

PRESENT: Ray Orr (Chair), Fran Erven (Chair Elect), Julie Hutton (Past Chair), Nicole McLenehan, Colleen Wallace, Heather Currie, Maxine Gray, Barry McNabb Michelle Gunderson, and Kathy Platt.

REGRETS: Barb Kingdon, Gord Kingdon

Quorum present.

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Ray Orr

REFLECTION: Ministry and Personnel Committee Next Meeting: Finance and Stewardship
Maxine read a poem by Donna Ashworth called "Joy Chose You", a good reminder that we need to be aware of & open to those little moments each day when joy slips in!

HOLY MANNERS: Ray reviewed one of the Holy Manners
"Sincerely say what we really feel", with respect!

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: none.

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

Motion: moved by Barry McNabb and seconded by Julie Hutton

"...That we, the Council of the Minnedosa United Church accept the Agenda for the November 15, 2023 meeting as circulated."

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES: no errors or omissions.

Minutes from the September 20, 2023 Council meeting.

Motion: moved by Fran Erven and seconded by Heather Currie

"...That we, the Council of the Minnedosa United Church accept the Minutes of the September 20, 2023 meeting as circulated."

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- Sanctuary Lighting: Barry informed us that he and Cheryl had found a person in Winnipeg to help them figure out the possibilities. So far, they have found replacement lights which could be installed on the current stems hanging from the ceiling. The new lights would be LED (brighter and with instant light). The cost ranges from \$500-1200 per light, and there are 10 lights to replace. A suggestion was made to investigate whether this expense may qualify for a Hydro energy grant.
- UCC Category 3 Remit
Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization
Kathy explained the process of a Remit 3, and then reviewed this particular remit. There were several questions and thoughts expressed. It was decided that Council is not quite ready to make a decision and would like more information/background. Kathy will share information shared via the P2P newsletter and about a Zoom session for a Learning Circle coming up on Nov 23rd.

The question:

Does the regional council/pastoral charge agree to amend the Basis of Union to reflect:

1. That The United Church of Canada will be organized as follows:
 - (1) a three-council structure, consisting of communities of faith, regional councils, and a Denominational Council*; and
 - (2) an autonomous National Indigenous Organization; and

2. That once the new autonomous National Indigenous Organization is established within The United Church of Canada, it will have its own mechanisms to make any future changes to its structure and processes, and therefore will not be subject to the remit process under section 7.4.1 of the Basis of Union**; and
3. The changes required for the establishment of the autonomous National Indigenous Organization.

Vote postponed.

- Profile Committee update and motion to approve names.

Julie reported that she and Barb had contacted a group of individuals who have now agreed to serve on the Profile Committee.

Their hope is to meet at least once before the end of 2023, and to have the Profile ready to present at our Annual Meeting.

It will soon be time to put together a Search Committee, ready for upcoming training provided by P2P Region.

Motion: moved by Julie Hutton and seconded by Maxine Gray

"...That we, the Council of the Minnedosa United Church accept the recommended list from Julie Hutton of people who have agreed to serve on a committee to prepare our Community of Faith Profile:

Julie Hutton, Barb Kingdon, Cheryl McNabb-Davis, Graeme Kingdon, Charlene/Lily/Grace Kingdon, Don Jury, and Stacy Wilson."

CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

- Effect Hope: Thank you from Leprosy Mission Canada for sending used stamps.
- Forrest Pastoral Charge: invitation to discussion. Note: Barb Jardine is retiring from Forrest/Brookdale.

The P2P Region's policy is that any COF (Community of Faith) looking at a part-time ministry position are first required to try and work together with neighbouring COF's. We will consider this invitation and address it as part of the Profile/Search process.

- RRFA: sent honorarium for facility use for Westman Youth Choir concert.
- Centre for Christian Studies, and Sandy Saulteaux Centre both looking for donations.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Set date for Annual Meeting: March 10, 2024. Annual Reports due January 19th.

REPORTS:

OFFICE: Michelle G.

APPENDIX "AC"

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

FINANCIALS: FS 23-09 and FS 23-10

Barry reviewed the statements for September and October 2023.

Motion: moved by Barry McNabb and seconded by Fran Erven

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

CARRIED

REGION 5 (PRAIRIE TO PINE):
No report.

FUNDRAISING:

- Fall Supper Oct 22 report: Served approx. 220 meals (13 delivered, 14 takeout), Not enough turkey, so purchased fried chicken from RD's. Proceeds in the range of \$3900
- Strathclair Theatre Chorus "It's Christmas" concert Nov 26: Julie & Michelle hosts.
- Meat Pie Sale Nov30/Dec 01, contact Lorna to help, orders to be in by Nov 24th.
- Christmas Tea/Bake Sale Dec 2nd: Betty Iverson organizing this event, see signup.

