

**Crossroads United Pastoral Charge
Council Meeting minutes
March 21, 2019, 7:00 p.m.
Carman United Church**

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

1. Julie Ruban McDonald called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. A quorum is present.
2. Karen Tjaden led opening worship by reading the Statement of Vision for the Diakonia of The United Church of Canada. Karen found this to be appropriate as a new season as Council begins. It is an invitation to the whole church reminding us that we are all called to the ministry of Diakonia. Each paragraph was looked at and discussed. Karen shared a prayer from the World Diakonia for the month of March.
3. Diane Unruh 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.

Motion: Don Lemon/Lorraine Stevenson
 "That the quorum for 2019 be 7 members for Crossroads including 1 member from Elm Creek and one clergy and allowing for the reduction to 6 for Carman only business as stated in the addendum to the structure document." Carried

4. Welcome to new Council members
5. Add 8a. – World day of prayer grant
Add 8b. – Embracing the Spirit Grant
Add 7a. – cluster group update
Add 8c. – Susan Wepler update on Conference attended

Motion: Terry Gosnell/Diane Unruh
 "That the agenda be approved with additions." Carried.

6. The minutes of the January 10, 2019 Council meeting were distributed before the meeting. Typing error under # 7 – should be from not form.

Motion: Betty Park/Terry Gosnell
 "That the minutes be approved with corrections." Carried.

7. **Business Arising**

7a. Cluster meeting update. The cluster group is made up of ministers, lay people from Graysville, Carman, Miami and Roland. No decisions were made. Roland is in search for a minister, Graysville has to decide what to do when their student is done. They are all looking for part time – Miami - .75, Graysville - .25, Roland - .5. A challenge that was identified is that they all want Sunday worship at 11 a.m. making it hard to share one minister. The congregations are all very committed. Miami has had lay people doing services for two years. Harold Kenyon and Karen Tjaden have offered support when possible. A helpful conversation happened at the last Ministry and Personnel committee meeting that helped staff to be realistic about how much they are able to offer. The cluster will be meeting again at the end of April in Miami.

Lorraine Stevenson left the meeting.

7b. Green Team update – Diane Unruh reported. There will be candlelight dessert evening for Earth hour on March 30th at Carman United and the next meeting will be a potluck supper on April 28th.

8. **Crossroads New Business**

8a. World Day of Prayer Grant

Karen Tjaden reported that Carol Brown who is from Graysville Mennonite Church and is on the Community Supper committee has found a grant available through the World Day of Prayer, Women’s Council that could be helpful for funding for the Community Supper. It must be applied for by a church. The deadline is March 31st. Council discussed. Currently funding for the community supper comes from Carman and District Ministerial. The grants are from \$500 - \$5000. The grant might also be used for the Poverty Reduction committee’s round table in the fall.

Motion: Betty Park/Diane Unruh

“That Carman United Church apply for a World Day of Prayer WICC grant to be used for the community supper and possible community round table event.” Carried.

8b. Embracing the Spirit Grant

Karen Tjaden reported on Embracing the Spirit. This grant is available through the United Church of Canada. The next granting period end on April 15th. Karen has been in touch with staff at Embracing the Spirit regarding the resource centre ideas. We have been encouraged to apply for grants. As the discussion around poverty in our community has grown a poverty reduction committee has been formed and the first task will be to host a community round table in the fall. There will be updated health data and census data available then, so we will be working with updated information. The committee would like to have funds for a facilitator to lead the round table. The goals of Embracing the Spirit are to spur innovation across United Church faith communities, make pilot programs easy and accessible, thrive and gain momentum, foster collaboration, support existing funding programs and assist in idea development. This fits well with what we have been talking about.

Motion: Terry Gosnell/Susan Wepler
“That we go ahead and apply to Embracing the Spirit for possible round table assistance for the poverty reduction committee.” Carried.

8c. Muslims

Karen Tjaden handed out a copy of the Moderators statement and prayer following the attacks on mosques in New Zealand. She wondered if there is anything we can do on a small scale in Carman to help the Muslim families living here feel welcome. The families in Carman have to go to worship in Winkler or Winnipeg. Could we be offering our space for people to use for prayer/community gatherings etc.

Susan Wepler attended the “Striving for Human Dignity: Race, Gender, Class and Religion” conference organized by the Islamic Social Service Association. This was a very intense two days with a very diverse group of people attending. Important to be aware and educated about the extremist groups that exist. Discussion followed

Motion: Betty Park/Susan Wepler
“That a letter be sent offering support and space to the Muslim Community.” Carried.

Susan Wepler and Julie Ruban McDonald are willing to work on sending this letter.

9. **Correspondence**
None

10. **Crossroads Committee Reports**

10a. St. Andrew’s Report

Don McKay reported that the annual meeting for St. Andrew’s was held on February 10th after church. It was decided that there is a lot of things that are no longer used or needed so two willing ladies took on the job of cleaning the cupboards and reduced the dishes that are not needed.

