

**Crossroads United Pastoral Charge
Council Meeting minutes
January 16, 2020
Carman United Church**

Present: Julie Ruban McDonald Karen McGill Harold Kenyon
Karen Tjaden Don McKay Lloyd Baker
Terry Gosnell Betty Park Judy McGregor
Don Lemon Diane Unruh Susan Wepler
Lorraine Stevenson

Regrets: Michelle Froese

1. Call to Order

Chair, Julie Ruban McDonald, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum is present.

2. Opening Reflection

Harold Kenyon Read from Mark Chapter 3. Asked what talents and qualities would we look for in putting together a dream team to help make the world better. Discussion followed. Harold led opening prayer.

3. Land Acknowledgement

Betty Park read the land acknowledgement ““We acknowledge with respect the history, spirituality and culture of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Ojibway, Dakota and Dene People with whom Treaty One was signed and the territory where our church resides. We honour the heritage and gifts of the Metis people. Under the terms of Treaty One, we now share the responsibility of caring for the earth, sky and water where we pledge to create a sacred space of welcome where all might find a home.”

4. Agenda

Add 12 e. – formal association
Add Summer student to Ministry & Personnel

Motion: Terry Gosnell/Diane Unruh
“That the agenda be accepted with additions.”

Carried.

5. Minutes of November 7, 2019

The minutes were circulated before the meeting.

Motion: Betty Park/Don McKay
“That the minutes of November 7, 2019 be accepted.”

Carried.

6. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

6a. **Poverty Roundtable Recommendations**

Diane Unruh will speak about the Roundtable in her report.

6b. **Nominations Committee**

Julie Ruban McDonald and Lorraine Stevenson continue to work on nominations. Susan Wepler is looking for someone new for Pastoral Care and has someone in mind. Don Lemon reported that he has talked to Brian Riach and he is willing to come onto property committee.

6c. **Annual Meeting**

Crossroads Annual Meeting will take place on February 23rd. We tried a new format last year, having the meeting immediately following worship in the sanctuary. Discussion followed about what to do this year and it was decided to have fellowship lunch following worship and then have the meeting in United Place after lunch.

7. **Crossroads New Business**

8. **Correspondence**

9. **Crossroads Committee reports**

9a. **St. Andrew's Report**

Don **McKay** reported that a Christmas potluck supper was held on December 1st followed by games and singing. Christmas eve service was held at 6:00 p.m. with about 65 people in attendance.

Our Mission and Service objective for 2019 was \$2000.00. Over \$3000 was given. This was over 150% of our goal.

The church board has received an offer to buy the church and land, but as of this time it has not been accepted. A congregational meeting is planned for January 19th to discuss this offer. The board and trustees are recommending to sell the building but not to dissolve the congregation. Elm Creek daycare has made the offer and part of the terms of the offer includes the church being able to lease worship and Sunday School space for \$1.00/year. Important for people to hear that it is just the building that is being sold, the congregation will still be in place and still be worshipping together.

Karen McGill noted that Helen McKay has been working on updating Elm Creek's historic roll and that has been completed. The board made motions to remove people and the new book now is current and will be easy to maintain.

Julie Ruban McDonald sends regrets to Elm Creek's annual meeting on February 9th.

9b. **Ministry and Personnel Committee**

Terry Gosnell reported that the committee was supposed to meet in October but the blizzard got us again! We met this past Tuesday the 14th and had a good discussion about our staff involvement with the poverty roundtable. Some visioning around Sunday School in Carman was also discussed.

The committee will meet again in March for staff evaluations.

Karen Tjaden talked about the Summer job program. We could apply to have a student here and that student would have employment for a minimum of 6 weeks. Must provide 30 – 40 hours per week. As a non-profit we would get 100% funding. The deadline is early in February and we would like council's input on whether we should go ahead and apply. There are lots of ideas of jobs that a student could do. Poverty reduction committee, communities in bloom, green team etc. Council agreed that we should go ahead. Karen Tjaden is prepared to do some supervision of a student.

Terry mentioned that once we have the amounts for pensions and benefits we always tweak the budget for the annual meeting. The new M&P budget will be \$154,151.

Karen Tjaden is taking time in lieu of bonus from February 15 – 22 and March 25 – 31 and study leave from May 11 – 17.