NOMINATIONS:

Committees to review terms of members and scout new volunteers as needed.

COMING EVENTS:

Kathy will be writing up information for Advent & Christmas activities and services.

MINISTER: Kathy Platt

- In her role as Pastoral Charge Supervisor, Kathy has been working with Gladstone, Oak River, and Carberry United Churches.
- For Advent she has been preparing activities to draw our community together
- The plans for Advent/Christmas worship services are coming along.
- The Minnedosa Ministerial are holding a Community Church Service "Carols and Candles" here on Dec 3rd at 7pm. Refreshments to follow.
- The three Affirming sessions each had 10-15 people with good conversations.
- Had a great weekend off and enjoyed attending the hockey game in Winnipeg
- Pleased to announce a new grandchild born yesterday in Ottawa!
- Kathy has been doing lots of Pastoral Care with many people.
- It's an interesting and challenging time to be retiring.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

PASTORAL CARE: Heather Currie

APPENDIX "AD"

CHURCH LIFE AND OUTREACH: Nicole McLenehan

APPENDIX "AE"

WORSHIP, LEARNING AND MEMBERSHIP: Colleen Wallace

APPENDIX "AF"

They have been gearing the Sunday School lessons to the group of younger children currently attending.

Council acknowledges the recommendation of this committee to cancel Sunday morning worship on December 31, 2023.

**Motion: moved by Colleen Wallace, seconded by Nicole McLenehan
"...That we, the Council of the Minnedosa United Church
accept the recommendation from the Worship Committee to approve
the Baptism of Angus Rosengren and Evelyn Rosengren, children of
Julia (Comrie) Rosengren and Luke Rosengren."**

CARRIED

Our current Lay Worship Leaders (Julie Hutton, Colleen Wallace, Dora White and Carol Frost) are considering the option to partake in the Sacrament Elders Training, which would allow them to perform Communion and Baptism when the congregation does not have a regular minister. They are also considering whether they may choose to lead funeral services.

PROPERTY:

APPENDIX "AG"

(Report provided as follow-up to the Council Meeting).

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL: Maxine Gray

APPENDIX "AH"

The M&P committee met again on November 13th. Discussion included considerations for guidelines on payment for the accompanist/pianist.

Motion: moved by Maxine Gray, seconded by Fran Erven

"...That we, the Council of the Minnedosa United Church accept the recommendation from the Ministry and Personnel Committee to adopt the following guidelines regarding payment of the pianist:

- **If the church chooses to have no service, the pay will not be affected.**
- **If the pianist requests a Sunday off, pay will be prorated (and the church will pay the replacement pianist).**
- **Sudden unplanned absences from Sunday worship ie: due to sickness or weather, the pianist will be allowed two occurrences from September to June with no impact on their pay, if more than two times then pay will be prorated accordingly for each additional time."**

CARRIED

FINANCE and STEWARDSHIP: Barry McNabb

APPENDIX "AI"

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: January 24, 2024 at 7pm

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

REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION: Fran will do a report.

Motion: moved by Fran Erven, 2nd by Heather Currie

"That we, the Council of the Minnedosa United Church adjourn this meeting at 8:24 pm."

HOLY MOMENTS Ray expressed his appreciation to the group and the positive experience he had working with the Council. He will be away for part of the winter and will return as Past Chair in the spring.

CLOSING PRAYER

Michelle Gunderson, Clerk

Ray Orr, Chair

APPENDIX "AC"

OFFICE REPORT

Since September 20th:

- Help Carol Frost assemble a box of documents to mail to UC Archives in Winnipeg
- Assist with promotions, sign-ups, etc. for the Fall Supper, collect proceeds/deposit/record exp.
- Contribute to writing the Fall Appeal letter, print & fold, print envelopes. Coordinate & assign names for "letter writers" (provide info about each donor for note writing) and collect, then mail letters and hand them out for 2 Sundays.
- Prep recording of Sunday services, upload to YouTube and send out link for two weeks.
- Arrange for "employee self-service" with ADP for pay statements and add new employee.
- Co-chair with Julie H. to host the Strathclair Theatre Chorus (STC) concert (advertising, selling tickets) as an outreach project and fundraiser.

FACILITY USE:

CHURCH: Together We Can parent/child group, monthly book study/club, bell choir, Fall Supper, Affirming Ministry conversations, congregational lunch, committee meetings.

FUNERALS:

OTHER USER GROUPS: Minnedosa Ministerial meeting, yoga, guitar and piano lessons, STC rehearsals, Foodbank meetings and cooking pancakes/muffins, drop-in play group on Thursdays, Healthy Baby, PMH meeting and 2 vaccine clinics, Chamber of Commerce, RRFA host Westman Youth Choir, ANPCC meetings, Haywood Cookies kitchen rental, Minnedosa Foundation awards night.