Two services have been held at the Manor in Elm Creek. One on January 20th and on February 3rd. Following the services a senior resident treated everyone to muffins one week and fresh cinnamon buns the next time. On February 22nd St. Andrew’s held a soup and pie lunch with a very good turn out. Thank you to all the people from Carman that came for the food and visit. A second soup lunch is planned for March 22 and I invite any one able to come and enjoy the hospitality.

10b. Ministry and Personnel

Terry Gosnell reported that despite the bad weather on the day of our last meeting Julie Ruban McDonald, Lorraine Stevenson, Terry and staff met and discussed the cluster group meetings. Discussion was held about what part Crossroads was prepared to play in the future of the cluster groups.

Karen McGill will start taking occasional Monday's off in April, May & June and then will take all Monday's in July & August.

Karen Tjaden will be taking study leave May 7, 8 and August 12 – 25, and time in lieu of bonus days March 13 – 17, March 31 – April 7.

Harold Kenyon had holidays in February and used days of bereavement leave at the end of the holiday as Susan's father passed away. Harold will be on study leave from May 13 – 20th and then carry on to Toronto using bereavement leave for Susan's mom's funeral.

10c. **Worship Committee**

Harold Kenyon reported that a family that has been connected to Carman United, Mitch and Hilda Durno and their sons George and William recently became members of Carman United Church. The Durno's moved here 15 years ago from Scotland and started coming to church in Carman, but soon after encountered a lot of health challenges and were unable to attend worship, but have always stayed connected to the congregation. Church membership is very important to them, and Karen Tjaden, Harold Kenyon, and Case & Jacimina Sweere from Elm Creek took a worship service and communion to the Durno's in their home as Hilda is no longer mobile.

Motion: Harold Kenyon/Don Lemon

"That George Mitchell Sr., Hilda Isabella, William Simpson, and George Mitchell Jr. Durno transfer their membership from the Church of Scotland to Carman United Church by profession of faith." Carried.

10d. **Ministry Staff**

Harold Kenyon:

This has been a busy winter in ministry! There have been many people in hospitals who have experienced significant health challenges. I am grateful for the pastoral care committee and members of the pastoral charge who have offered their care to so many in their time of need.

We continue to plan and consider how we might better serve the needs of our community through a new entity called a Community Resource Centre. The number and variety of persons who come to the church with complicated needs continues to grow. We see an opportunity to further utilize lay people in May for the work of this ministry.

I conducted three funerals since our last meeting, for Lyle Eby (January 12,) Grayce Seward (March 7) and Lil McKay (March 12).

Susan and I were delighted to take some holiday time in February to visit Fogo Island, NF and reconnect with friends. Newfoundland was truly beautiful and a restorative holiday for us. Unfortunately, Susan's father Lorne passed away shortly before we were to leave on our trip, and we attended his funeral February 23rd. We are grateful for the ministry of Elmira United Church and the Rev. Susan Campbell who looked after our family in a wonderful way. Soon after we returned to Manitoba, we received word that Susan's mother Marie had passed away. A service of celebration is planned for May 25 in Elmira.

Within the new Prairie to Pine Region of the United Church, I serve on the Settlement Commission that helps congregations in the search for ministry personnel. I continue to serve as the Pastoral Charge supervisor to Belmont. I eagerly await the ordination of Don Schau, with whom I have enjoyed the privilege of being his educational supervisor.

I was delighted to take worship into the home of Mitch and Hilda Durno this past Tuesday along with Case and Jacomina Sweere and Karen Tjaden. The Durno's are unable to attend church but remain connected to us in a deep way. We welcomed their family into the membership of the church by transfer from the Church of Scotland. I look forward to more opportunities to bring worship and the sacrament of communion into people's homes.

Karen Tjaden's report:

I celebrate the success of our pilot project in February, I Love to Read Bible Stories for K to grade 5 children. We had 6 children registered and received positive feedback from children and families. Thanks to Karen McGill and Stephanie McCullough for their involvement in planning and delivering this program. We look forward to offering another after school program in May and June with Bella, our Explorer Student.

We continue to be challenged to have enough leaders and children for a vibrant Sunday morning children's program in Carman. The Feb after school experience will inform future planning for Sunday morning and after school programming for children. It is clear to me that we need to have more leaders for our Sunday morning children's ministry, and we cannot ask only the parents of the children and youth to do this important ministry. We will have Bella lead Sunday School for children in May and June, maybe even July!, in Carman and St. Andrew's. I will be recommending to CE committee that we work hard at recruiting leaders for fall 2019 – perhaps encouraging people to sign up for a month at a time.

10e. **Crossroads Finance**

Terry Gosnell presented the financial report to February 28th. At this time 83% of income comes from Carman and 17% from Elm Creek.

Allocation to the National Church will be paid monthly by automatic withdrawal (\$965.36).

