

Prairie Spirit United Church
Oversight Council Meeting
April 22, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.
Kirkfield Park Meeting Room
Final Minutes

Welcome: 09:33am

Present: Pat Rothney (Chairperson), Anne Walker, Linda Grayston, Heather M^{ac}Millan, Linda Uhrich, Val Goodridge, Joycelyn Fournier-Gawryluk, Jim Poole, Donna Little, Dennis Bitton (joined by Zoom), Rev. Scott Macauley

Guests: Derrick Vandel of the Exchange Group, Jeanie M^cAlpine

Regrets: Faith Kopisky

Opening Prayer: Donna Little offered a prayer to begin the meeting.

1. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: that the Agenda for the Oversight Council of 22-Apr-25 be approved as circulated.

MOVED BY: Donna Little

SECONDED BY: Linda Uhrich

CARRIED

2. Approval of Oversight Council Minutes of 28-Jan-24

MOTION: that the Minutes of the Oversight Council of 28-Jan-25 be approved as circulated.

MOVED BY: Val Goodridge

SECONDED BY: Heather MacMillan

CARRIED

3. Minister's Message

Rev. Scott Macauley

Scott highlighted the work that has been undertaken over the past 9 months. He reminded us that we are not just administrators of the affairs of PSUC but also stewards of our Community of Faith. He has observed that the community is well-rooted in their faith. He encourages us to keep Christ at the centre of our work - always.

4. PSUC Financial Statements Review Report

Mike Hill/Derrick Vandel

Mike Hill introduced Derrick Vandel who took us through the audited Financial Statements for 2024. He reviewed the highlights and responded to questions. He concluded by saying that, PSUC is in a solid financial position at this point in time. In order to move our Annual Meeting up to February, the Exchange Group would need our compiled documentation by the 3rd week of January then a 4 week window to complete the document review.

MOTION: that PSUC approve the Financial Statements dated December 30, 2024 prepared by the Exchange Group with one amendment to remove #4, page 7 from the report.

MOVED BY: Mike Hill

SECONDED BY: Dennis Bitton

CARRIED

5. Correspondence, Communications and Updates

5.1 Housekeeping

Pat Rothney

- 5.1.1** Holy Manners – as found in our Governance Document on page 18. The guiding principles for how we conduct ourselves as a Council were read out by Pat in the interest of reminding all members of the principles we have for all interactions by Council members. Team Leaders are asked to review these principles with their members.
- 5.1.2** Confidentiality Agreements – asked each new Council member to read and sign the agreement
- 5.1.3** Policies and Governance Document – we need to have familiarity with the documents, and it will be available through the PSUC website. All policies are available in the office. Policies will be placed in the members only section of the website. If a Team Leader does not have access to this section of our website, speak to our Office Administrator, Sherri, about getting that access.
- 5.1.4** Leadership contact listing for 2025-26 – an updated list of the names will be sent to all Team Leaders.
- 5.1.5** Meeting schedule for 2025-26 – will be sent to Team Leaders
- 5.1.6** Opening Prayer Schedule – circulated, everyone is asked to sign up for one meeting during the year.

5.2 Manitoba Choralfest

Pat Rothney

A meeting was held in early April which reviewed our relationship with this longstanding rental and they plan to use our facility this year and moving forward. They have an orientation session for volunteers that our volunteers are encouraged to participate in on ZOOM. Volunteer name tags as well as introductions to those from MCA are encouraged for our volunteers in order to better support the event.

5.3 United Property Resource Committee (UPRC)

Pat/Jim Poole

- 5.3.1** Consultation on rental rates negotiation approach training – a meeting was scheduled for last week, but it has been postponed to May. The feasibility study has not yet been looked at by them. More information forthcoming at future meetings.

6. Finance and Stewardship

6.1 Question about finance decision

Jeanie McAlpine, guest

(Edits based on revisions requested by Jeanie McAlpine appear in italics below)

Jeanie brought forward a question that she felt had not been adequately responded to from her perspective at the Annual Meeting.

