APPENDIX "T"

- The committee has been very busy this spring!
- Maxine suggested that there was lots of information presented during the M&P online training session which would benefit our church council members as well. Kathy will follow up with Judy Hare (P2P Pastoral Relations Minister).
- we are recommending the following: that we search again for a "consistent pianist for Sunday services, from 10:00 am to Noon, from September through June for a monthly salary" – a salary of \$600.00 per month (plus vacation 4% pay) is being recommended.

We acknowledge that this is an increase over the current amount in the 2023 budget for a pianist and that it would apply to September to December 2023, but do think it is necessary to attract a consistent person with the necessary skill set. Perhaps, consideration could be given to using Legacy Funds to support the music program in this way for the remainder of 2023.

Advertising will begin at Brandon University in July, and more broadly in August.

**Motion: moved by Maxine Gray and seconded by Fran Erven**

**"...That we, the Council of the Minnedosa United Church agree to advertise the position of Accompanist to play for Sunday services from 10am to noon, from September through to June, with a monthly salary of \$600.00 plus 4% vacation pay."**

**CARRIED**

There was a funeral here at the church on May 20<sup>th</sup>, and as the Funeral Home did not realize we had hired a new Care Taker they did not include an honorarium for the Care Taker in their fees for that day. The church, therefore, did not receive funds from the Funeral Home to include in the Care Taker's pay. It is felt that since the Care Taker had been told she would receive additional pay for funerals, it is only right that she be paid. These funds would come out of the general operating fund.

**Motion: moved by Barry McNabb and seconded by Heather Currie**

**"...That we, the Council of the Minnedosa United Church agree to pay Monica Vezeau the amount of \$100 for the set-up and cleaning associated with the funeral held here on May 20<sup>th</sup>, to be paid from the General Operating account."**

**CARRIED**

Since this time, the church office and the funeral home have made arrangements for our church administrator to issue an invoice of expenses for each funeral, in order to communicate clearly regarding fees associated with each service.

The M&P committee members have a team meeting planned with Kathy and Michelle on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

FINANCE and STEWARDSHIP: Barry Mc.  
APPENDIX "U"

**Motion: moved by Barry McNabb and seconded by Maxine Gray**  
**"...That we, the Council of the Minnedosa United Church approve setting up a new GIC in the Legacy Fund which will include the principal amount of the maturing GIC (185-3492) as well as the portion of qualified funds received since 01 July 2022 to be endowed."**

**CARRIED**

**Motion: moved by Barry McNabb and seconded by Heather Currie**  
**"...That we, the Council of the Minnedosa United Church agree to permit the Finance Committee and Council Executive to approve the transfer of up to \$16,000, as per the 2023 budget, from the Legacy Fund to the General Fund if needed for operating expenses, between the June Council meeting and the September Council meeting."**

**CARRIED**

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:** September 20, 2023 at 7pm

Regularly scheduled meetings on the third Wednesday of January/March/May/September/November.

**REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION:** will leave this until the fall.

**Motion: moved by Gord Kingdon**

**"That we, the Council of the Minnedosa United Church adjourn this meeting at 8:45 pm."**

**HOLY MOMENTS**

**CLOSING PRAYER**

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Michelle Gunderson, Clerk

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Ray Orr, Chair

**APPENDIX "O" OFFICE ADMIN**

Since the March 15<sup>th</sup> Council meeting:

- Helped with Care Taking after Hilton handed in his key on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. (Kat also helped, along with Gord K. and Dave L.)
- When Kathy tested positive for Covid on March 25<sup>th</sup>, I came in on Saturday to download her PowerPoint and the YouTube video for Sunday. Then on Sunday, after working in the Sound Booth, I worked on preparing to upload the recorded service, and on Tuesday shared the link by email.
- Complete the New Hire paperwork for our new Care Taker, Monica.
- Help to prepare and mail out the Spring Appeal letters, with PAR forms & proportional giving chart.
- Submitted the 2022 Statistics forms for the UCC.
- Sort old records (2008-2013) to take to the Shred-It truck (4 boxes)
- M&P meeting on April 26<sup>th</sup> with my liaison, Maxine.

