

**First United Church
Leadership Team (Keepers of the Vision)
April 9, 2024**

Call to order at 7:04 PM

Mission Statement:

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

Charles Lotochinski, Treasurer

Kimberly Bilanski, Member-at-large

Colleen MacBean, Member-at-large

Dave Zacharias, Member-at-large

Kevin Hanna, Member-at-large

Welcome Dave Zacharias, new member of the Leadership Team.

Welcome Ruth Orola, who has volunteered to take minutes.

Check-in

Opening Devotion: Kevin

Moment of Inspiration

EDGEy conversation Tim Dawson, Kingston Road United Church, Toronto, with Edge,
June 8, 2023 re. raising \$1 million for the roof + closing remarks

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kxp4y2aR004&t=489s>

Holy Manner #9 — Uphold and honour decisions that have been made.

1. The agenda was approved by consensus.

2. Approval of the Jan. 25 Leadership Team minutes

Motion by: Charles Lotochinski/ Seconded by: Kevin Hanna

That we approve the minutes of the previous meeting as distributed. Carried.

3. Acknowledgement of the March 10 AGM minutes

4. Volunteers needed:

- Reminder of action items: Colleen
- Monitor our responsibility as Keepers of the Vision: Kevin
- Give verbal report to congregation on April 14: Peggy

5. Business Arising

- a. Land Acknowledgement - Approved by Leadership Team via email Feb. 7, 2024:

“We, at First United Church, are grateful for the privilege of living and worshipping in this place with its vast skies and rolling plains, ever changing from moment to moment and through the seasons. We commit to honouring and responsibly sustaining the web of life in this land – land that is the traditional territory of the Cree, Saulteaux, Dakota, Nakoda, and Lakota, referred to as Treaty 4 Territory, and that is also the homeland of the Metis Nation. We commit to educating ourselves about the history of this land, systematic racism, and colonialism and its ongoing impacts, and to following the guidance of indigenous people as we engage in the intentional action on the path of Truth and Reconciliation.”

Annette suggested changing the word *was* to *is* in the second sentence, in response to a comment from a member of congregation. Members of the Leadership Team agreed. The idea of putting the Land Acknowledgement up on the screens, followed by the phrase “We are all a treaty people,” was suggested by Colleen.

b. Debrief AGM

Comments include poor attendance by the Leadership Team partly because of changing dates. Thankful for Karen Messer stepping in to chair the AGM. Breaking into groups to discuss the five values associated with the Mission Statement went very well; Peggy will go through the notes and synthesize the ideas for consideration by the Leadership Team. The musical part made the meeting more alive for the attendees. A more detailed presentation of the budget and more discussion would have been great. The idea of adding a pie chart of the budget for the 2025 AGM was also discussed.

c. Nominations

Eileen Elkington is still trying to fill a few positions. Any suggestion of people who might be willing to fill the vacancies can be passed on to her.

d. The future of our building (to be discussed under #9)

6. Reports

a. Minister’s Report

Annette expressed her excitement regarding special events that are coming up such as Earth Day, Camping Day, Red Dress Day. A service will be held in the church focusing on Red Dress Day. There will be a Children’s Service at the end of May and Deb Fletcher is suggesting doing it outdoors.

b. Committee Reports received: Faith Formation

Peggy will send a reminder to Committees and House Group Coordinator to send reports or updates to the Leadership Team a minimum of 2 or 3 times per year. Reports are welcome at any other time.

c. Business arising from reports

Motion by: Charles Lotochinski/ Seconded by: Kevin Hanna: This April, take \$10,000 from the Planned Giving high interest account and invest it in a 12 month non-redeemable GIC. When the Planned Giving GIC 408702354785 matures in July this year, instruct the Credit Union to redeem it into the Planned Giving high interest account. Carried.

The Trustees have been informed and the motion will be in the Stewardship committee minutes. Kevin asked about the choir's investment. Karen Bender, Chair of Trustees, will contact the choir members to see what they want to do with it.

d. Motion by: Colleen MacBean/Seconded by: Kimberly Bilanski: That we accept the reports. Carried.

7. INFO only: Establishing an Autonomous Indigenous National Organization – The remit passed. 80% of the congregations voted.

