

**Prairie Spirit United Church
Oversight Council Meeting
Minutes
9:30 a.m. June 23, 2021**

Welcome

A thank you was extended to all in attendance and to Donna Little for volunteering to take the meeting minutes.

1. Opening Prayer - Val Goodridge

Present: Val Goodridge, Chris Urban, Joycelyn Fournier-Gawryluk, Marilyn McCorrister,
Pat Rothney, John McLeod, Heather MacMillan, Donna Little, Reverend

Paul DuVal

Regrets: Linda Uhrich, Dennis Bitton, Reverend Deborah Vitt

2. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes - May 26, 2021

MOTION

Moved by John McLeod Seconded by Heather MacMillan

That the minutes of May 26, 2021 be accepted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION

Moved by Chris Urban

Seconded by Marilyn McCorrister

That the agenda be approved as amended.

1. Addition of Letter of Resignation - 4.3

CARRIED

4. Correspondence, Communications and Updates

4.1 E-mail from Athletes In Action - The Oversight Council discussed this group and the request received via email to publicize their summer sports camps. Information gleaned from their website and from personal knowledge was shared. It was agreed that PSUC would not become involved with this group.

4.2 E-mail from Deb McAlpine re WSD Indigidence Challenge - after discussion with Rev. Vitt, Rev. DuVal and Linda Uhrich, a response was sent. PSUC will not be involved with the Winnipeg School Division Indigidence Challenge.

4.3 Letter of Resignation from Judy Lawrence - Discuss under business arising 9.1

5. Communications

5.1 Schedule for the Weekly Updates and PS News over the summer

1. The Weekly Update will stay on a weekly schedule but will have a streamlined content.

After our new minister, Susan McIlveen, arrives and is settled, she may want to use the Update to communicate with the congregation.

2. The PS News will not be published in July. An edition will be prepared for mid August.

6. Reports From the Ministerial Team

6.1 Rev. Vitt - sent regrets

6.2 Rev. DuVal -

The ministers in the area are planning coverage for the summer. Rev. DuVal will be available during July and Kathy Maxwell of St. Charles Headingley will be available in late August. The way in which the new PSUC minister, Susan McIlveen, might be involved is under discussion. If needed, other ministers may be approached to be sure that there is complete coverage during the summer.

7. Ad Hoc Committee Reports

7.1 Search Team

The Search Team is pleased to have Susan McIlveen as the new minister at PSUC. She is in the middle of moving and is expected in Winnipeg around July, 7 or 8th. The Search Team is helping her with organizing her apartment and settling into Winnipeg.

Rev. Paul DuVal will be minister at PSUC until August 31, 2021. He will help with the transition to our new minister during July and early August. His last work day will be August 12 with the following weeks taken as owed holiday.

MOTION

Moved by John McLeod

Seconded by Pat Rothney

That the Oversight Council of Prairie Spirit United Church request that the Pastoral Relations Council of Prairie to Pine Region approve the termination of Rev. Paul DuVal's appointment to Prairie Spirit United Church effective August 31, 2021. His last working day to be August 12 to allow 13 days of owed vacation time be taken.

CARRIED

On behalf of Prairie Spirit, the Oversight Council extends our sincere appreciation to Reverend DuVal for his leadership, wise guidance and belief in Prairie Spirit since our inception in October, 2018. He will be missed at PSUC.

7.2 Nominating Team

The Oversight Council (OC) requested that Rev. DuVal submit a brief report on the activities of the Nominating Team leading up to the Annual Meeting on April 18, 2021.

There are still important positions to be filled on the OC and several Standing Teams need more people. These issues will be discussed at an Executive Meeting in early July.

7.3 Thriving Congregations

7.3.1 Church Community Connections - Joycelyn Fournier-Gawryluk

About 25 people have volunteered to be group leaders, keeping in contact with a list of congregants about four times a year and when there is a special event at the church. The group lists will be finalized once our Office Administrator has completed work on the list of members and adherents. That work is well in hand. Once it is completed, a meeting will be called so that the small group that has been working on the updates can have a final review of the list.

