Prairie Spirit United Church
Annual Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2021

Mission Statement

Prairie Spirit United Church is an inclusive community of faith walking the path of Jesus as we worship God. We do this by engaging with our community; by offering our gifts to aid where we can and by telling our faith stories to all generations.

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1. **Call to Order**

Joycelyn Fournier-Gawryluk called the meeting to order at 1:08 pm. All participants were welcomed to the 2020 Annual Meeting. As we are conducting our Annual Meeting via Zoom for the first time she asked for patience. Daphne Finlayson, a member of our tech team, was introduced as the host for this meeting.

2. **Opening Prayer and our Act of Remembrance** - Rev. Paul DuVal

Reverend DuVal gave the Acknowledgment of the Land and then a prayer in memory of those members of the congregation who passed away in 2020.

3. **Eligibility to vote**

MOTION

Moved by Dennis Bitton Seconded by Heather MacMillan
that adherents may vote on all matters before the meeting. **CARRIED**

4. **Adoption of the agenda**

MOTION

Moved by Linda Uhrich Seconded by Donna Little
that the agenda be adopted as amended. **CARRIED**

5. **Approval of the minutes of the March 15, 2020 Annual Meeting**

MOTION

Moved by Val Goodridge Seconded by John McLeod
that the minutes of the March 15, 2020 Annual Meeting be approved. **CARRIED**

6. **Presentation of the 2020 Audited Financial Statement** – Marilyn McCorrister

Marilyn McCorrister presented the 2020 Audited Financial Statements received from Myers Norris Penny (MNP) and took questions.

MOTION

Moved by Marilyn McCorrister Seconded by Mike Hill
that the 2020 audited financial statement be accepted. **CARRIED**

6.1. **Action Item: Motion to appoint auditors for the 2021 financial record**

MOTION
Moved by Marilyn McCorrister Seconded by Marg Fisher
that, on recommendation of the Finance Team, Myers Norris Penny (MNP) be engaged to perform an audit of the 2021 financial records of Prairie Spirit United Church.

The Finance Team recommends a full audit for 2021 rather than a review engagement. The rules pertaining to the COVID grants from the government are complex and ever changing. The auditors are well versed in these rules and will save us money over time. The United Church of Canada (UCC) is also recommending full audits if churches are financially able to do so. **CARRIED**

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7. Presentation of the Oversight Council, Standing Team and Other Body Reports Standing Teams

7.1. **Chairperson's Report** – Joycelyn Fournier-Gawryluk
The Report appears on Page 10.
Joycelyn Fournier-Gawryluk acknowledged all team members for the work that has been accomplished in the past year. Given that we have not been meeting in our building since last March, an amazing amount of work has been done. Online services have been wonderful and will likely continued to be offered for folks who can not attend services in person. Joycelyn Fournier-Gawryluk expressed that she was honoured to be the Chair of the Oversight Council for the last few years and she is looking forward to taking on the role of Past Chair.

7.2. **Congregational Life Team - Heather MacMillan**
The Report appears on page 12.
Heather MacMillan presented the report and took questions.

7.3. **Finance Team** – Marilyn McCorrister
The Report appears on page 13.
Marilyn McCorrister presented the report and took questions.
Highlights:
Pledge money is coming in to the church but there are some members who have not given in the last year.
Rentals are down over all but many of the self-help groups continued to make rent payments as did the parking lot renters.
PAR would be a good way to keep our finances stable.

7.4. **Ministry and Personnel** – John McLeod
The Report appears on page 15.
John McLeod reported and took questions.
The Ministry and Personnel Team (M&P) is currently interviewing for a custodian effective May 3, 2021.

M&P is not able to make final decisions on hiring in the church. It is UCC Policy that the M&P Team make recommendations to the Oversight Council which approves all hires.

7.5. **Pastoral Care Team** – Rev Paul DuVal

Rev Paul DuVal reported and took questions.

Currently the Pastoral Care Team does not have a chair person. Reverend DuVal has been serving in that capacity but, for the strength of the team, a volunteer to assume this position is essential. Pastoral care is being done by a dedicated group of people through calls, emails and cards. Communication is taking place and people are being contacted.

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7.6. **Property Team** - Dennis Bitton

The Report appears on page 18.

Dennis Bitton reported and took questions.

Highlights:

1. Replacing the HVAC system consumed almost all the money in the Building Fund. $29,000 was received through a grant from Faithful Footprints and a further $1,000 will be coming in 2021.
2. A fund-raising campaign is being held to help replace the pavers in the front walk way. Memory Stones, which will be installed in the front walkway, may be purchased at a cost of $150.00. You will receive a tax receipt for the full amount.
3. Other large projects such as the replacement of the basement floor at a cost of approximately $40,000 are on the horizon in the 5 year plan.
4. As the Building Fund has been depleted, we are looking for donations as well as seeking out grants for which we might qualify.

7.7. **Social Justice Team** – Linda Uhrich

The Report appears on page 21.

Linda Uhrich reported and took questions.

2020 has been a challenging year finding ways to support our partners while the congregation is not meeting. Using creative methods we were able to help out the inner city ministries and the Communities Offering Others Love (COOL) grow project financially. Many activities such as the Blanket Exercise had to be cancelled. The Team is hopeful that these events can be rescheduled sometime in 2021.

7.8. **Worship Team** – Judy Restall and Patricia Rothney

The Report appears on page 23.

Patricia Rothney reported and took questions.

Highlights:

1. Transitioning to online services was a huge learning curve after the church closed in March 2020. The Tech Team has provided great leadership during this transition. The services are enhanced by the music provided by Renate Rossol and the soloists and musicians.

