

PRESENT: Fran Erven (Chair Elect), Julie Hutton (Past Chair) – by Zoom, Nicole McLenehan, Colleen Wallace, Heather Currie, Maxine Gray, Elaine Thomson, Barb Kingdon, Gord Kingdon, Michelle Gunderson, and Kathy Platt.

REGRETS: Ray Orr (Chair), Barry McNabb

Quorum present.

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Elect Fran Erven

REFLECTION: Finance and Stewardship Next Meeting: Pastoral Care

Michelle read "Travel Light": YOU are the equipment to tenderly care for the hurt & bruised. Then read the "Womanist Lord's Prayer" (by Yolanda Norton)

HOLY MANNERS: Fran read and highlighted the point that we will allow full and equitable participation of all in attendance.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

- Add Correspondence from IPC Canada

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Agenda for this January 24, 2024 meeting.

**Motion: moved by Colleen Wallace and seconded by Barb Kingdon
"...That we, the Council of the Minnedosa United Church accept the Agenda for the January 24, 2024 meeting as amended."**

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES: no errors or omissions.

Minutes from the November 15, 2023 Council meeting.

**Motion: moved by Maxine Gray and seconded by Heather Currie
"...That we, the Council of the Minnedosa United Church accept the Minutes of the November 15, 2023 meeting as circulated."**

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- SANCTUARY LIGHTING: Barry informed us that they have advanced from trying to just replace the bulbs in the current light fixtures to complete new fixtures. Jon Kowal has helped in establishing that the current light fixtures are estimated to be about 2600 lumens. This is most helpful to know for what to be looking for in style of fixture and brightness (number of lumens) of the light. Currently working with Superlite business in Winnipeg and Simon is to be coming up with some suggestions of fixtures. Hope to have more information for Council to discuss soon.
- UCC CATEGORY 3 REMIT
Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization.
A brief discussion in which appreciation was expressed for the good videos and information provided around the remit.

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.

**Motion: moved by Elaine Thomson and seconded by Barb Kingdon
"...That we, the Council of the Minnedosa United Church agree to
establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization within the
United Church of Canada."**

CARRIED

*Record of votes: Yes 8 No 0

(Fran Erven, Michelle Gunderson, and Kathy Platt did not vote.)

- PROFILE COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Committee: Julie Hutton, Barb Kingdon, Cheryl McNabb-Davis, Graeme Kingdon, Charlene/Lily/Grace Kingdon, Don Jury, and Stacy Wilson

Update provided by Barb Kingdon and Julie Hutton. The committee has met two times and has reviewed what they need to do. Julie and Barb had a Zoom meeting with Judy Hare from Prairie to Pine Region to help them understand the steps. Their next meeting is planned for January 31st, and they will form groups to divide up the portions of the Profile to be completed.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Rolling River Festival of the Arts – request for facility use in March. Their committee has also offered to be responsible for piano tuning prior to the festival event.

**Motion: moved by Maxine Gray and seconded by Nicole McLenehan
"...That we, the Council of the Minnedosa United Church agree to allow the
Rolling River Festival of the Arts use of our facility at no cost for
approximately three days in the week beginning on March 18, 2024."**

CARRIED

- IPC Canada: Photo Directory – special offer this spring.

NEW BUSINESS: none

(Julie left the meeting at this time.)

REPORTS:

OFFICE: Michelle G.
APPENDIX "A"

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

FINANCIALS: FS 23-11 and FS 23-12

Elaine Thomson reviewed the statements for November and December 2023.

**Motion: moved by Elaine Thomson and seconded by Gord Kingdon
"...That we, the Council of the Minnedosa United Church
accept the Financial Reports for the months of November and
December 2023 as circulated, including the cheque register for the
above months."**

CARRIED

PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR 2024

Elaine T. reviewed the proposed budget and answered questions.

Members of the Profile Committee informed us that it is necessary to include amounts for Search Committee expenses and Moving expenses in our budget, so

amounts were added: \$2500 for the Search Committee, and \$15,000 for Moving expenses. It is anticipated that funds to cover those expenses will be transferred in from the Legacy Fund.

