

church, working on the transition for region 6, right relations, Sunday school, commissioner at GC43, Youth forum at GC42 and attending Rendez-Vous in 2014 & 2017. Bella has an interest in children's ministry and has lots of experience working with children. She will be here for May, June & July. We need housing and the host committee needs a few more people. Diane Unruh & Michelle Froese will be on the Host Committee as well as our two ministers (as mentors) and we will look for two more people. The application form we sent will be attached to these minutes (attachment 1)

6. **Crossroads New Business**

none

7. **Correspondence**

Requests for donations passed on to appropriate committees.

Thank you card from Andy & Pearl Watson who greatly appreciated the Christmas Carolers coming to their home. A thank you card received from Boyne Lodge thanking the Prayer Shawl group for the Twiddle Muffs.

8. **Crossroads Committee Reports**

8a. **St. Andrew's Report**

Don McKay reported that a potluck supper was held followed by games and carol singing.

On December 16 Sunday school led the service that included the baptism of Paul Sweere.

Christmas Eve service on December 24th was at 7:00 p.m.

A Soup and Pie lunch is being planned for March.

8b. **Ministry and Personnel**

Terry Gosnell reported that the committee and staff met on November 13th. Karen Tjaden's sabbatical report, Harold Kenyon's summer studies and the conference that Karen McGill attended were reviewed. Reviewed the budget that was presented on November 8th to Council. Good discussion regarding the need for the resource centre. Committee will meet in February and look more at visioning. Harold will be on holidays February 11 – 25th.

8c. **Worship Committee**

No report

8d. **Ministry Staff**

Harold Kenyon's Report

I have enjoyed a wide range of ministry opportunities since our last Crossroads meeting. One theme that emerged has been "ending and beginnings.

- Remembrance Sunday was marked by the Bells of Peace program where Canadians were invited to ring bells in their communities 100 times to mark the 100th year of the ending of World War 1. Enthusiastic groups gathered at Carman United and the Elm Creek Manor to make a joyful noise and remember.

- My experience as an Educational Supervisor for Don Schau and Graysville Pastoral Charge is drawing to a close. I have felt rewarded to support Don in his theological reflection and growth and have appreciated his partnership and collegiality. Pending the completion of his final evaluation, Don will be ordained at the first meeting of Region 5 in Brandon.
- I have served as chair of Agassiz Presbytery and experienced the last full meeting at MacKenzie United in Portage. I led covenanting services at Gladstone and Valley Pastoral Charge marking their new pastoral relationships. Presbytery has marked both ending and new beginnings.
- I am looking forward to a new beginning with our Explorer Bella, who arrives in May.
- We have had continued conversation about the future of St. Andrew's. A recent meeting of Stewardship and Finance featured an extended conversation so that the Council would have a clearer picture of St. Andrew's financial challenges and how that may impact the pastoral charge.
- I presided at baptism for Macy McCullough and Cali McIntosh who were welcomed into the community of faith at Carman United on November 18th and Paul Sweere at Elm Creek on December 16th.
- I am a member of the new Settlement Commission for Region 5 which provides support to Pastoral Charges seeking new ministers.
- It is 20 years since our family left Fogo Island Newfoundland and came to Crossroads. We look forward to a return visit in February.
- As a staff we continue to envision the work of a Community Resource Centre and how we might better equip our community to provide support to vulnerable persons in our midst. Something new is being born, but the birth will take time!
- On Saturday the community will gather to celebrate the life of Lyle Eby. We will sing the beloved hymn, "In the Bulb There is a Flower" which reminds us how our ending and beginning are connected through God who love us. We need not be afraid!

Karen Tjaden's Report:

I celebrate the leadership offered by Christian Education Committee for Carman children's Andrew's who lead a whole worship service earlier in December, and of course thanks to all the children and their families for their enthusiastic participation!

I worked with our Stewardship Team to prepare our fall campaign Sept – Nov using Called to Be the Church congregational giving program from the national church. Kathryn Hofley, UCC Stewardship and Gift Officer for the Prairie Region, is a great resource for information and ideas about stewardship all year long.

I have been involved in conversations with our staff team, members of Carman United Church, the Community Supper planning committee and Carman Community Health Center and Dr. Tyler Atchison regarding effective responses to poverty and food security in our community. It is exciting to explore ways that we could better coordinate available community resources, identify new needs and make the most of the resources that everyone brings to the church whether they are offering help or requiring help. It will be interesting to see what emerges as we seek ways to increase our resource capacity in the coming year.

My sabbatical time continues to influence and inform my ministry of education with adults and children as well as pastoral care and service. What I learned during that time has encouraged me to continue to make time for regular theological reflection through my own reading as well as with colleagues in our staff team and the Agassiz Leadership Cohort and my regular meetings with my leadership coach.

8e. **Presbytery Reps.**

This is the last report from Lloyd Baker and Betty Park as they complete their time as Presbytery Reps. with the change in structure. The last meeting of Agassiz Presbytery was held at McKenzie in Portage and was very well attended. Lots of effort was put into the closing worship and it was very well done. Residual funds were distributed with money going to Rock Lake camp, Regional council for tech support for small congregations, and the remainder will go to Region 5. All allocations from pastoral charges have been received so there will be no accounts receivable to pass on to the Region.

