

It is noted that the Feb. 20 meeting was rescheduled to March 4.

Attendance: Dave Zacharias, Kimberly Bilanski, Charles Lotochinski, Annette Taylor,
Colleen MacBean, Peggy Worrell Regrets: Kevin Hanna

Check-in

Moment of Inspiration - FirstUnited, Downtown Eastside, Vancouver

Opening Devotion

Holy Manner #5 - Affirm the wisdom of silence, pausing from time to time to ponder what others have said and discern the Spirit's movement.

1. Approval of the agenda by consensus.
2. Approval of the minutes of the Jan. 20 Leadership Team meeting by consensus.
3. Business Arising:
 - a) Review of Alcohol policy in response to suggestion at Nov. 3 Circle Conversation. Perhaps allowing wine at banquets?
 - Why? To increase rental opportunities
 - SK Liquor Licence rules - A group would apply for a Special Occasion Permit to sell liquor or to serve wine with food.
 - Current policy: Nov 24, 2005: "That First United Church continue with its tradition of not having alcohol on church property."
 - Social harm was the basis for this decision.
 - Might it lead to revisiting the gambling policy?
 - Could it be decided on a case-by-case basis?
 - Peggy will ask the Office Managers how often this request is made.
 - Annette will inquire about liquor policies at other Swift Current churches.
 - Tabled
 - b) 100th Anniversary June 8
 - Planning Committee for worship service - Annette & Norma Hain. Others welcome.
 - Commemorative ornaments from Round Hill Pewter Ornaments - Kimberly will order 200 @ \$8.00 each. To be sold for \$10.00.
 - History of First United Church brochure - Peggy, Charles, Colleen
 - c) 100 Tables
 - Invitation from Jordan Cantwell, Growth Animator, to be one of the 100 churches in Canada to set up a table outside our church building
 - Suggestions for a theme: Care of the earth, Mental health, Food security, Hospitality, Inclusion
 - Congregation will be invited to offer input at the AGM

- Questions: What type of table? Where will it be situated? How will it be decorated? What purpose will it serve?
- A planning committee will be needed.
- Tabled

d) Conversations with St. Olaf's Lutheran Church - Meeting to be scheduled

4. Reports

a) Minister's Report

b) Committee Reports

- Jan. 31 Stewardship Financial Statements
- Outreach Committee Recommendations to the AGM:
 1. The Outreach Committee's goal for fundraising for Mission & Service for 2025 will be \$20 000 with no more than \$5000 coming from the Planned Giving Fund to reach the goal.
 2. The Outreach Committee would raise money for St. Andrew's College by inviting a speaker to come to a special service to explain their needs and then collecting donations from the congregation. The Planned Giving Account would supplement as needed for a total of \$3000 in 2025.
 3. The Outreach Committee would raise money for Camp Shagabec by collecting donations at Camping Sunday service and then the Planned Giving Account would supplement the amount for a total of \$5000 in 2025.

c) Budget

MOTION passed via email Feb. 5: That the 2025 Budget dated Jan. 31 be approved by the Leadership Team and presented at the AGM for approval by the congregation.

d) Business arising from reports

MOTION: Dave Zacharias/Kimberly Bilanski: That the following individuals be approved as signing officers: Norma Hain, Sharyn Erne, Colleen MacBean, Ann Wiebe, Rhonda Lotochinski, Charles Lotochinski. There must be 2 signers for every cheque. Rhonda and Charles cannot both sign the same cheque. Carried.

e) Approval of reports - **MOTION:** Charles Lotochinski/Dave Zacharias: That the reports be approved as distributed.

5. Correspondence - None

6. Expanding use of our building and rental revenue

a) Pickleball

- Business Case for Hosting Pickleball in a Church Hall: from Katja Brittain, United Property Resource Commission (Attached)
- Swift Current Pickleball Club contact: Karen Bies

- Dave will speak to Karen Bies to inquire whether there is a need for more pickleball courts.
- b) Three churches' success stories: from Katja Brittain, United Property Resource Commission. <https://uprc.ca/success-stories/>
- c) Draft Room Rentals document from United Property Resource Commission (Attached) Charles will revise.

7. New Minister

- On Feb. 10, Leadership Team representatives, Kevin Hanna, Colleen MacBean, Kimberly Bilanski, and Peggy Worrell met with the Search Team: Ann Wiebe, Dan Olmsted, Eileen Elkington.