9c. **Worship Committee**

Judy McGregor reported that the committee met on November 19 to plan for Advent and Christmas services. The Sanctuary and narthex were decorated on November 25th in time for the Sonatrice Christmas Cheer concert. Advent candle readers were found. Harold Kenyon led the Christmas Eve service in Elm Creek at 6:00 p.m., Karen Tjaden led the 7:00 service in Carman and Harold led the candlelight communion service in Carman at 11:00 p.m.

December 29th was a lessons and carols service in both Elm Creek and Carman led by people in the congregation. There will be no choir practice in Carman for January and February. Pulpit supply – February 9th – Joyce Kristjansson, March 8 and May 24 – Wilma Shirriff.

Motion: Judy McGregor/Lorraine Stevenson
"That the wedding of Harvey Kehler and Jeannie Smith be celebrated on April 11th
with Harold Kenyon officiating." Carried.

9d. **Ministry Reports**

Harold Kenyon:

I wanted to identify a powerful ministry that Karen McGill has developed for the office in support of the community ministry that we do. One of the things we have tried to do is to assemble resources and contacts on a wide variety of pastoral issues: mental health, addictions, housing, etc. We've collected resources over the past couple of years that will help us answer people's questions and connect people to the help they might need. Karen has recently completed a file box we can turn to when people call.

I am a member of the Prairie to Pine Regional Council Pastoral Relations Commission. We provide support to Pastoral Charges that are looking for ministers. There are many vacancies in our Region. We work with a team of Pastoral Relations Liaisons who do much of the on the ground. You might be interested to know that the work of pastoral relations – finding ministers – is all done online through something called The United Church Hub. I am paired with churches in Roland, Carberry, Neepawa and Graysville as a Liaison and am sometimes called to represent the Commission at meetings of Official Boards. I am the Pastoral Charge Supervisor at Belmont and attend their Board meetings.

I used a different approach this fall to the Stewardship program. Over 3 Sundays in worship we worked to identify a road map where we would like to go and to clarify our purpose as a pastoral charge. Our findings were summarized in the Stewardship letter that went out in early December.

In our planning for advent we worked with two youth to identify a potential theme that might shape our worship. We came up with the idea of asking, “What does Hope/Peace/Joy/Love mean to you?” The results have been incorporated into the annual report in the form of graphic representation.

I am grateful for the support of our ministry team with Karen & Karen. We share good communication and find ways to spark each other creatively. I am thankful for our Boards and Committees who make so much of our work lively and effective.

Karen Tjaden:
Christian Education

We have offered two programs for children K-grade 5 on the Early dismissal days on the theme of Loving our Neighbour, with 7 children attending Oct 16 and 12 attending Dec 4. Families are appreciating this program and it provides another opportunity to provide faith formation for our children. Thanks to Diane Unruh for volunteering to assist with this program.

Community Outreach

The Poverty Reduction Committee was very pleased with the response to the Community Roundtable to address Poverty held Nov 7 and a Steering Committee and Working Groups are now being established to carry forward the important work identified by the participants.

Administration

I am appointed as Pastoral Charge Supervisor for Treherne Rathwell Pastoral Charge because they do not have a minister.

Worship

Lori Stewart and I have started a monthly Church in the Wild outdoor worship experience, in the tradition of wild church. The third event will take place on Jan 18 at Sperling.

9e. **Crossroads Finance**

Terry Gosnell reported that the committee has not met since the budget planning meeting. There are slight changes to the budget that was presented in November. CPP/EI/Benefits change some. Terry shared the financial reports to December 31st. These are the numbers that will appear in the Annual Report.

9f. **Christian Education**

Michelle Froese sent a written report. The children's pageant "O come, O come, Emmanuel One rehearsal Christmas pageant" was held on Sunday, December 22nd. We had 13 youth participate in this service. The children really enjoyed the opportunity to speak and practice as a group. They even started coming up with ideas on how to modify our basic set decoration for next year. We appreciate all the great feedback we received.

It was decided to offer a program for children K-grade 5 on the 3 early dismissal days during 2019-2020 school year, with 7 children on October 16 and 12 on December 4. The theme for the year is Loving Our Neighbours and each session includes a cooking component, an outdoor component, a Bible story and faith formation, and a service component. It was also decided to offer one family activity/season, Family, Faith and Fun. The fall program was a trip to Little Strawberry Farm pumpkin patch. Several families enjoyed this outing with 16 people in total participating. The next Family, Faith and Fun will be on January 26th at the Sperling Arena with skating, curling, board games and potluck supper.