10f. **Christian Education**

Karen Tjaden reported that Faith Exploration is happening with youth from Carman and Graysville. Leadership is being provided by Karen Tjaden, Don Schau and Allison Abbott-Wiebe. Five youth expressed interest and there are 3 youth participating. Scheduling has been difficult but the youth are very keen and interested. If they choose to be confirmed, it won't be at Easter but will probably be in May. Hannah from Graysville will be confirmed in Graysville. Don't know yet if the boys from Carman will choose to be confirmed.

Karen McGill and Stephanie McCullough are looking at an idea from a resource that Harold Kenyon found. They will be making take home packages for Sunday School youth in Carman and Elm Creek with activities for each day of holy week for families to do together at home.

May also look at doing something for Maundy Thursday.

The CE committee has not met but do work by e-mail. The committee hosted the pancake supper for Shrove Tuesday.

10g. **Pastoral Care**

Susan Wepler reported that the committee met and personally wrote thank you cards to those who visit shut ins. Did about 20 cards. Helen McKay writes notes to people who participate in Prayer Shawl ministry in Elm Creek. Susan went to Elm Creek to visit at the Manor. Committee will meet April 3rd to plan the education event taking place on April 30th.

10h. **Mission and Service and Outreach**

Diane Unruh reported that the committee had not met since the last council meeting but will be meeting on March 29th. We are very happy to have Lorraine Stevenson join our committee and look forward to working with her. The committee has been supporting the green team and the community suppers. Looking at fundraising ideas/encouraging support of M&S. Support the idea of a community resource centre. Will be hosting the kitchen table conversation developed by the United Church of Canada.

Motion: Don McKay/Betty Park.
"That the committee reports be accepted as presented." Carried.

Next meeting dates: Dates for the year were set at June 20, September 19 & November 7.

Don McKay left the meeting

11. **Carman Business arising from the minutes**

11a. Accessibility Policy

Betty Park presented an accessibility policy for Carman United Church at the last meeting.

Motion: Betty Park/Terry Gosnell
"That the accessibility policy for Carman United Church, which will be dated March 21, 2019, be accepted as presented." Carried.

11b. Community Resource Centre

Karen Tjaden reported that the poverty reduction committee will be planning a community round table, with broad representation of the community, for the fall. Want to get a clear picture of priorities for the community. In the meantime we keep responding to individual needs. The Pentecostal church is unable to look after grocery assistance in May so we will do at Carman United and see this as an opportunity to ask members of the congregation to help out.

- 11c. Explorer Update
4 people on the host committee, Diane Unruh, Michelle Froese, Barb Murray and Bob Abrams. Bella will live at Barb Murray's. We are looking for a vehicle for Bella to use while she is here.
12. **Carman Committee Reports**
- 12a. Technology Committee
Karen McGill reported that they had nothing new to report. Work continues on getting ready to have a TV in the narthex with resource material being shown throughout the day.
- 12b. United Place
Betty Park reported that TGIF lunches were successful. Funeral lunch planning is ongoing. Betty has met with Shirley Ens from Carman Mennonite to see how they do their funeral lunches, and will be checking with Doyles to look at some option.
- 12.c. Property Committee
Don Lemon reported that they have not had a lot going on since the last meeting. Kozak has installed a humidifier in one of the furnaces for the sanctuary. This will increase the humidity in the sanctuary and may help the piano and should help to preserve the wood work throughout the sanctuary during the winter months.
- Fehr Glass repaired the handle on the entrance door to United Place.
- Fire inspection has been completed with a number of items that require our and the day care's attention.
- Lights were replaced in the chandeliers.
- Access store has been asked to give us an estimate on a lift for the church.
- We received an estimate for handicap door openers for the bath rooms at \$4510.80 plus \$1000 for the electrical work for a total of \$5510.80 and the electrical could be somewhat more or less depending on the work.
- Rob McClement may be able to help with the railing project (on wheelchair ramp into United Place). This project has been put off for now.
- Council directed that the bathroom doors are a high priority item for council. Also suggested that accessibility grants be looked at.
- 12d. Carman Finance
Terry Gosnell shared financial reports with comparisons to last year to February 28th.
- Question was asked if the money in GIC's could be used for the door openers for bathrooms.

Planned Giving GIC's can be used with congregational approval. GIC due in October we could choose not to renew if we needed money for projects.

The credit card that we have for the office is no longer supported by Access Credit Union. There are new options that do not have fees (have been paying \$85.00 a year). Terry is recommending that we change credit card providers.

Don Lemon left the meeting.

Terry also reported that statistics were completed this week and it looks like our assessment for 2020 will be just a bit more than this year.

Motion: Betty Park/Diane Unruh
"That the Carman United Church committee reports be accepted as presented."

Carried.

Discussion about presenting highlights of Council meeting to the congregation on Sunday morning. Susan Wepler offered to do this time.

Julie adjourned the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

Julie Ruban McDonald, Chair

Karen McGill, Secretary