- Assist with Spring Supper: sign-ups, accept donations, float, etc. and volunteer at the supper.
- Submitted the paperwork for me to join the UCC Group Benefits Plan.
- Prepared a "how to donate" message for the Stewardship Moment on May 7<sup>th</sup> and set up a PAR information table.
- Attended the Prairie to Pine Regional meeting in Winnipeg June 1-4.

**FACILITY USE:**

**CHURCH GROUPS:** Friday Feast on March 17<sup>th</sup>, Bell Choir practices

**FUNERALS:** two

**OTHER USER GROUPS:** Play Group (drop in), Rolling River Festival of the Arts, Mason's banquet, 4-H Achievement, Lion's banquet, PMH Vaccine Clinic, wedding reception, Credit Union meeting, Valley Life Recreation meeting, Together We Can and Healthy Baby (Parent/Child groups), Food Bank, Harm Reduction clinics (PMH), Chamber of Commerce Job Fair, CUPE meeting, Minnedosa Drama Club rehearsals, ANPCC (PMH) meeting, yoga session, Strathclair Theatre Chorus meeting, bridal shower, Horticultural Society plant sale, Cenovus training (2 days).

**APPENDIX "P" PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL MEETING JUNE 1-4, 2023**

The 2023 Regional Meeting was held at Meadowood United Church in Winnipeg. Attending from Minnedosa United were Barb Kingdon, Michelle Gunderson, Julie Hutton, and Kathy Platt. We were so pleased to be attending in-person, greeting old friends, and meeting new acquaintances. The weather was very HOT all weekend, and the facility did not have air conditioning! Whew!

Throughout the agenda were various worship services, with a wide variety of worship leaders. There were also several Mission and Service fundraising sessions, featuring "Music Mash-ups" and Karaoke performers which were quite entertaining.

Thursday June 1<sup>st</sup>: P2P Staff reports in a "Who you Gonna Call?" format. Nominations for openings in P2P Council and Committees. We ended with an "In Memorium" presentation remembering individuals and congregations who are no longer with us.

Friday June 2<sup>nd</sup>: we started with presentations from the Theological Colleges: St. Andrews (Saskatoon Theological Union), The Centre for Christian Studies, and the Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre. There were Business Sessions to listen and discuss information around Remit 1, regarding establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization. Approval of this remit will enable the Indigenous Church to define its own structure and processes. We are committed "to work toward ensuring that we will never again use our power as a church to hurt others with attitudes of racial and spiritual superiority". (Voted on the Remit on Saturday.)

The report from General Council spoke about their 6 strategic objectives: Growth/Justice/Climate/ Leadership /Indigenous Pathways/Common Good. There are update reports posted on the General Council website.

It was noted that the UCC will celebrate the Centennial of our Union on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

The presentation from the Right Rev. Dr. Carman Lansdowne (44<sup>th</sup> Moderator of the UCC) started with a very engaging discussion about the book "Imaginable" by Jane McGonigal, about future episodic thinking. She also referenced the phrase "Staying Above the Line" – an attitude of curiosity, play, listening and learning will keep you above the line. Whereas feeling closed, defensive, and fearful will take you below the line.

The Moderator has planned a project for the next couple of years, involving changemaking conversations across the country: workshops/lecture/theological symposia/ and a national book club. The goal is to inspire flourishing bold ideas and daring connections, to nurture human prosperity in a thriving web of life.

We had an introduction to the graduating candidates for Ministry, followed by an opportunity for networking.

I joined a gathering of people from the previous Assiniboine Presbytery and signed up for emails to keep us connected and help to plan future gatherings.

In the evening we had a Business Session regarding a Proposal encouraging Faith Communities to "Divest from Fossil Fuels". Communities of Faith should review the policies of their banking institutions and investments to transition from a carbon economy to a green economy.

Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup>: Workshops A & B were held in the morning. I attended "The Common Good" session with the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion committee. Julie participated in a guided Labyrinth Walk. Barb joined the Camino Manitoba group for a meditative hike. Workshop C was in the afternoon. Barb and I attended the Faithful Footprints session about "Greening Sacred Spaces" (energy efficiency and Care of Creation ideals) and learned about Grant funds that are available. Kathy went to an Elder Care session in which various cultural perspectives were shared. Julie participated in the United We Sing session, engaging in the Holy Act of singing.

Saturday evening there was a banquet to honour retirees.

Sunday June 4<sup>th</sup>: A "Celebration of Ministries" worship service was held in the morning.

written by Michelle Gunderson

#### **APPENDIX "Q" PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE**

Our Pastoral Care Committee met on May 2nd with Kathy Platt, Susan Nelson, Linda Birch, Don Jury, and Heather Currie in attendance.

Services are re-starting at the Personal Care Home. Don Jury visits there weekly.

Susan Nelson sends cards to those who need them.

Prayer shawls are available to those who want one.

If someone would enjoy a visit, please let us know.

Respectfully submitted by Heather Currie

#### **APPENDIX "R" WORSHIP, LEARNING AND MEMBERSHIP**

Worship and Learning Committee met on May 2.

##### **WORSHIP SCHEDULE:**

MAY 7, 14, 28 Regular services with Choir singing 2 times a month.

MAY 28 Bell choir playing.

MAY 21 Long Weekend saw Fran Erven hosting a gathering for morning coffee and visiting, with about 18 people in attendance. (No worship service)

JUNE 4 sees Dora White leading worship with support from various congregation members while Kathy attends the Regional Prairie to Pine meeting in Winnipeg.

JUNE 11 will be Pride Sunday- Decorating sanctuary for this and Mary Dalton creating a video for children's time.

JUNE 18 is Indigenous People's Day - possible fellowship time after the service.

JUNE 25 is Communion Sunday as our worship committee prepares the elements and has 3 people in place to serve. The Sunday School winds up with a picnic at the park.

The Choir continues to support with music for 2 services a month, on June 4 and 18.

JULY 2nd there will be no worship service (and no coffee party). Happy Canada Day!

JULY 9, 23, 30 will be regular services.

JULY 16 church service will be held in the Hall since the Sanctuary is to be painted at this time. We will have a casual round table setting (possibly iced tea at tables). Barry McNabb will bring his key board for music. There will be no recording or YouTube for this week.

AUGUST - None of the August services will be recorded or have PowerPoint, to allow for a break for those we are so thankful to have operate the sound booth.

AUGUST 6 Long Weekend – No worship service. Kathy will host a coffee time and visiting.  
AUGUST 13 and 27 Julie Hutton will lead Worship.  
AUGUST 20 Colleen Wallace

SEPTEMBER 3 Long Weekend coffee and visiting time hosted by Mary Dalton and Alexis Harvey. (No worship service)

Colleen Wallace

**APPENDIX "S" PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

Things seem to be purring right along as far as any new issues are concerned. In speaking with members of the property committee, we have received no concerns brought to us regarding the Care Taker. There has been a general improvement in what Monica has done on the daily duties. We are open to suggestions if there are areas that need to be improved.

The filters for the heating/cooling system have recently been changed. Also, a new coat of silicone has been applied to all vents on the roof. In the recent heavier rain, there was a small amount of water in Kathy's office noted.

We may look at another way of controlling the water leakage through the vents and will update you once an inspection has been completed.

The painting of the sanctuary in July is still on track as per schedule, with Liz Burton.

The kitchen flooring is still on the top of the list to be completed, although it looks to be a bigger job than first anticipated.

Thank you all for your cooperation and input.

Gord Kingdon

**APPENDIX "T" MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

M&P met many times over the last several months in-person and by Zoom.

In April, Monica Vezeau was hired as Care Taker for Minnedosa United Church with a start date of April 11, 2023. Lorna Hislop (M&P) and Gord Kingdon (Property Committee) have worked closely with Monica to orientate her and help create procedures and practices to help her to settle successfully into the job.