8. March 9 AGM

- a) The agenda was finalized.
- b) Charles will present the budget and other financial information.
- c) The Search Team will be introduced and asked to update the congregation on their work.
- d) Information about the Office Manager will be shared.

9. April 6 Volunteer Recognition - A special invitation will be given to the volunteers at the 3rd Avenue Boutique and Garage Sale rooms, as many are not members of our congregation. Peggy will plan.

10. Leadership Team Retreat

- Focus on Visioning ideas
- Guest presenter?
- Saturday date and location to be chosen at next meeting

11. VISIONING

- a) Meeting with Katja Brittain, United Property Resource Commission, Feb. 6 notes (Attached)
 - 3 areas worthy of pursuit: Arts, Anchor Tenant, Fitness
 - Note Important Information re Girl Guides on p. 4 of this agenda
- b) Inviting Dave Fletcher (Camp Shagabec Director) as suggested at Nov. 3 Circle Conversation
- c) Follow-up from meeting with Jordan Cantwell, United Church of Canada Growth Animator, Nov. 20
 - Next steps?
 - Approach the City of Swift Current - Proposal? Questions? Pitch?
 - Have conversations with organizations with whom we already have partnerships about ways in which we might consider new ideas that could generate revenue. e.g. CMHA, SK Abilities, Scouts, Guides, SW Pride, Salvation Army (sponsor a meal?), SW Crisis Services, Family Resource Centre, AA How to proceed?
 - Might service clubs want to partner with us so we can continue to provide space to groups such as Girl Guides free of charge? How to proceed?

- Analysis of the Refugee Sponsorship Project as a case example of how to involve people from outside of our church in an outreach project in progress - Peggy
 - Explore relationships with new partners. (e.g. Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls, Truth & Reconciliation Committee of Swift Current & District, Islamic Centre, Swift Current Housing Authority, Lii Bufloo Metis Local, Chinook Library, service clubs and lodges, City of Swift Current, Islamic Centre) How to proceed?
- d) Option #1 - Status quo. Note 10-year projections: Stewardship and Building & Property
Option #2 – Stay in our building and make significant changes. Increase revenue, including leasing parts of the building. Decrease expenses.
Option #3 - Sell our building and move - Rent or build

Important Information

1. Policy & Procedures Manual updates - Peggy is reviewing a draft prepared by Rhonda, Office Manager.
2. Earthcare Partners handout with information about the detrimental effects of the clothing industry and encouraging purchasing previously loved clothing were given to customers in the 3rd Avenue Boutique and shared with other United Churches in SW SK.
3. A man named Dion Henderson has approached our church about setting up a harm reduction centre in our building. Annette received the following information from Mitchell Braun, Addiction Services, EI Wood Bldg: There are currently two harm reduction sites in Swift Current: E. I Woods Building (open during office hours) and Pharmasave (open until midnight). They provide Naloxone kits, needle exchange (up to 10 needles to start) and strips for testing drugs. It is not apparent that another harm reduction site is needed in Swift Current. Annette followed up with Dion, and he has not responded.
4. Girl Guides - Note that we have not received any communication from Girl Guides in Swift Current. The following information is from Katja Brittain, United Property Resource Commission: Girl Guides recently adopted an inclusivity policy. I'm interpreting it as meaning they are no longer to participate in any church activities. For example, they can't encourage Guides to volunteer at an event or attend a Scout/Guide Sunday. The policy goes so far as to ask local groups to no longer meet in religious buildings, and if they do, they are to give the address only and not name the building. Link to the whole policy below. The part about religious spaces is on the last page. At this stage, it's Guides only, but who knows whether Scouts will follow suit?
<https://www.guidesontario.org/WEB/Documents/ON/ACL%20Manual/ggc-inclusivity-in-canadian-guiding.pdf>

Closing Prayer

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Next meetings

March 9, after worship service and potluck - AGM

March 27 - Leadership Team, 7:00 - 9:00 pm (hybrid)

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

Attachments

- Business Case for Hosting Pickleball in a Church Hall
- Room Rentals document
- Meeting with Katja Brittain, United Property Resource Commission, Feb. 6 notes

Parking lot - Ideas to be discussed in future

- Communications person

Chair

Secretary