9g. **Pastoral Care**

Susan Weppler reported that the committee met on November 27th. The tree decal was applied to the wall in the narthex for the Church Family Tree. Approximately 23 handmade Christmas cards were delivered to visitees at Boyne Lodge, Boyne Towers and individuals homes. Two poinsettias were delivered to the 1st and 2nd floors at Boyne Lodge.

A donation of \$150 was made to Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation toward the Chaplaincy position.

16 prayer shawls were distributed in 2019. Hella Runne has completed her term and will not be returning to the committee. We have appreciated her participation. Another person has been approached to join the committee. A commitment has not been made yet. The knitting group is happy to meet on January 23rd in the afternoon at Betty Yermas. Our next meeting is January 30th.

9h. **Mission & Service & Outreach**

Diane Unruh reported that The committee met on January 10th.

1) Kairos blanket exercise—we are willing to host one and Diane will contact the healthy living facilitator for Southern Health to let her know that we are willing to host this for interested community members.

2) Community support/resource work: We again expressed concern at the number of hours that our office staff has spent in the last year responding to people coming to the church for assistance and support. We are aware that although some of this work is part of our outreach and community work, at the moment we don't have the resources to sustain the current scope of this type of work. With the poverty reduction committee looking at some practical solutions to work with the larger community, we suggest that our pastoral charge and ministerial not try to make our own solutions for the "problems" that we see, but rather we (along with other churches in the community) work with the poverty reduction steering committee as part of a team.

3) Poverty Roundtable-- This happened on November 7, and now the report from "Health in Common", who facilitated that day, has been compiled and sent to the Poverty Reduction Committee. It is quite lengthy, with all of the ideas generated in the discussions from the eight different topics

We think it would be a good idea for our congregation to pick just a few of these many ideas that might be a good match for us to work on implementing—making sure that we work with the steering committee of the poverty reduction roundtable as well as the ministerial and other local stakeholders. We also discussed the importance of including people with lived experience of living in poverty.

These topics were and there a few examples of actions we might be involved in with a few of them.:

- Education and employment support eg. look at our own skills –is there any way we can help?
- Opportunities to connect and spend time with other people in the community. Can we invite people individually to free or inexpensive events that we are hosting? Or can we give out "free passes" to others that we donate eg. pancake supper
- Efforts to address stigma and discrimination—eg. diversity education beyond only in the schools (how could we be part of it?), host the blanket exercise—our committee has contacted the healthy living facilitator to let her know that we are interested.
- Affordable leisure and recreation opportunities eg. help with enhanced communication of what is going on in town
- Affordable transportation options eg. could we be part of ministerial offering transportation vouchers
- Access to fresh affordable food eg. offer our space for cooking classes with affordable food, more community meals?
- Access to mental health and addictions services eg. support education and presentations
- Access to social services and housing—advocating and being involved in a community information hub—working with others in our community to make sure people know what is available and happening in Carman

Karen McGill can send the report to council members that are interested and want to read more of the ideas presented by community members at the roundtable on Nov. 7.

4) Circles for reconciliation—Karen Tjaden took training about 2 ½ years ago. About 10-12 people (half indigenous and half non-indigenous) meet for several weeks to build community. Karen no longer thinks she is able to lead this group, but will contact the organization to let them know that they are welcome to ask someone else to lead a program in Carman.

-M&S would like to be involved in an M&S service and will speak to the worship committee about picking an appropriate date

-to encourage our church council to seriously consider ways that we can work with others to address poverty in our community. We will look into several funding options from the national United Church that may be able to help with part of this work. Three of these that we were made aware of were "Embracing the Spirit", "Seeds of Hope" and EDGE. EDGE may be able to assist us to figure out next steps in applying for funding, but there is a cost.

We need input from council

-Would council consider supporting a financial cost associated with EDGE which may help us decide our next steps to apply for funding that may be a help with our work with the poverty reduction committee?

Karen McGill noted that Southern Health is offering the Mental Health First Aid course for volunteers for no cost. One of our volunteers is taking this course.

Diane encouraged council to think about what projects we might be interested in following up on.

10. **Date of next meeting**
March 19th at 7:00 p.m. in Carman.

Don McKay left the meeting.

11. **Carman Business Arising**
Nothing has been heard about further accessibility grants. Don't want to lose track of this. Discussion followed. It was agreed that we should follow up on grants and if there isn't one available then we should proceed and not wait another year.

Motion: Terry Gosnell/Lloyd Baker
"That we move forward with the automatic door openers for the bathroom doors."
Carried.

More discussion followed on cost projections.