**VACATION PLANS**

Kathy will be taking August 8 to September 5, 2023 as vacation time.

Michelle will be taking vacation days July 11 – 14<sup>th</sup> (4 days) and August 4, 8-11<sup>th</sup> (5 days).

**CONTINUING EDUCATION TIME**

Kathy will be taking part in a two-day on-line conference "Evolving Faith" October 13 & 14, 2023, and taking October 30 – November 7, 2023 to prepare for Advent/Christmas season.

Maxine and Lorna participated in the Orientation/Education session offered by Zoom for M&P members, by Prairie to Pine on May 13, 2023. It was packed with valuable information.

**ACCOMPANIST/PIANIST**

Music has always been an important part of worship at MUC. Discussions have been taking place recently about the ongoing music needs of the MUC and the value of having a consistent pianist. It is hoped that having a consistent pianist in place will help support the choir, strengthen music worship and make it easier to plan.

After discussion with representatives of the choir, the Finance Committee and M&P, we are recommending the following: that we search again for a "consistent pianist for Sunday services, from 10:00 am to Noon, from September through June for a monthly salary" – a salary of \$600.00 per month (plus vacation 4% pay) is being recommended.

We acknowledge that this is an increase over the current amount in the 2023 budget for a pianist and that it would apply to September to December 2023, but do think it is necessary to attract a consistent person with the necessary skill set. Perhaps, consideration could be given to using Legacy Funds to support the music program in this way for the remainder of 2023.

Submitted by Maxine Gray, Chair

**APPENDIX "U" FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

Our meeting was held June 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am.

In attendance: Barry McNabb, Elaine Thomson, Michelle Gunderson, and Kathy Platt

Regrets: Jean Garbolinsky, Lloyd Babcock

We reviewed the financial statements from March, April, and May. The General Fund year-to-date deficit for 2023 is (16,128.69), with a bank balance at the end of May of \$9,484.31. We discussed the response to the Spring Appeal and the Stewardship Moments in May.

We anticipate receipt of the annual cheque from the Meadows Foundation this month. The committee requests that the Council pass a Motion to approve setting up a new GIC in the Legacy Fund which will include the principal amount of the maturing GIC (185-3492) as well as the portion of qualified funds received since 01 July 2022 to be endowed.

The committee also asks the Council to pass a Motion to permit the Finance Committee and Council Executive to approve the transfer of up to \$16,000, as per the 2023 budget, from the Legacy Fund to the General Fund if needed for operating expenses, between the June Council meeting and the September Council meeting.

We revisited the idea of investing some of the amount in the Building Account, to earn a higher interest rate – but decided to wait and see what expenses the Property Committee may incur over the summer. (ie: lighting in the Sanctuary)

Held a discussion around the honorariums paid to the accompanists. Any person who receives \$500 or more in honorariums in a calendar year must be issued a T4A at the end of the year, and the church could choose to issue a T4A to everyone who received payment of honorariums regardless of the total. Ideally all who are paid honoraria should claim that amount as income on their tax return.

Barry also wished to have a conversation around the ongoing attempt to hire a permanent accompanist. The Choir and Alexis are anxious to have someone fill the position. Should we be offering a higher rate of compensation? Should a permanent employee be paid a monthly salary? Barry will take our feedback to the Ministry and Personnel committee.

An inquiry was received at the office following our Annual Meeting regarding our policy/plan around acknowledging and celebrating bequests directed to the church. The committee thought we could share that information as part of our fall "thank you" campaign & appeal.

Elaine had two items to bring up, from watching the UCC Webinars for Church Treasurers:

- The United Church of Canada now offers "self-insurance" (UCC Protect) which should offer significant savings for insurance costs. Elaine may investigate this further since it's our Board of Trustees who are responsible for ensuring appropriate insurance coverage.
- It is strongly recommended that we require our facility user groups to provide "proof of insurance" for their group while using our facility. (i.e. HUB International provides the most cost-effective policy).

Next meeting planned for September 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am.

Adjourned at 11:30am.