2. The Banner Highlights and the Ask Worship initiatives have been well received.
3. Feedback to worship is gratefully received and considered in planning for worship.

Other Bodies

7.9. **Board of Trustees** - John McLeod

The Report appears on page 22.
John McLeod reported and took questions.
The main focus for the Trustees in 2020 was to renew the insurance on our building and contents for 2021.

7.10. **United Church Women (UCW)** – Donna Little

The Report appears on page 22.
Donna Little reported and took questions.
The UCW has not been meeting since March 2020 but have been participating in activities such as the Coffee Train in support of the inner city ministries.

7.11. **Search Team** – Val Goodridge

The Report appears on page 20.
Val Goodridge reported and took questions.
The Search Team has had parallel responsibilities, searching for a permanent called minister for Prairie Spirit and securing GAP ministry for the church. We are blessed by the leadership of Reverend Paul DuVal and more recently, Reverend Deborah Vitt.

7.12. **Nomination Team** - Reverend DuVal

Reverend DuVal went over the names that have come forward for approval for the Oversight Council and Standing Teams in 2021.
Nominations were declared open and were called three times for all positions.
No further names came forward from the floor. There are still openings that will need to be filled as soon as possible.
The slate presented will be the slate for 2021.

MOTION
Moved by Dennis Bitton Seconded by Judy Restall
that the slate of officers be accepted for 2021 **CARRIED**

As a new slate of officers was accepted for 2021, Joycelyn Fournier-Gawryluk, the outgoing chair of the Oversight Council, relinquished the chair to Val Goodridge, the incoming chair.

7.13. **Prairie to Pine Regional Council Meeting** –

May 28-30 – online meeting
Prairie Spirit qualifies for a minimum of 3 representatives to the Prairie To Pine Regional Council. The Manual of The UCC requires all pastoral charges to have a representative on the regional council. Prairie Spirit needs volunteers to represent us at regional council

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meetings in the long term.
At this time we need to have volunteers to represent PSUC at this meeting in May.

MOTION
Moved by Linda Uhrich Seconded by Donna Little
that the Oversight Council Chairperson's Report, the Standing Team Reports, and Other Body Teams' reports, be received. **CARRIED**

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8. **Presentation of the 2021 Proposed Budget** – Marilyn McCorrister
The Report appears on page 28.
Marilyn McCorrister presented the budget and took questions.
A budget is at best a guess about the future. With all of the challenges presented by COVID as well as questions about pledges, salaries and rentals, this budget was very difficult to create. Although it shows a shortfall, the Finance Team supports this budget for 2021.

MOTION
Moved by Marilyn McCorrister Seconded by Carol Scott
that the 2021 proposed budget with an income of $226,734 and expenses of $274,234 with a shortfall of $17,500 assuming that any moving expenses do not come out of operating funds, be accepted.

CARRIED

9. New Business

9.1. PSUC Community Connection Groups – Group leaders

With PSUC being closed due to COVID-19 restrictions, many of our folks are expressing a feeling of being disconnected from the church. We have tried to combat this through various initiatives but there is still a need for greater connections.

With the membership lists nearing completion, it was proposed at the Oversight Council that a system of Community Connection Groups be developed. The members would be arranged in groups of about 10 families with 1 person as the contact with these people. We would need about 15 volunteers to be the leaders/coordinators for each groups.

There would be no meetings or home visits at this time. All contact would be made by phone calls or possibly emails. The coordinator would call each family on their list at least 3-4 times a year and more if there was a significant need or important information to be distributed.

The Community Connection Groups may be kept separate from the work of the Pastoral Care Team. It may operate in place of the current phone tree. Those overlaps will need to be explored further.

If you are willing to be a leader/coordinator please leave your name with Sherri Van Aert, our Office Administrator.

9.2. **Insurance Coverage For Prairie Spirit United Church** - Gerry McAlpine

Mr. McAlpine stated that in his opinion the insurance coverage of $4.8 million is not enough to cover the replacement costs of a catastrophic loss of our building. In March 2016, PSUC was valued at $3.2 million fair market value. This will have increased over the intervening years. At $4.8 million that is $250.00 per square foot which would not be enough to build back what we have currently.

The following motion was made:

MOTION
Move by Gerry McAlpine Seconded by Fran Ferguson
that the Insurance coverage amount be revisited.

A discussion ensued.
The amount of insurance coverage was discussed at length at the Trustees' meetings, with Property and with the Finance Team. The insurance carrier selected by The UCC recommended a policy in the amount of $4.6 million. The Trustees purchased more coverage than was recommended.

The current coverage, in the amount of $4.8 million, has a yearly premium of just under $10,000.00.

It might be possible to ask our auditors, Myers Norris Penny, for input on the insurance coverage for our building. Marilyn McCorrister agreed to ask MNP for guidance.

The church as it currently configured, would probably not be replaced in the event of a catastrophic loss. A very different building would likely be constructed.

After a lengthy discussion, the question was called.

MOTION
Move by Gerry McAlpine Seconded by Fran Ferguson
that the Insurance coverage amount be revisited. **CARRIED**

10. A**djournment**

As all the business of the 2020 Prairie Spirit United Church Annual Meeting is concluded, we are in adjournment.

11. **Benediction** Rev. Deborah Vitt

NOTES:

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Constitution:

As part of the Oversight Council, the following Standing Teams will be functioning as part of the new constitution

- Congregational Life
- Christian Education – no report
- Finance
- Ministry and Personnel
- Pastoral Care
- Property
- Social Justice
- Stewardship and Sustainability – no report
- Worship

Other Bodies:

Board of Trustees
United Church Women (UCW)
Nominating Team
Prairie to Pine Regional Representatives

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Website address: www.prairiespirituc.org