**Motion: moved by Nicole McLenehan and seconded by Gord Kingdon
"...That we, the Council of the Minnedosa United Church
accept the Financial Committee's proposed budget for 2024 as
amended."**

CARRIED

REGION 5 (PRAIRIE TO PINE): Barb Kingdon
No report.

FUNDRAISING:

- Fall Supper Oct 22, Proceeds \$3896
- Strathclair Theatre Chorus "It's Christmas" concert Nov 26, Proceeds: \$1424.
- Meat Pie Sale Nov 30/Dec 01, Proceeds: \$1997 (some supplies left for next time)
- Christmas Tea/Bake Sale Dec 2nd, Proceeds: \$1424

A brief discussion around finding coordinators for fundraisers in 2024.

NOMINATIONS:

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

COMING EVENTS:

- Feb 25th - the Choir will host a congregational lunch, with proceeds to be divided among the 3 prairie theological schools.
- Friday Feast on March 1st

MINISTER: Kathy Platt

- 5 months to go in the count down to her retirement! The journey brings mixed feelings. Her plan going forward is to be proactive, such as getting some baptisms booked before she leaves. Kathy is seeking to create a strong team on the worship committee, to take leadership when we have no minister. She is starting to sort through her books and clear her shelves.
- In February Kathy will have a week of Con Ed and will spend the time planning for the Lent/Easter season, and visit with their new granddaughter.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

PASTORAL CARE: Heather Currie

APPENDIX "B"

Heather confirmed that all current members of the committee will be renewing their terms.

CHURCH LIFE AND OUTREACH: Nicole McLenehan

APPENDIX "C"

Nicole mentioned that Kathy will be meeting with the SERC staff next week, to discuss the theme and message to be shared for our P.I.E. Sunday service on March 17th.

WORSHIP, LEARNING AND MEMBERSHIP: Colleen Wallace

APPENDIX "D"

PROPERTY: Gord Kingdon

No report submitted.

Gord mentioned there are plans to install "power doors" for the bathrooms to increase accessibility.

Other ongoing items: floor repairs (especially the kitchen floor under the dishwasher), replacing fluorescent light ballasts with LED lights as they burn out, and continue repairing/replacing the rubber skirt/boots around the base of the roof vents once the weather is warmer.

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL: Maxine Gray

APPENDIX "E"

Maxine brought forth a recommendation that the vacation time for Michelle Gunderson be increased from three to four weeks (four days per week = 16 days per year).

Michelle has been employed in that position since January 2009, for 15 years.

Motion: moved by Maxine Gray and seconded by Barb Kingdon

"...That we, the Council of the Minnedosa United Church accept the Ministry and Personnel Committee's recommendation to increase the Office Administrator, Michelle Gunderson's vacation time from three weeks to four weeks."

CARRIED

It was discussed that we should attempt to find a couple of people to train in the basics of the office functions, to have coverage when the Office Admin is away. Elaine Thomson can look after the financial aspects needing to be done.

FINANCE and STEWARDSHIP: Elaine Thomson

APPENDIX "F"

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: March 20, 2024 at 7pm

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

REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION: Fran Erven will share a report on February 4th.

ANNUAL MEETING MARCH 10, 2024 following worship.

Lunch preparation: Fran Erven will contact a few suggested people to help set out the potluck items and have beverages prepared.

Motion: moved by Elaine Thomson

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

HOLY MOMENTS

CLOSING PRAYER

Michelle Gunderson, Clerk

Fran Erven, Chair Elect

APPENDIX "A"

OFFICE REPORT TO COUNCIL

- Help coordinate/host the Strathclair Theatre Chorus concert on Nov 26th with Julie H.
- Send thank-you's to fall appeal donors.
- Nov 23 participated in online Learning Circle about the pending Remit 3.
- Participate in zoom meeting regarding "Rural Connect."