APPENDIX "AD"

PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE

The committee met with Kathy Platt on November 9th.

Present were Susan Nelson, Don Jury and Heather Currie. Linda Birch was unable to attend.

Don Jury will attend the church service at the Personal Care Home on November 14th with Kathy Platt.

The Longest Night service on December 21st was discussed.

Please let any committee members know about any need for a visit, a card or a prayer shawl.

Respectfully submitted by Heather Currie

APPENDIX "AE"

CHURCH LIFE AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

HAT AND MITTEN TREE – With the turn in the weather, the Hat and Mitten Tree will once again be stocked and put outside for the winter.

FALL SUPPER – Gord and Wanda Kingdon convened this event. It was well attended!

AFTER CHURCH LUNCHESES

Thank you to the Kingdon family who arranged for our recent lunch at the beginning of November. The choir has agreed to arrange the next one for later in January.

MEAT PIES – Dates have been set for November 30th and December 1st. Pickup will be afternoon of December 1st. Small beef or turkey pies will be \$6.00 and large beef or turkey pies will be \$15.00. Lorna Hislop is taking orders by phone. Deadline for placing orders is Friday, November 24th. Advertising will be done in the Minnedosa Tribune and through posters and social media.

AFFIRMING WORKSHOPS – 12 to 15 people met with Kathy for three weeks on Thursday nights to take part in an affirming workshop. The conversation was very informative, and participants found it very educational. It is hoped a similar workshop can be held in the future.

CHRISTMAS TEA and BAKE SALE – Betty Iverson is convening the tea on December 2nd. Dainties, items for the bake table and workers (to help before, during and after the tea) are needed and can sign up at the church.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – December 3rd is the first Sunday of Advent, as well as what is usually White Gift Sunday. After a discussion of where we could gift different items, Kathy has suggested the Bear Clan in Brandon and will be contacting them for information about what they need at this time.

Respectfully submitted by Nicole McLenehan

APPENDIX "AF" WORSHIP, LEARNING AND MEMBERSHIP

MUSIC

The choir continues to support Sunday worship as they lead us in singing. They hope to offer one Sunday during advent with some anthems. We greatly appreciate having our new pianist Kathleen Yanchycki leading us in Sunday worship.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

SS continues to have a large range in ages as well as varying numbers every week.

We have from 1 to 12 children ages 2 - 14 yrs. We are so tickled to have a piano in the hall to lead our music for Sunday School every week. This is so appreciated.

We started in November to try to have one Friday a month after school, strictly for the older children. We hope this allows activities that develop skills in learning, community, and music at more advanced levels.

On Sunday Nov. 12, the children will be leading worship. The hope is to build some more intergenerational connections in our church through shared stories, activities, and music.

During advent we will be focused on the various characters that make up the Christmas story. Mary/ Joseph, the angels and shepherds, the arrival at Bethlehem and birth, as well as the wise men. We will be focusing on acts of giving at Christmas.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Dec. 3 Sun. - 1st Advent, Communion

Dec. 3 Sun. evening - Community advent service at MUC, which involves all the churches in Minnedosa. A time of munchies and fellowship to follow it.

Dec. 10 Sun. - 2nd Advent - Bell Choir playing

Baptism request for Angus Rosengren and Evelyn Rosengren,
children of Julia (Comrie) Rosengren and Luke Rosengren

Dec. 12 Tues. - service at PCH

Dec. 17 Sun.- The Choir hopes to have a few possible anthems, this Sunday. Heidi will also be offering some music. Sunday school to give cookies to the congregation.

Dec. 21 . Thurs. - Longest Night Service

Dec. 24 - Sun. -Christmas Eve Family Service. We would like to plan for one service only to be held at 4:00 pm.

Dec. 31 - No Service

Jan. 7 - first Sunday service in 2024

Colleen will be recruiting readers and lighters to do the advent liturgy each Sunday of the Season. Let me know if you are interested.

OTHER ACTIVITIES that the worship and learning committee will be involved in:

Nov 26. - Kick off the upcoming Season with some decorating in the building.

Thanks to Carol Frost and team.

Nov. 30 Thurs. - 1st Advent evening "Getting ourselves ready for Christmas".

Jean Holm will be making cards and Christmas center pieces with all who wish to gather. Need a sign-up sheet.

Dec. 2 Sat. - Christmas Tea and bake sale - Betty Iverson organizing.

Please think of supporting this event.

Dec. 3. Sun.-Collection for Christmas Cheer Hampers will be accepted this Sunday.

We are also checking into the needs of the Bear Clan for this Sunday (Possibly practical things such as mitts, hats, coats.... need to confirm this yet)

Dec. 7 Thurs. - 2nd Advent evening - Cooking with Nancy Smith

and Linda LeBoutillier. Need a sign-up sheet.

Dec.14 Thurs. - The final and 3rd Advent Evening Walking the Labyrinth.