7.3.2 Community Resource Network - Joycelyn Fournier-Gawryluk

Joycelyn Fournier-Gawryluk, Reverend DuVal and Val Goodridge attended the recent Zoom meeting. There are many interesting opportunities for connections with other community groups working in the St James neighbourhood.

1. Joycelyn Fournier-Gawryluk made a connection with the St James Chamber of Commerce and will write a brief history of the United Churches in the St James area. This article will be used in different publications as the St James 100th Anniversary is celebrated.

2. Reverend DuVal suggested we pursue connections with the folks from St James Anglican Church who were in attendance and possibly other denominations in St James to see what everyone is doing to support the St James community.

8. Standing Teams and Other Bodies' Reports (1-2 highlights only from your report)

8.1 Congregational Life - Heather McMillan

The Cookie Train has been running successfully although donations are down a little now that summer has arrived. An Inventory of Tina's Room (Congregational Life's storage room) will be undertaken.

8.2 Finance - Marilyn McCorrister

8.2.1 Report

Joycelyn Fournier-Gawryluk and Marg Fisher are now signed up on the CRA account.

Marilyn requested and received guidance on two financial points:

1. The money to pay for the expenses connected to the Farewell to Reverends Ken DeLisle, Deborah Vitt and Paul DuVal on June 27th, 2021 be taken from the Transition Budget.
2. The money to pay for the moving expenses (around \$10,000) will come from the Operating Budget.

Although \$30,000 has been in the PSUC budget and approved at two Annual Meetings, it is an un-budgeted expense in that it is not shown in the month end financial statements. The short fall of around \$17,500.00 in the 2021 budget does not include this expense.

John McLeod will coordinate a special appeal for donations to help cover this un-budgeted expense.

8.2.2 Financial statement to May 31, 2021

Marilyn presented the Financial Statement and took questions. There is a small shortfall going into the summer. There will be expenses related to the new minister and Property will be doing some necessary work over the summer that will have implications to the budget.

MOTION

Moved by Marilyn McCorrister Seconded by Heather MacMillan

That the financial statement to May 31, 2021 be received.

CARRIED

8.3 Ministry and Personnel - Pat Rothney

1. All old M&P documents from SCUC that were held off site will be purged and shredded. All documents from the beginning of PSUC to be stored on jump drives in a fireproof box along with paper copies of contracts.
2. The M&P Team has been working through the issues related to delayed UCC benefits for Sherri Van Aert and Deborah Vitt. As our custodian, Manny Kambale, is a new hire, he should not have a problem accessing his benefits.
3. Orientation preparations for PSUC's new minister, Susan McIlveen, are well underway.
4. Marsha Jones will take over from Pat Rothney as the representative for M&P at the Oversight Council meetings effective June 30th.

The Oversight Council extends our sincere thanks to Pat for joining the M&P Team when she was needed. We wish her well as she finishes her term on June 30, 2021.

8.4 Pastoral Care - Reverend DuVal

Pastoral Care is a team that requires a few new members. Rev. DuVal reported that the team is making contact with folks as needed. During these COVID times it is more difficult to visit with people in person at home or in the hospital. We each need to keep the church updated as we hear of needs or changes for the folks in the congregation.

8.5 Property - Dennis Bitton (Chris Urban)

1. Several electrical upgrades have been completed as required after the inspection conducted by The Winnipeg Fire Department, Fire Prevention Branch.
2. Eckstein Repairs Inc. will start the sidewalk repair in late July. The 62 Memory Stones should be ready to be installed by that time as they are currently with Larsen's Memorials for engraving.
3. Sharon McIntyre, of the Tech Team, has informed Property that the chancel overhead lighting is sub-par, especially for video recording/streaming. When the lighting was changed from incandescent to LED, the lighting units were never re-focused. Sharon asked that

Property consider re-aiming these lights for better chancel lighting. This is not an easy task as the units are accessible only by scaffolding or scissor-lift, both of which will cost a fair amount of money. This therefore, is a discussion that should take place between Property, Worship and probably the OC.