“My question was related to the Congregant’s question at the AGM on March 30, 2025 regarding decisions about investment funds from sale of Silver Heights and Kirkfield Park UCs and involvement of the Community of faith in such decisions.” Extract from letter from Jeanie McAlpine received 19-June-25 requesting a correction of the minutes of the 22-Apr-25 Oversight Council Minutes.

Oversight Council Response:

The Oversight Council deferred a response at this time to the planned meeting (Occurred 16-June-25) to explore these concerns directly with the two concerned Congregants including members of the Trustees, Finance Team, and the former Silver Heights and Kirkfield Park United Churches. The aim is to explore their concerns, understand the position of the two former UCs for use of their sale monies and identify a process/guideline to address these concerns.

At the April 22nd meeting, Jeanie raised concerns around the authority of the Oversight Council to spend large sums of money without consulting the Community of Faith.

She brought forward an example that the expenditures for the Rainbow Room flooring (estimated at an \$85,000.00 cost) had not come to the Community of Faith. Her query was regarding the decision to replace the flooring on the lower level of the church. Several around the table responded and most importantly raised two points that this was a capital expense which had been on the table for a long time and it was known that replacement needed to happen. When a rental in that part of the building necessitated the floor to be replaced due to the many tripping hazards presented, it was decided that it would be timely to proceed in the interest of avoiding any lawsuits.

Jeanie also read from the Governance Document under the Duties and Responsibilities of the Executive Council; “approve individual un-budgeted expenditures to a maximum of \$10,000.00 per occurrence, provided they do not result in an indebtedness of the Community of Faith” (Page 9, 4. i).

It was indicated by Pat Rothney that the clause cited from the Governance Document will be reviewed at an upcoming meeting to verify that it reflected practice.

6.2 Report

Mike Hill

6.3 Draft Financial Statement to March 31st, 2025

Mike Hill

The balance sheet for March 31 was reviewed. The receipts have grown slightly over this time last year. Mike then referred to the budget making a good number of comments as we walked through the document.

MOTION: to receive the financial reports of March 31st, 2025:

MOVED BY: Mike Hill

SECONDED BY: Jim Poole

CARRIED

7. New Business

7.1 Annual Meeting (AM): planning for the Community of Faith Workshop Pat Rothney

- 9.1.1** Pat has reviewed and complied all of the comments received at the AM. There will be a meeting of interested people on Saturday, May 10, 9:30 to 1pm in the Narthex to discuss the results. We will look to see how the comments align with the two focuses that grew out of the work done at the Oversight Council Retreat. Pat and Scott have created a process to assess the comments and, where there is alignment, which can be actioned by others individuals in the church. Scott spoke to the plan and in support of the dot-mocracy process.

7.2 Church Teams Information Sheet

Val Goodridge

7.2.1 Thank you Val for creating the first draft of this work.

7.2.2 Pat presented an “at a glance” overview pamphlet highlighting the major responsibilities of each of the current Standing Teams and Other Bodies active at PSUC. With new people joining the church a simple information sheet is needed. Pat will speak with Sherri Van Aert about creating a pamphlet that will be available in the church narthex. An initial run of 50 copies will be done and placed in the narthex for Community of Faith members to access.

COMFORT BREAK

8 Ad Hoc Teams Reports

8.1 Affirming Process

Linda Uhrich/Val Goodridge

- The update of the Steps to Affirming on the Progress Pillar in the narthex have been completed.
- The Pride Colours will be added to the top of the Progress Pillar during May.
- The window stickers have been ordered and will be installed as soon as they arrive.
- The banner on the wall between the narthex and the sanctuary will be revised to read “Everyone is welcome”.
- The Celebration of becoming an Affirming Ministry will be held on Sunday June 1.
- There will be a special service, during which a certificate will be presented.

- Following the service there will be a Potluck Luncheon.