A unique and centering experience that will help us refocus during this busy time.

APPENDIX "AG"

PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

The property committee had a meeting on Nov. 9th to discuss topics and the needs of the of the church building. Areas of conversation are as follows:

LIGHTS – replacement of several florescent bulbs and ballasts are becoming frequent as they age out. It was decided that new LED bulbs will be purchased and will replace the ballasts and bulbs when required. The new bulbs do not require a ballast to work so both bulbs and ballasts will be replaced in one operation.

ROOF VENTS – Repair and replacement of old caulking will continue weather permitting. It was discussed that perhaps a contract for the job be considered. As a result of the discussion, it was decided that a quote should be obtained to determine the cost of hiring it out. No long-term solution was discussed other than there won't be any major upgrade until the roofing is replaced. Eavestrough cleaning needs to be inspected and completed.

PAINTING – sanctuary painting completed the 3 yr. plan. Currently, no new painting project is being contemplated.

FLOORING – Don Bruce attended to give suggestions on replacement of the flooring in the kitchen and several other areas. He cannot do the required seam welding required without bringing in a machine from Winnipeg and he is not comfortable with his skill level, with that equipment, to do the proper job. He did refer us to a fellow in Brandon that does this work. A call was placed, and we are waiting for a return call. The other areas inspected for repair or replacement were the Choir room, the back door area, and the janitor's room.

FIRE INSPECTION – is due either in December or January and we expect to replace some of the sensors as per the recommendations received last year.

DISHWASHER - no answer from repair person so other options are being considered. Replacement of the unit was discussed but until we find out the present issue it may be a little early to consider that.

STAFF – Monica has been doing an adequate job. It should be noted that due to Michelle's supervision the job does get done. The property committee would like to extend our gratitude to Michelle for the daily supervision.

Other repairs – completed or in process.

- a) 2 toilets repaired for leaks.
- b) Pianos turned.
- c) Health Inspection – Sept. noted that the floor still not repaired.
- d) Back door handle replaced.

Future projects/ requests:

- a) additional bathroom/ facilities to meet handicapped / LGBTQ commitments. Looking at possible other solutions due to the low use such an additional facility is likely to receive. A quote will be obtained for the additional room/requirements. (i.e. Power doors)
- b) shingle replacement funding should be considered a priority including venting upgrades.
- c) Floor washer machine upgrade or replacement. Ending its serviceability due to age. A call will be placed to the company that it was purchased from for a recommendation.

APPENDIX "AH"

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

M&P met once on October 19, 2023, in addition to ongoing communication (mostly by email). Discussion primarily focused on staff related issues and early discussion related to the 2024 budget.

Since the last meeting of Council, the position of Pianist was offered to and accepted by Kathryn Yanchycki. Her first Sunday at the piano was October 29, 2023. We look forward to getting to know her and having her fill this role!

Michelle has a few vacation days remaining and will be taking these on December 8, 15 and 22 (Fridays).

The Church Office will be closed on December 26/23, as a stat for December 25, 2023 and closed on December 27th as a stat for Jan 1st.

Submitted by,
Maxine Gray, Chair

APPENDIX "AI"

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Minnedosa United Church finance committee met on Thursday, Nov 9th, 2023 @ 9:30 a.m. Committee reviewed the September & October financial statements. At the end of October our bank balance was \$17,028.76.

Discussed the response of Fall Appeal letter. Noted that in the October financial statement the Fall Appeal was \$5,900.00 and at our meeting date the Fall Appeal was just over \$15,000.00. Excellent response – Thank you to all who have responded thus far. Finance committee discussed that Michelle would send a "Thank You" note to be emailed or post office mailed to all contributors of the Fall Appeal. So far that would be 24 people.

Mission & Service proceeds from the November 5th lunch totaled \$246.00.

Committee noted that there are 3 upcoming fundraisers planned: Strathclair Theatre Chorus concert, Meat Pies and Christmas Tea & Bake Sale.

The Finance committee would like to recommend that whenever possible to purchase all inputs locally, for fundraising events. Local grocery stores have discounts on inputs when asked at the checkout till.

Finance committee discussed and will help with financial information for forms in the Profile & Search process of finding a new minister.

2024 budget is approaching, and the cost-of-living increase determined by the UCC will be 6.3% for 2024. Finance committee would like to remind all committees to have their budgets into the church office the first week of January/2024 (before Christmas would be even better!).

The Finance committee would like to recommend to Council:

- to set the next Council meeting for Wednesday, January 24th, 2024.
- Also, that the Minnedosa United Church Annual Meeting be Sunday, February 25th, 2024. This allows time for the budget to be prepared, presented to Council and the Annual Report printed.

Next finance meeting planned for Wednesday, January 10th, 2024 @ 9:30 a.m.
The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barry McNabb