

## First United Church Leadership Team Minutes

Aug. 29, 2024

Present: Annette Taylor (Minister), Peggy Worrell (Chair and Secretary), Kimberly Bilanski (Member-at-large), Kevin Hanna (Member-at-large), Dave Zacharias (Member-at-large), Colleen MacBean (Member-at-large)

Regrets: Charles Lotochinski (Treasurer)

Peggy Worrell called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. A quorum was present.

Check-in

Opening Devotion — Peggy

Moment of Inspiration: Knox United Church, Glace Bay, NS <https://youtu.be/nyedsr4W5jM>

Holy Manner #11 - Hold one another in prayer

1. Approval of the agenda as circulated by consensus.
2. Approval of the May 23 Leadership Team minutes by consensus.
3. Volunteers:
  - Group Norms for Upholding Decisions - Kevin
  - Reminder of action items - Kimberly
  - Monitor our responsibility as Keepers of the Vision - Annette
  - Give verbal report to congregation on Sept. 1 - Colleen
4. Business Arising
  - a. Day Care (See 6a)
  - b. Ideas offered at AGM/ Feedback from small groups relayed to the appropriate Committee:
    - ✓Replace Loose Change Suppers → Outreach
    - ✓Bring more speakers → Faith Formation, Affirming Ministry, Pastoral Care & Membership
    - ✓Exploring different avenues of spirituality → Faith Formation
    - ✓Small groups - accountability - look after each other. e.g. mentor younger sister/brother → Faith Formation
    - ✓Stewardship to prepare volunteer sign-up sheets and/or opportunities list for their stewardship campaign in the fall.
    - ✓Office staff have posted the AGM minutes and the 2023 Annual Report on the website and have printed paper copies for interested folks to pick up.
    - ✓The “Get Involved” tab on our website serves the purpose of making the congregation aware of volunteer opportunities.
    - ✓Annette is aware of the interest in an in-depth study of the Lord’s Prayer, and has preached on this topic in the past.

- Annette will ask Pastoral Care & Membership Committee if there is a need for more visitors. If so, this volunteer opportunity could be explained to the congregation.
- c. Letters of invitation about sharing space were sent to the Anglican Church, St. Olaf's Lutheran Church, and the Zion Mennonite Church on Aug. 15. No responses to date.
- d. Swift Current Interagency Meeting - Colleen will attend on Sept. 10. Any info from our church can be circulated through this group. e.g. groups, rooms for rent
- e. Information only: On April 18, the following motion was passed via email:  
**Motion: Charles / Kevin: That First United Church provide up to \$350 for Norma Hain to attend the Western Rural Ministry Conference in Cochrane, Alberta June 18-21, 2024. The amount reflects approximately 1/3 of the costs to attend. The funds would be taken from the available interest of the Planned Giving Fund. Carried.**

## 5. Reports

- a. Minister's Report
  - A Welcome Back letter for Sept. 8 will be sent out next week.
  - In mid-September, Annette will send an email to the congregation announcing her retirement effective June 30, 2025. She will also make a verbal announcement in church. In spring, she announced this decision to the Leadership Team, the Ministry & Personnel Committee, and to the staff.
- b. Committee Reports received:
  - Ministry & Personnel
  - Refugee Sponsorship
  - Affirming Ministry - email from Stacie Noble-Wiebe
  - Worship & Music
  - Stewardship
  - Faith Formation
- c. Business arising from reports
  - Affirming Ministry met last week - Annette, Deb Fletcher, Sharon Veer, and Linda Stumpf. They will lead the Nov. 3 service, focused on Power & Privilege.

**Motion: Kevin / Colleen: That the reports be accepted as presented. Carried.**

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

- a. Day Care (Deb Fletcher has been a valuable consultant)
  - Sheila Paradis, Natural Wonders Early Learning informed Deb recently: "Child care spaces are maxed out for Swift Current." This means that

there is no government funding for renovations. For how long is not known.

- Katie Carefoot, Community Cooperative Playschool expressed interest in renting the Chapel and the Waldeck Room on Tuesdays & Thursdays, also the Counselling Room for storage. Budget: \$500 - \$600. Currently at Eastside Church, moving out by June 15, 2025. Kimberly will inform Katie that we could consider renting to her only if she could obtain funding for renovations and if the amount of rent were increased.
  - Ngolo Odiyo expressed interest in the chapel, Chinook Room, downstairs kitchen (9 to 5, Mon-Fri), Cypress Lounge (9 to 5, Mon-Fri) plus Gym (a couple of hours Mon - Fri). He has made no further contact.
  - Before a decision is made to lease space for a day care, a congregational meeting would be called.
- b. Neighborhood Round Table -inviting people from different sectors of the community to offer ideas and suggestions for how the church could support the community - tabled

## 7. Visioning

### Planning for a congregational meeting to make a decision about these options:

Option #1 - Remain in our building

Option #2 – Stay in our building and make significant changes to Increase revenue or decrease expenses or both.

Option #3 - Sell our building and move - Rent or build

Congregational meeting would be preceded by one or more Circle Conversations.

### Info needed in preparation:

- Stewardship Committee: 10-year budget projection assuming status quo, with impact on reserves, to be submitted to the Leadership Team by Sept. 23.
- Building & Property Committee: 10-year projection of building maintenance expenses, including possible replacement of roof on Metropolitan Place and Knox Hall. Peggy will ask them to submit this information to the Leadership Team by Sept. 23.
- Potential revenue from a day care lease - \$20,100 - \$24,120 per year (2010 sq ft @ \$10.00 - \$12.00/ sq ft) Dan Olmsted has made calculations.

- Cost of new construction could be estimated only if we have a tentative building plan.
- Estimated cost of renting a building: \$9.00 - \$16.00/ sq ft/year x \_\_\_\_\_ sq ft x 10 years = \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Pyramid Properties would be willing to look for suitable property for us to rent.
- Note: St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church is for sale for \$289,000.
- Cost of demolition of our church - Dave will investigate.

When the above information has been compiled into a presentation, dates will be chosen for the Circle Conversations and the Congregational Meeting.

8. Policy & Procedures Manual - tabled

9. 100th Anniversary of The United Church of Canada in 2025 - Kimberly's suggestions:

- Date: April or May 2025
- United Church of Canada slogan: Deep Bold Daring
- Swag can be ordered
- Tailor the theme to celebrate highlights of First United Church
- Meal and slide show
- Invite people with a past connection to our church to a reunion
- Pewter ornaments with image of our church could be sold - price not yet known

10. Fall Leadership Social - Sept. 26, 6:00 pm - Peggy will arrange for a caterer

11. Correspondence

12. "Donors as Disciples", Broadview magazine, Sept. 2024 issue - Colleen will arrange for a copy to be emailed to all committees.

13. Group Norms for Upholding Decisions

14. Opening Devotion and Closing Prayer Rotation

15. Reminder of action items

16. Our responsibility as Keepers of the Vision was fulfilled.

Closing Prayer — Peggy

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 pm.

**Next meeting: Thursday Sept. 26, 6:00 pm - Catered meal  
Meeting from 7:00 - 9:00 pm (hybrid)**

Kevin - Opening Devotion & Closing Prayer

Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Peggy Worrell

Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

Peggy Worrell