8. Volunteer Appreciation - April 14

- Peggy will do the presentation and prepare ribbons for the volunteers. Patti McCleary was asked to tally volunteer hours for the United Church of Canada.

9. Visioning: THE FUTURE OF OUR BUILDING

- At our January meeting we decided not to vote at the AGM re. whether to maintain our church building or move to a more energy efficient smaller building, as recommended by the Building & Property Committee.
- **Action Item:** Announcement about available rental space to insert in the bulletin for one month by Charles.
- Expanding our advertising of rental space.
- **Action Item:** Kevin will discuss with Building and Property how to make the building more renter-friendly. That may include redecorating to suit their needs and wants.
- Potential resource person: Growth Animator, Jordan Cantwell.
- Swift Current Interagency Committee - Val ChooFoo will be asked about our church attending the next Interagency Committee meeting. Colleen attended the meeting via Zoom on March 12. Agencies that were present included: Swift Current Museum, Swift Link, Crisis Services, CMHA Mental Health, SK Health Authority, CRA, Family Resource Center, Welcome Center, Great Plains College, Southwest Crisis Services, Service Canada. Colleen's concern was who from our church would be willing to volunteer time if help is needed by other organizations. **Action Item:** Next meeting will be on May 14th, Colleen volunteered to attend again and will highlight that the church has rental space and inform them about the outdoor service in Southside Park.

- Depending on the outcome of the Interagency Committee meeting, we may pursue the idea of a Neighbourhood Round Table. Annette suggested that we focus more on other resources that we have.
- Differing opinions about whether our building is sustainable. Does sustainability mean a balanced budget? Charles believes that the building is sustainable through rental income and fund-raising. The annual budget for the building is approximately \$80,000, including insurance, which is a big expense. Kevin mentioned there are other ways of raising money out of the building. Dave suggested finding out the cost of building a new building, renting, and relocating. The idea of sharing space was also brought up by Colleen.
- Action item: Kevin will meet with Building and Property and will request the committee advertise church rental space on Swift Current Online or in the newspaper, including the link to the website.
- **Action item:** Peggy and Colleen will write the letter of invitation about sharing space with other churches, namely the Anglican Church, St. Olaf's Lutheran Church, and the Zion Mennonite Church.

10. 100th Anniversary of The United Church of Canada in 2025. What do we want to do to celebrate? Date - June 10

- **Action item:** Kimberly will create ideas on how we will celebrate the anniversary.
- Annette suggested the idea of pewter Christmas ornaments, with an imprint of the church, which could also be a form of fundraising.

11. Leadership Retreat

- **Action item:** Annette and Peggy will brainstorm about the Leadership Retreat. Suggested it be on a Saturday in the fall.

12. Correspondence

- Re. a Day Care in the church building: April 8 email from Karla Bakken, Government of Saskatchewan, Early Learning and Child Care Consultant - A Community Needs Assessment is required.
Action item: Peggy will ask Deb Fletcher to communicate with existing Day Care operators to determine if they have an interest in establishing Day Care in our building.

12b. Reflecting on our first year with the new Governance Structure: House Groups are working in a good way. The House Group Coordinator and House Group Leaders are doing a great job. Fewer meetings and reports have been achieved.

12c. Updating Criminal Record and Vulnerable Sector Checks

Action item: Annette will remind the Committees that are involved, especially the Faith Formation and Pastoral Care to get theirs updated.

12d. Plan for 2024/2025 Leadership Team meetings: 4th Thursday of the month, except for June, July, and Dec; 7:00 - 9:00 pm; hybrid as necessary; same format for the agenda; fresh ideas always welcome; make some decisions via email.

13. Group Norms for Upholding Decisions

14. **Action Item:** Peggy volunteered to do Opening Devotion and Closing Prayer for next meeting

15. Reminder of action items

16. Our responsibility as Keepers of the Vision - How did we do?

Closing Prayer — Kevin

Next meeting: May 23, 2024, 7:00 - 9:00 pm (hybrid as necessary)

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

Meeting adjourned: 9:03 PM

Meeting Minutes: Ruth Orola _____

Chair: Peggy Worrell _____