12. **Carman Committee Reports**

- 12a. **Technology committee**
Karen McGill reported that there is nothing new happening at this time. We will be looking at new speakers for the choir loft this year.

- 12b. **United Place**
Betty Park reported that since the last Council meeting they have catered lunches 7 times. Prepared and sold 40 dozen perogies and 144 turkey pies. A funeral lunch was held on November 21st. There are 2 more lunches to cater to before our first TGIF January 31st. February 7 & 14 are subsequent TGIF lunches. Price will be \$11.00

Further to the conversations around funeral lunches we now have 2 teams that will alternate months. Those individuals who have indicated they are able and or available to bake cookies &/or work will be divided into 2 teams. The lunches we will be providing will be a full lunch consisting of buns, meat platter, cheese, cookies and beverages for \$6.50/person OR a light lunch consisting of a variety of breads, cheese, cookies, & beverages for \$5.00/person. Doyle's will be advised of our lunch changes. They will continue to contact the Church Office with family requests. If families wish a different menu Doyle's will contact other caterers. We will only cater to lunches in United Place. We may assist outside caterers with setup, serving and clean up.

12c. Property Committee

Don Lemon reported that the annual fire inspection was completed with a number of deficiencies that need to be addressed as follows:

- (1) A large number of heat detectors have been recalled, approximately 40 of them which we will have to have replaced one they can be procured.
- (2) Three batteries for emergency lights have been replaced.
- (3) Light switch in Quiet Lounge has been replaced.

We have replaced the out of date lights behind the cross in the sanctuary. The shelf was put in the ladies washroom and the sanitary dispenser was removed and the wall repaired. The replacement of the railing to the entrance of United Place had to be postponed until spring as it got too late in the fall to trust that the weather would hold to complete the work. I have done some looking in the ladies washroom in the daycare and have not sent ahead with it as I feel that this committee should have more discussion about it before we do anything.

I was sad to hear that Frank Toews has decided that he would like to retire from the Property Committee this year. He has been a tireless worker on this committee for many years and his knowledge of the building and interest in keeping it a wonderful and pleasant place to come too, will be missed by all. Thanks to Frank for his dedication.

Much discussion followed. A motion had been made at last meeting moving that property go ahead with the toilet, sink and flooring. Lloyd Baker made the motion and is not prepared to rescind it. A new motion would need to be made if council decides on a different path.

Motion: Don Lemon/Lorraine Stevenson
"That the daycare be asked to give us a quote on what they want done in the bathroom and then we will decide if feasible as a church to help them with the cost."
Carried with one opposed.

Lloyd Baker stated that we receive \$9,000 a year from the daycare with no effort from us. They have done extensive/expensive repairs to our building – windows, flooring, painting, plumbing, etc. The bathroom is part of our building and as such we should be helping with the repairs. Julie Ruban McDonald stated that the daycare might have other avenues of funding that we do not.

Don Lemon will speak to the daycare.

12d. **Carman Finance**

Terry Gosnell shared financial reports to December 31st. Planned gift policy was put into place for \$5000 bequest that was received. The half of the bequest to be saved is in a platinum savings account. Rather than having another GIC we will wait until deposit 6 is due and then add together.

GIC#8 is planned gift and includes the \$10,000 bequest designated for a project. The stewardship and finance committee discussed and think that we should use the \$10,000 bequest so that the family knows it was used. The recommendation at the Annual meeting will be Cash the GIC and return the money to local account to repay the shingle bill. We must have congregational approval to cash these planned gift GICs. Numbers were tweaked a little bit for the proposed budget.

The credit union has moved to their new location and does not have a night deposit slot anymore. Discussion followed on options. Executive will look at further.

12e. **Formal Association**

Reports have been received from Wayne and Lynne Sanderson who are in a formal association with Carman United Church. Wayne has been leading services in Miami and Graysville. He led an Advent study in Carman. Wayne takes part in cluster meetings and General council meetings (online).

Lynne has led worship in Graysville, Miami, and Roland. She has attended cluster meetings and took part in the poverty roundtable in Carman.

She is also a member of Prairie to Pine Regional Committee on Community of Faith Support and there are monthly meetings for this committee.

13. **Highlights of meeting for congregation**

Judy McGregor offered to share information from this meeting with the congregation on Sunday.

Before adjourning Julie said that although we may not always agree, she hopes that that doesn't affect how we work together.

Julie moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Julie Ruban McDonald, Chair

Karen McGill, Secretary