- Email/Print and mail Advent letters
- Volunteer in sound booth for Sunday worship Nov 26 and Dec 3rd
- Attended the Advent craft evening.
- Volunteer to help lead Sunday School on Dec 10th.
- Lots of work tracking income & expenses for 3 fundraisers in seven days!
- Deliver donations for Bear Clan to the Brandon Friendship Centre
- Assist with distributing & collecting applications for the Christmas Cheer Board
- Help Fran compose and mail letters of response to Forrest and Gladstone United Churches (regarding conversations to explore Collaborative Ministry)
- Lots of month end/year end steps & processes
- Begin calculations for 2024 payroll expenses – contacted UC Benefits Centre (msg)
- Contact UCC Help desk re: access to our Church Hub account (message)
- Invite Hilton to come and show Monica and I about how to use the floor polisher and the products to use, etc.
- Review floor machine repairs with the JanSan technician, done on Jan 4th.
- Begin to prepare draft of 2023 Annual Report booklet – and send several reminders to committees & groups and provide information.
- Completed most of the Financial Viability Review documents for the Profile Committee

FACILITY USE SINCE NOV COUNCIL MEETING:

CHURCH: Crochet Club, Bell Choir, Profile Committee, Meat Pie Sale, Christmas Tea & Bake Sale, three Advent evenings with crafts/baking/labyrinth, Random Book Club, AOTS, Board of Trustees meeting.

OTHER GROUPS: drop-in play group, Harm Reduction clinic, guitar lessons and piano lessons, Healthy Baby and Together We Can parent/child sessions, Food Bank: Thursday mornings and baking muffins/pancakes, Strathclair Theatre Chorus concert, and a family supper.

FUNERALS: one on Nov 29th

APPENDIX "B" PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE

The Pastoral Care Committee continues to visit, send out cards and prayer shawls.

The Longest Night service was well attended by approximately 45 people who enjoyed tea, fruit and dainties while visiting. Thanks to Susan Nelson, Linda Birch, Don Jury and Julie Hutton.

Respectfully submitted by Heather Currie

APPENDIX "C" CHURCH LIFE AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

HAT AND MITTEN TREE – The tree is now outside stocked with hats, mittens, scarves, etc. Donations of warm adult sized mitts are needed at this time.

CHURCH LUNCH – The choir has agreed to host the next lunch after church on February 25th. Proceeds from this luncheon will go to three prairie theological schools: the Centre for Christian Studies in Winnipeg, St. Andrew's College in Saskatoon, and the Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre in Beausejour. Kathy will educate the congregation about these training centers the Sunday before the luncheon.

FRIDAY FEAST – We are hoping to host a Friday Feast on March 1st with a tentative menu of pizza and salad. Games will follow and it hopefully will be an enjoyable time for all the congregation, young and old alike!

MEAT PIES – Another good fundraiser for the church, with a cap of 200 pies sold. They are using up leftover filling and offering the pies to those who were on the waiting list from last fall. Thank you to Lorna Hislop for convening this event!

AFFIRMING MINISTRY – We are hoping to have P.I.E. Day (Public, Intentional and Explicit in support of 2SLGBTQ inclusion) on March 17th and will be contacting SERC in Brandon to see if they could have a guest speaker present to us on that day, with pie to follow the service. We would like to host a pie making day on the 16th to teach some of our members the art of pie making and then serve it on the 17th.

CHRISTMAS TEA – Thanks to Betty Iverson for convening this event on December 2nd! The bake table was sold out, and thanks to lots of bakers and helpers in the kitchen, refreshments and dainties were enjoyed by many.

WHITE GIFT SUNDAY – On December 3rd items were brought to the church as gifts for the Brandon Bear Clan and thanks to Michelle Gunderson, they were dropped off and gratefully accepted at the Brandon Friendship Centre. Various people also donated to Minnedosa Christmas Cheer that day.

Respectfully submitted by Nicole McLenehan

APPENDIX "D" WORSHIP, LEARNING AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Worship and Learning Meeting was held on January 23.

Alexis Harvey is stepping down from this committee this year. She has requested that minutes from the meetings be sent to Kathryn Yanchycki our new pianist, so she is in the loop about services and special events. We hope to have someone representing the choir to join this committee.