8f. **Crossroads Finance**

Terry Gosnell presented the financial report to December 31, 2018 (attachment 2). Stewardship and Finance reviewed this earlier in the week. A summary report will be in the annual report. The comparison to 2017 is on this report.

The committee met on Tuesday evening. A good discussion was held about the implications of the changes to the United Church structure. Our new assessment will be \$10,619 and we have chosen to pay that amount on a monthly basis by auto debit. This will even out the monthly allocations especially for Elm Creek. Elm Creek had a good fall campaign and financially can continue operating. Discussion was held about the financial implication for Crossroads when Elm Creek does close.

8g. **Christian Education**

A written report was submitted by Michelle Froese. The Children's Christmas pageant "Round the Back Door" was a huge success. It was held on Friday, December 21st and we had 15 children participate in various roles including speaking, singing, music and prop/stage set up. Offering was donated to Christmas Cheerboard.

As always at this time of year, we are presented with challenges getting Sunday School teachers. To date, Marni, Michelle and Karen Park have led sessions while Victoria and Donna led December advent class to prepare for the pageant. If council has any ideas to help make it easier for folks to teach last minute – we would gladly research those options. We do require criminal record and child abuse registry checks to be completed well ahead.

The Sunday School offering from January to November went to Mission and Service Fund. Karen Tjaden has been leading "Sunday Morning Muffins" for the older youth. Attendance is sporadic. There has been a request for an after-school program. This is going to happen for 4 weeks in February and will be called "I Love to Read Bible Stories".

Leadership in Elm creek is provided by Lynn Underwood and Liz Klotz every second Sunday with 4 – 9 kids. The consistent leadership is a huge help. Adult Bible study continues next Thursday evening and goes until Easter. Book club once a month is still happening. Faith exploration for youth will start soon and continue until Easter. Youth from grades 9 to 12 will be contacted as well as youth from Graysville, Roland and Miami.

8h. **Pastoral Care**

Susan Weppler reported that the committee will be meeting tomorrow. They are planning the Education/Appreciation event that will be held on April 30th with guest speaker, Barb Murray, talking about Threads of Life organization. Several people took part in the Healing Narrative webinar with past Moderator David Guilliano.

8i. **Mission & Service & Outreach**

Mission and Service and Outreach has not met. Diane Unruh reported that the committee plans to watch a webinar on food insecurity and discuss other ideas for outreach, including the Resource Centre idea.

Motion: Betty Park/Don McKay

“That the Crossroads reports be accepted as presented.”

Carried.

Annual meetings will be held on February 10th – St. Andrew’s and February 24th – Crossroads.

Next Council meeting will be March 21st at 7:00 p.m.

Don McKay left the meetings.

9. **Carman Business Arising:**

9a. **Draft Accessibility Policy**

Betty Park presented a draft accessibility policy. The new rules came into effect on November 1st, 2018. Discussion followed. There will be copies available for the next meeting along with some handouts for council to be aware of. (attachment 3)

Motion: Betty Park/Lloyd Baker

“That the Accessibility policy for Carman United Church be accepted as presented.”

Carried.

9b. **Community Resource Centre**

Staff has had further conversation at long range planning meeting. Ministerial meets at the end of the month. Want to make sure that we go slow enough to make sustainable. Hope that Bella will be part of the discussions.

10. **Carman Committee Reports**

10a. **Carman Finance Report**

Terry Gosnell shared the reports to December 31, 2018 (attachment 4)

Noted at the Stewardship & Finance meeting that the total income was down. There was no fall supper or talent auction this year. Bank balance is quite healthy. M&S is down because of the \$4400 from the Fall Supper not being sent because there was no supper.

The Committee will be recommending to Council to renew the "Operating 2017GIC" for one year at 2.75%, taking advantage of the fact that it is a redeemable GIC and the anniversary date of year two is January 27, 2019. It will still mature in January of 2020 as previously invested.

Motion: Terry Gosnell/Betty Park
"That the "Operating 2017 GIC" be renewed at 2.75% for one year." Carried.

Terry shared that the committee discussed signing authority for Carman cheques and they wondered about adding Karen McGill to the signers. This will be added at annual meeting. Diane Unruh and Lloyd Baker are prepared to stay on as signers and the others will all be checked with.

Very important to thank people for their gifts. A letter will be sent with tax receipts. There has been a request for more financial updates in the monthly e-mail. Updates have not been done often since the mortgages were paid off. More thought will be given to this.

10c. **Property Committee**

No one present.

10d. **Technology Committee**

Karen McGill reported that the website is still being developed. Facebook page could use another person to do updates. A TV is going to be added in the narthex for resources/announcements. Several webinars have been watched lately.

10e. **United Place**

Betty Park reported that it is getting harder to find helpers for TGIF. A meeting was held recently about the future of funeral lunches. Gained some insight into what works and doesn't work, what to try and not try. The menu is going to be looked at and will be compared to what other churches are offering and what Doyle's has to offer. A request will be put in the newsletter asking people to share their e-mail address with the office if they would like to be on a list to help with food or working at funerals. Participants at the discussion said that phoning people is the hardest part.

All five members of the committee have their food handlers course, paid for by Southern Health. People who are preparing food at community suppers should also have their food handlers.

Suggestion was made that after each council meeting a short report should be made to the congregation. Diane Unruh offered to do after this meeting – share 3 highlights from tonight’s meeting.

Lloyd Baker moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Julie Ruban McDonald, Chair

Karen McGill, recording secretary