8.6 Social Justice and Outreach - Linda Uhrich

1. Linda Uhrich attended a meeting on Thursday, June 17 with the St. James-Assiniboine South Food Security Network. This is a fairly new group looking at food insecurity issues in our area. One of the initiatives is the development of a Food Scan which will list, with details, everything from stores to food banks to emergency resources as well as skill building programs. As it is developed Linda will share the program with Susan McIlveen and Sherri Van Aert in case people call or drop in looking for assistance. The group will meet once more in July and then monthly as Winnipeg comes out of Covid restrictions.
2. Going forward the Team will continue to focus on ways we at PSUC can live into right relations with our indigenous community. Ideas such as a study group based on Gloria Cook's presentation to the Prairie to Pine Annual Meeting and possibly a book club focusing on the lived experiences of indigenous people in Canada are being discussed.

8.7 Trustees - John McLeod

The Oversight Council and the Trustees sadly announce the death of Jack Callum who had just joined the Trustees.

Regretfully, Jack's death creates a vacancy and another Trustee will be needed.

8.8 United Church Women (UCW) - Donna Little

No Report

8.9 Worship and Faith Development - Pat Rothney

1. An ad hoc Worship Team meeting will be held in July when our new minister, Susan McIlveen, has arrived and is settled.
2. UCC Course Offering: The Church Has Left the Building:
How will we combine online and in-person church? **May 25, June 1, June 8 7:00 pm ET.**
This was a very good series and notes are being assembled in an overview. We have received the links to the recordings and can be accessed by contacting Pat Rothney.
3. The three Worship Team policies: Baptism, Wedding and Funeral, have been reformatted and submitted. The wedding and funeral brochures will be placed on our website. The policies will be on our website under the policy heading.
4. The team has been working on searching out those who have served in WWII in the St. James area for 2021 Remembrance Day service
This notion has been narrowed to a proposal to canvas the congregation to submit names of family members who served regardless of campaign

8.10 Prairie to Pine Regional Council Annual Meeting - Val Goodridge

Val Goodridge, Donna Little and Pat Rothney attended this meeting held over three days in late May. Our report has been circulated. An abbreviated report was presented at church on Sunday, June 20. The full report will appear in the Weekly Update on Friday, June 26, 2021.

More details can be found at:

https://prairietopinerc.ca/regional-council-meeting/?mc_cid=a3f204cbcf&mc_eid=8309b10d73

8.11 Other Teams Not Yet Operating - Val Goodridge

8.11.1 Stewardship and Sustainability

This team has a broad and mixed mandate that needs review. Vickie Nelson, the Stewardship Animator for the Prairie to Pine Region, will provide assistance to church Stewardship Teams. A series of workshops entitled Called To Be The Church: The Journey will be held In August.

8.11.2 Christian Education

This is an essential team for our church which needs to be populated.

8.11.3 Communications - ad hoc committee needed

The format and mandate for this group needs to be decided. Communication with our congregation and the larger community is essential these days.

All members of the Oversight Council are requested to review these Teams in the Governance Document. The Executive will convene over the summer to discuss how to proceed with populating and activating these teams.

9. Business Arising From The Reports

9.1 Letter of Resignation from Judy Lawrence

This letter was accepted with regret. Val Goodridge will contact Judy to express our thanks for her service in the capacity of Rentals Administrator. Val will ask Judy if she could assist as needed during the summer while the we work to fill the position.

A discussion ensued as to how to carry out the important work of the Rental Administrator. There are several possibilities to be explored. Pat Rothney will take this back to the M&P Team at their next meeting.

10. Adjournment

Val Goodridge thanked all members of the Oversight Council for their support since she took over as chairperson in April and wished everyone a restful summer. Congratulations were extended to Joycelyn Fournier-Gawryluk on the birth of a beautiful granddaughter.

As the business of the meeting was concluded, the meeting was adjourned.

11. Closing Prayer

Reverend DuVal closed our meeting with prayer.

12. Next Meeting Dates:

September 25 or 29

October 27 or 30

November 24 or 27

June Secretary: Donna Little

Chairperson: Val Goodridge