SUNDAY SCHOOL continues to flourish with numbers of children growing. Mary and Colleen shared some ideas and concepts they plan to cover leading up to Lent and Easter. Mary will be away on Feb. 11 and 18 so Colleen is looking for some extra hands to help on those days.

For February 11th our WORSHIP LEADERS will be Carol Frost and Dora White, as Kathy is away on a Study Week.

World Day of Prayer (WDOP) - hosted this year by our United Church congregation on Friday March 1st at 2:00 pm. Carol Frost has been our contact and leader for this event for several years and she is asking members of the worship committee to join her in the planning and preparations, to learn the ropes. Colleen, Mary, and Debbie all felt they could take part this year. There will be a planning meeting on Feb. 8th and a call out to members of the congregation for muffins to follow the service.

BAPTISMS: February 25 - Drew Ellyn Dowsett, Daughter of Darcy and Kane Dowsett
May 5th - Everly Sky Marie Hislop, Daughter of Heidi and Kevin Hislop

PCH SERVICE: Minnedosa United was scheduled to lead a worship service on Feb. 13th, however Kathy is not here at this time and those who have covered this at other times, are also not available on this date. The Worship committee decided this would be one time that we would not be able to supply worship for the care home.

LENT AND EASTER SEASON

There is still lots in the planning stages for the upcoming season, but the following dates have been set so far.

- Lenten Lunches are hosted once a week in the various churches in Minnedosa. Our church will host on Tuesday Feb. 27th. Kathy will lead the worship service and our congregation will host a soup and sandwich luncheon at noon following the service. A clipboard will be passed at church to have food brought for this event. The Worship committee will assist in kitchen duties, but a call will be put out for congregational assistance as well.

- March 24 - Palm Sunday with communion and Easter Week story shared with all the congregation.
- March 28, Maundy Thursday - Will be a pot luck supper in the hall followed gathering in a circle for communion.
- March 29, Good Friday - Service at 10:00 followed by coffee and cinnamon buns in the hall.
- March 31, Easter Sunday_- Kathy will do a video sunrise walk in Erickson, followed by the regular service at 11:00.

LONG WEEKENDS - Kathy will be on continuing education from May 13-20. The committee feels that coffee parties worked well last year on the long weekends. We will be digging a bit deeper to see how we can set these up for upcoming dates.

Ended with some talk about June services and Kathy's final Sundays.
By Colleen Wallace

APPENDIX "E" MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

M&P (Lorna Hislop, Barb Kingdon, and I) met December 7, 2023, in addition to follow-up communication. The primary focus was issues related to the 2024 budget.

In acknowledgment of Michelle's 15 years (this month) as Office Administrator we would like to make a motion for Council's approval that her vacation time be increased from the current 3 weeks per annum to 4 weeks per annum (16 days).

Kathy has Continuing Education time scheduled for February 6 -13, 2024.

Michelle has vacation time scheduled for February 23, Feb27 - March 1, March 5 - 8 and also February 22 as a stat in lieu of February 19, 2024 for a total of 9 vacation days and one stat.

Submitted by Maxine Gray, Chair

APPENDIX "F" FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The church finance committee met on Wednesday, Jan 10th, 2024 @ 9:30 a.m. by Zoom. Present were Jean Garbolinsky, Michelle Gunderson, Elaine Thomson, Kathy Platt, Julie Hutton & Barry McNabb.
Regrets Lloyd Babcock.

Julie Hutton gave the finance committee a brief presentation as to where the Profile Committee is at in their process. There is a financial viability review form that needs to be filled out and the finance committee will help in gathering information to fill out the form. Julie left the meeting after her presentation.

Committee reviewed the November & December financial statements. At the end of December our bank balance was \$24,974.40. The finance committee was very pleased with the response to the fall appeal campaign. We exceeded our budgeted amount by over \$5,000.00. Thank you again to everyone who helped write a personal note in the letter. Thank you also to the many that supported by donating!

The finance committee then proceeded to put together the budget for 2024 for Minnedosa United Church.

Next finance meeting planned for Wednesday, March 6th, 2024 @ 9:30 a.m.
The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted Barry McNabb