

FIRST UNITED CHURCH  
Leadership Team (Keepers of the Vision)  
Nov 30, 2023 6:00 pm Christmas Social  
7:00 pm Meeting

**We, at First United Church, guided by the spirit are striving to be an open and diverse community of faith. Through word and action we pursue the values of spiritual growth, compassionate outreach, social justice and care of the earth.**

**Members Present:**

Peggy Worrell, Chairperson  
Annette Taylor, Minister (by Zoom)  
Kimberly Bilanski, Member-at-Large  
Pat Dyck Bunkosky, Secretary  
Kevin Hanna, Member-at-Large  
Charles Lotochinski, Treasurer  
Colleen MacBean, Member-At-Large  
Marlene Reidle, Member-at-Large

Holy Manner #7 – Be open to new ideas.

Peggy Worrell, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:58. A quorum was present.

Check In

Opening devotion: Peggy Worrell

Moment of inspiration – Tabled

1. The agenda was accepted as amended by consensus.

**Motion: Charles Lotochinski/Kevin Hanna**

**That we accept the agenda as amended. Carried**

2. Approval of the Oct 26, 2023 Leadership Team minutes

**Motion Charles Lotochinski/Colleen MacBean**

**That we approve the minutes of the Oct 26, 2023 Leadership Team meeting. Carried**

3. Volunteers needed:

Reminder of Action Items: Marlene Reidle

Monitor our responsibility as Keepers of the Vision: Charles Lotochinski

Verbal report to the congregation on Oct 29: Peggy Worrell

4. Business Arising

a) Backup emergency plan for the boilers

- Boiler replacement Rebate Options from Eileen Elkington  
-Who will attend Dec 15 Faithful Footprints (United Church) webinar?  
Annette, Building & Property, one more person from the Leadership Team.  
**Action item: Colleen will notify Dan Olmsted of the meeting if he chooses to attend.**
- Update from Building & Property Committee and Stewardship Committee  
– Annette – A complete set of costs for the boiler replacement will be made available for the January Leadership Team meeting.

- Does the congregation want to spend this kind of money for new boilers on an aging and energy inefficient building?
- b) Letter to our MLA, Premier, the Minister of Education, the education Critic, and Associate Critic – Affirming Ministry Interest Group – ready to be mailed tomorrow.

## 5. Reports

- a) Minister's Report.
- b) Committee Reports received: Ministry & Personnel, Stewardship, Refugee Sponsorship Group, Pastoral Care & Membership, Earthcare Partners, Nominations

**Motion: Kevin Hanna/Pat Dyck Bunkosky  
To accept the committee reports. Carried.**

- c) Business arising from reports
  - i. Ministry & Personnel: Cost of living allowance for staff at 6.3% for 2024 was passed by the committee.

- ii. Stewardship: Charles Lotochinski

**Motion: Kevin Hanna/Colleen MacBean**

**Under the budget review staffing hours will be maintained for 2024. Carried.**

-Cost of Living Increase for staff. Ministry personnel were given a 6.3% increase by The UCC for cost of living. But the Cost of Living Group for the Swift Current area was lowered this year, so Annette's actual raise for 2024 will be 0.57%. Annette does not want to have any additional increase added to her 2024 salary. 3.1% is the current rate of inflation in Canada

**Motion: Marlene Reidle/Kevin Hanna**

**That non-ministerial staff salary increases be set at 3.1% for 2024. Carried**

**Action item: Charles will inform the Ministry & Personnel Committee of this decision.**

- iii. Refugee Sponsorship is asking for permission to offer a church wide invitation to offer financial support to the family of Heba Anouz currently living in Cairo. The Refuge Sponsorship Working Group is working to bring this family to Canada. The Leadership Team is in favor.

**Action item: Colleen Macbean will inform Maxine that the group's request is approved.**

- iv. Earthcare Partners – Educational presentation by Dwight Lemon, Carol Lemon, and Denise Martinez re concerns over expansion of irrigation at Duncairn Dam by the Water Security Agency and the possible impact on Swift Current's water supply. Approved by Leadership Team via email. Being planned

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by Earthcare Partners. Representative from Water Security  
Agency will be invited to make a presentation on another date

- d) Motion to accept reports  
**Kevin Hanna/Kim Bilanski**  
**That we accept the reports. Carried**
6. Concern from staff members -  
**Action item: Colleen MacBean & Peggy Worrell will meet with the staff members to provide reassurance.**  
**An announcement will be made to the congregation that the Leadership Team is recommending to the congregation that we keep the same level of staffing for 2024.**
7. Establishing an Autonomous Indigenous National Organization - A circle conversation is being held after church on this coming Sunday, Dec 3. The Leadership Team will vote on this issue at the Jan 25 meeting.
8. Visioning
  - a) "Making Your Church Building a Community Asset" Annette, Pat, Colleen, Patti, Peggy  
**Action item: Peggy & Colleen will talk to the office staff about expanding our advertising for rental space.**  
**Charles will write up a paragraph about available rental space to insert in the bulletin for the month of January.**  
**Kevin will talk to Building & Property about how to make the church building more renter friendly.**
  - b) Nomination Committee - Eileen Elkington is working alone and could use help on the nomination committee. There is an urgent need for chairs on some of the committees.  
**Action item: Peggy will highlight the need for volunteers to serve as chair on several committees.**
  - c) Long term – Next steps:
    - New Mission Statement
    - Making Your Church Building a Community Asset
    - Partnerships with the community/Neighbourhood Round Table
  - d) Lyric Theatre – perhaps in 2024
9. Correspondence
  - a) Annette shared a letter from the Growth Animator, Jordan Cantwell. We will discuss these ideas further at the Jan 26 meeting.
10. Loose Change Suppers discontinued – thank you cards will be sent to the people who worked on Loose change suppers for so long.  
**Action item: Pat will get the list of people involved and send cards of thanks to them.**
11. Date for 2024 AGM, March 3, 2024.
12. Group Norms for Upholding Decisions read by Kimberley Bilanski
13. Volunteer needed for Opening Devotion and Closing Prayer – Jan 25 – Marlene Reidle
14. Reminder of action items – Marlene Reidle

15. Our responsibility as Keepers of the Vision – How did we do?
16. Closing Prayer – Peggy

Next Meeting; Thursday, Jan 26, 2024 7:00 – 9:00pm (hybrid)

**Please let Peggy know if you expect to be absent – to ensure we have a quorum**

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Peggy Worrell, Chair

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Pat Dyck Bunkosky, Secretary