8.2 UCC 100th Anniversary Celebration Joycelyn Fournier Gawryluk

Joycelyn reviewed the report that she handed out regarding the plans for the Centennial celebration. (Will be attached to the minutes)

Three Initiatives are in the planning stages:

Initiative 1:

Worship services in May will include a short 100th Anniversary Moment that speaks to something significant in the life of The United Church of Canada and how we at Prairie Spirit fit into that moment. Each Moment will include a memento or symbol of the day's highlight, a personal story by one of the congregation and a hymn from the 100 years that also lifts up the theme.

Initiative 2: Picnic and Art Event

To be held outdoors on Sunday, September 28 after church around a new picnic table at the Thompson Drive entrance. Our neighbours will be invited to join us to possibly share some lunch and the unveiling of the new mural.

Initiative 3:

A joint service held at PSUC on October 5 at 6:30pm that would including our partner churches. Plans are in progress to have a speaker on the theme of the gospel movement/social justice.

A meeting will be held on May 6th to finalize plans for the worship service on June 8th and to continue planning the activities for Fall.

8.3 Stewardship Team Development Rev. Scott

Reverend Scott and Pat Rothney are building a Stewardship Team that will be active year round. The focus is on Discipleship more than just financial contributions. Volunteers are welcome to join the team.

Dennis Bitton, in his role as Vice Chairperson, is now a member of the team. He has been taking the online classes offered by The United Church of Canada (UCC).

May is PAR month and our Sunday services will have that focus. There will be an attended table in the narthex on the Sundays in May to answer questions, distribute information and sign up forms.

9 Standing Teams and Other Bodies' Reports

(assumption is the standing team submitted reports have been read. The sharing of 1-2 highlights and anything new requiring discussion is appreciated)

9.1 Property and Building Sustainability Jim Poole

9.1.1 Fencing along north of property

Part of the fence along north side of the property fell down in a windstorm last fall. The rest of the north fence is in very poor condition. This fence was paid for entirely by the Sturgeon Creek congregation many years ago.

Reverend Scott has been in contact with the affected neighbour several times in the last months, keeping him up to date on our plans to replace the fence.

Jim presented three plans for discussion. After a detailed discussion of each plan, a decision was made to replace 100 feet of the six foot wood fencing with chain link. This will start in the north east corner of the property by the garden. All of the 4 foot wood fence that currently goes to the front sidewalk will be removed.

MOTION

MOVED BY Jim Poole SECONDED BY: Linda Uhrich **CARRIED**

That the fencing on the north side the church be removed and replaced by approximately 100 feet of six foot chain link fence, with privacy inserts as needed, to a maximum cost of \$6000.00.

MOTION

MOVED BY: Jim Poole SECONDED BY Linda Uhrich **CARRIED**

That a survey of the north property line be completed.

9.1.2 Memorial Garden

Val Goodridge

The Gardening Team will be planting flowers in the garden and replacing one of the Sky Bound Cedars that died over the winter. Money for the plant material will be taken from the Memorial Garden budget line.

Prairie Spirit is hosting the Craft Sale and Tea for 1JustCity during the Urban Garden Tour on June 21st. This event is in support of the Pimicikamak Wellness Centre. The Gardening Team will be planting and placing some extra pots at the front of the church to make it a welcoming introduction to PSUC. Funds to purchase these flowers will come from the Oversight Council budget.

9.1.3 Rental: No report at this meeting

9.2 Worship and Faith Formation

Judy Restall/Rev. Scott

9.2.1 In Judy's absence, Scott reported on the work of the team.

The focus in the last month was on planning the services for Holy Week.

9.2.2 Plans for the next months are underway with the following worship themes:

May: God's Blessings, Our Responsibilities: A Stewardship Exploration

June: Encounters With God: Moments That Transform

July: Anything Can Happen Sundays

9.2.3 A new Bible Study series will begin in May, focused on Finding Gratitude.

- 9.2.4** A College and Career Group outing is scheduled for June with a visit to the Canadian Human Rights Museum.

MOTION

MOVED BY: Val Goodridge SECONDED BY: Donna Little **CARRIED**

In recognition of the seasonal rhythm of our congregation and the opportunity for rest and renewal, WFF proposes that Sunday services be paused during the month of August. This adjustment will allow our community of faith to embrace a time of reflection, fellowship and spiritual growth in alternative ways, with regular gatherings resuming in September.

