

**First United Church  
Leadership Team (Keepers of the Vision)  
May 23, 2024**

Call to order at 6:58 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
- Kimberly Bilanski, Member-at-large
- Colleen MacBean, Member-at-large
- Dave Zacharias, Member-at-large
- Kevin Hanna, Member-at-large

Welcome Melanie Davis, who has volunteered to take minutes.

Check-in

Opening Devotion — Peggy

Moment of Inspiration: The Moose Hide Campaign

<https://united-church.ca/social-action/act-now/participate-moose-hide-campaign-combat-violence-and-call-justice>

Holy Manner #10 - Keep life in perspective by preserving a sense of humour (Peggy shared some good jokes throughout the meeting!)

1. The agenda was approved by consensus.
2. Approval of the April 9, 2024 Leadership Team minutes – approved by consensus
3. Volunteers needed:
  - Group Norms for Upholding Decisions – Peggy
  - Reminder of action items – Colleen
  - Monitor our responsibility as Keepers of the Vision – Kevin
  - Give verbal report to congregation on May 26 – Colleen
4. Business Arising
  - a. Day Care – see 6e
  - b. Swift Current Interagency Meeting May 14  
Colleen was unable to attend this meeting. She will attend the next one, scheduled for September 2024
  - c. Ideas offered at AGM (attached)
    - Replace Loose Change Suppers – Peggy will pass this on to Outreach for consideration.
    - Bring more speakers – Peggy will pass this on to Affirming Ministry, Membership & Pastoral Care and Faith Formation groups.

- Exploring different avenues of spirituality – Peggy will remind Faith Formation.
  - In-depth study of Lord's Prayer. e.g. Temptation – Annette will keep this in mind.
  - Small groups - accountability - look after each other. e.g. mentor younger sister/brother – Peggy will pass this on to Faith Formation.
  - Need more people for visiting
- Kevin suggested that a “Volunteer Opportunities” section be added to the church’s website so that people could see what is available. There is a “Get Involved” tab.
  - Peggy will ask Stewardship to prepare volunteer sign-up sheets and/or opportunities list for their stewardship campaign in the fall.
  - Melanie will ask the office staff to put the AGM minutes and the 2023 Annual Report on the website and also print a few (5) paper copies for interested folks to pick up.
- d. The future of our building – see items 6 & 7

#### Reports

- a. Minister’s Report – As summer approaches, Annette is looking forward to some wind-down time. She also said she has enjoyed some especially good services over the past few weeks (Sunday School children, Earthcare, Affirming Ministry).
- b. Committee Reports received:
- Worship & Music
  - Earthcare Partners
  - Trustees
  - Stewardship – Financial Statement was sent out. Other items of interest include: Easter givings were down by about \$1000; rentals are at 37% of budget; there have been lots of graveside services, but not many in-church funerals; Interest Groups’ income is doing well; Building & Property expenses are high, mostly due to the excessive cost of insurance.
  - House Group Coordinator – Marie Andrews’ report had some interesting stats. One highlight is the average 2.5 new volunteers per month.
  - Faith Formation
- c. Business arising from reports – none
- d. Motion to accept reports  
**Motion by Kevin Hanna/Seconded by Colleen MacBean: That we accept the reports. Carried.**

#### 6. Expanding Use of our Building and Rental Revenue

- a. Announcement about available rental space to insert in the bulletin for one month
- When Kevin meets with Building & Property next week, he will acknowledge that this plan should have been better communicated to B&P before going ahead with advertising rental space and will express the Leadership Team’s regret.
- b. Expanding our advertising of rental space: Thanks to Rhonda for designing a poster, which has been put up by volunteers around town and posted on FB, and for researching prices of newspaper ads (below). Thanks to Patti for detailed info on church website. Purchase advertising?
- SW Booster: Classifieds (weekly) - \$8.35/week  
 Ad (size of a business card) - \$70/week
- Prairie Post: Classifieds (weekly) - \$10/week  
 Ad (size of a business card) - \$84/week

Swift Current online: Prices vary depending on “impressions”. Can also do a sponsored article for \$1500.

- c. Discussion with Building & Property about how to make the church building more renter-friendly
  - When Kevin meets with B&P next week, he will ask them to consider the advertising options and how best the Leadership Team can help B&P
- d. Neighborhood Round Table: Depending on the outcome of the May 14 Interagency Committee meeting, invite people from different sectors of the community to offer ideas and suggestions for how the church could support the community.
  - We have decided not to proceed with this.
- e. Day Care
  - We had put out some feelers, but no person or organization is interested at this time. Additionally, there are very many considerations when setting up a daycare space. It was agreed that we have explored this idea as far as it can go for now.
- f. Letters of invitation about sharing space with other churches, namely the Anglican Church, St. Olaf’s Lutheran Church, and the Zion Mennonite Church.
  - This plan had originally included the Presbyterian Church, but it has since closed.
  - Annette will speak to each of the ministers to give them a heads-up in advance of the letters being sent.
  - The body of the letter will indicate that letters are also going to the other two churches as well. The letters will propose an initial meeting with all three churches at the same time (i.e. not individual meetings with each one).
- g. Kimberly will find out more about potential community needs for shelter with supports for a vulnerable population.

## 7. VISIONING - preparation for congregational meeting in the fall to discuss options.

### Option #1 - Remain in our building

- Peggy will ask Stewardship Committee for 10-year projection of budget deficit, with impact on reserves.
- Peggy will ask Building & Property Committee for 10-year projection of building maintenance expenses, including possible replacement of roof on Metropolitan Place and Knox Hall.

### Option #2 – Stay in our building and make significant changes

- Increase revenue or decrease expenses or both.

### Option #3 - Sell our building and move

- Cost of new construction: \$\_\_\_\_/sq ft x \_\_\_\_ sq ft = \$\_\_\_\_\_
- Cost of renting a building: \$\_\_\_\_/year x 10 years = \$\_\_\_\_\_
- Dave will find out some costs of construction and will speak to some realtors about commercial rental costs.

8. Policy & Procedures Manual – TABLED because it was 9pm

9. 100th Anniversary of The United Church of Canada in 2025 – TABLED because it was 9pm

- June 9, 2024 worship service: Kimberly, Peggy, Kevin
- What do we want to do to celebrate in 2025? Kimberly

10. Fall Leadership Retreat: September 7 or 14 – TABLED because it was 9pm

11. Correspondence – none

12. Group Norms for Upholding Decisions – skipped because it was 9pm
13. Opening Devotion and Closing Prayer Rotation (See attached)
14. Reminder of action items – Colleen reminded folks of their tasks.
15. Our responsibility as Keepers of the Vision - How did we do? – Kevin stated that we did fine.

Closing Prayer — Peggy

**Next meeting: Thursday Aug. 29, 7:00 - 9:00 pm (hybrid)**

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

Meeting adjourned.

Meeting Minutes: Melanie Davis \_\_\_\_\_

Chair: Peggy Worrell \_\_\_\_\_