9.3 Congregational Wellness

Heather MacMillan

9.3.1 Pastoral Care

- 20 Easter cards were mailed and 32 plates of cookies were delivered to our homebound members

- The 6 plants that decorated the sanctuary for Easter will be donated to selected members on the homebound list.

9.3.2 Fellowship activities:

- 205 people (including the choir and musicians) attended the concert, The Shadow of the Cross, held on Maundy Thursday, April 17th. The response to the concert was very positive.
- The Easter Breakfast was a success with over 200 people attending
- Turkey soup and fruit crisps are being made on Thursday, April 24 for sale on Sunday, April 27th.

9.3.3 As the PSUC Funeral Coordinator, Heather reported that McClure United Church will be using our church for a funeral on Saturday, May 3, 2025 at 2:00 P.M.

9.4 Ministry & Personnel

Anne Walker

9.4.1 The team is busy reviewing job descriptions and getting all staff contracts finalized. New contracts begin July 1, 2025. The next M&P meeting will be held at the end of May.

9.5 Social Justice and Outreach

Linda Uhrich

9.5.1 Four Health & Harmony sessions were held through March. Positive feedback was received. The team will collaborate with Rev. Scott to hold one session in June and another in the fall – and potentially one/month going forward.

9.5.2 The Glenlea orders are down this year. However, Sharon Thom has calculated that there will be approximately \$900.00 in profit for SJ&O activities.

9.5.3 The Neighbourhood Resource Network meeting was held at PSUC on April 9. Linda Uhrich, Val Goodridge and Reverend Scott attended. It is always good

to hear about the outreach activities of our partners in the area. Linda will attend the Food Network meeting in the next week.

9.5.4 The next meeting will be held on May 8.

9.6 Board of Trustees

Joycelyn Fournier Gawryluk

9.6.1 In gratitude for the generous donation made by the Sturgeon Creek Foundation as it wound down its activities, PSUC has been invited to attend an event at the Sandy-Saulteaux Centre celebrating the Indigenous ministry students and elders. The Ceremony of Celebration will be held on, June 7, 2025 at 2:00pm with a feast to follow. Words of congratulation may be sent if you are not able to attend.

9.6.2 The May meeting will be focused on

9.6.3 The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held in late May.

9.7 United Church Women (UCW)

Donna Little

9.7.1 The UCW will be holding a windup luncheon on May the 12th

MOTION:

MOVER: Jim Poole

SECONDER: Mike Hill

Carried

That all Standing Teams and Other Bodies' reports be received.

10 Business Arising: None this month

11 Minister's Accountability Report

Scott highlighted some of his activities over the past weeks in his areas of responsibility. As part of his continuing education, Scott will be attending the Parish Collective annual conference in Chicago. He will be away from April 23 to April 30. A full accounting is found in the Minister's Accountability Report attached to the minutes.

Scott highlighted the August 16th Pop Up Market which is being held on the PSUC parking lot in cooperation with the Dreamland Restaurant.

Members of the Neighbourhood Resource Network will be offered space in our church narthex that day to present information about their work to visitors.

12 Guest Questions: Jeanie McAlpine asked what the Annual Fees were going to be from Affirm United and when they are to be paid?

Pat replied that the fees are based on our statistical submission to The United Church of Canada with the fees based on our total number of members. The statistics are to be submitted in May.

Rev. Scott added that we may or may not actually receive an invoice for fees based on other Affirming Ministries' experience.

13 Closing Prayer

Rev. Scott

14 Adjournment: 12:08pm

Next Meeting Dates:

Executive Council: Tuesday 27-May-25 at 0930 am in the Sunrise Room
Opening Prayer: Mike Hill

Oversight Council: Tuesday 24-June-25 at **TBD**
Opening Prayer: Heather M^{ac}Millan

Pat Rothney, Oversight Council Chair

Joycelyn Fournier Gawryluk
Recorder