**Eastside United Church Leadership Team**

**Minutes of the March 13, 2024 Meeting**

**Attendees:** Janet Bjorndahl (Chair), Cathie Henderson, Leanne Sudom, Jim Fallows, Sarah Tkachuk, Ron Brandow, Doug Scheurwater, Russell Mitchell-Walker, Sam and Delia Baidoo, Jim Fallows

**Regrets:** Bonny Manz, Teresa Strachan

| **Agenda**  **#** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
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| **1.** | **Call to Order – Janet**  Called to order at 7:34  Thank you to Cathie, Leanne, Congregational Care for their support during Russell’s sabbatical |  |
| **2.** | **Opening Devotion/Prayer - Russell**  Do I Stay Christian?- last chapter of the book |  |
| **3.** | **Acceptance of the Agenda**  *Moved by Ron, 2nd by Cathie. Approved.* |  |
| **4.** | **Disclosure of any Conflict of Interest**  Standing item to remind us of our responsibility under the United Church’s [Conflict of Interest Policy](https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/conflict-of-interest-policy.pdf#:~:text=The%20purpose%20of%20this%20policy%20is%20to%20give,in%20the%20best%20interests%20of%20the%20United%20Church.) |  |
| **5.** | **Minutes of the January 17, 2024 Leadership Team meeting**  *Cathie moved acceptance, 2nd by Ron. Approved.* |  |
| **6.** | **Business arising from the Minutes**  **6.1 Collaboration with area United Churches**  Update on the latest conversations and upcoming work:   * Heritage and St Andrew’s are trying to replace Joy Cowan with a 1 year replacement. * See Janet’s report for the different meetings next week on furthering the collaboration. * Janet has informed the chair of Broadway so they are aware of the collaboration. * May need an additional congregational meeting to ratify the collaborative ministry, depending on when it starts. * No significant negative feedback on the collaboration. All congregations need to be aware and make plans for those who may have difficulty attending the various churches when there are joint services. |  |
| **7.** | **New Business**  **7.1 Review of 2023 books**   * An external reviewer is not required. * Suggestion that could get someone from another UC congregation. An honorarium could be paid. | Janet will ask someone from St. Andrew’s Lumsden to see if she will do this. |
| **8.** | **Reports**  **8.1 Minister**   * Sabbatical focus included:   + Warm Welcome Coalition     - There hasn’t been any participation from Eastside to date       * This may be due to the support for ICF (approx. 12-15 people every Friday)     - Spirit of the community and gratitude and mutual aide   + Collaborative Ministry   **8.2 M&P – Cathie**   * April 24-29 Russell at Inhabit Conference in Seattle * Office management   + Office guidelines training was provided to Teresa and Bonny.     - Need to have someone to change the phone message when Becca is away.   + Teresa is not as interested in continuing as a back up person for the office   + Can the back up person have access to email- the person could sign a confidentiality agreement   + Bonny needs to know passwords if she is to be the back up person.   + Becca has a spreadsheet of her work days and days off * Question if the number of sick days needed exceeds the number allotted   + Discussion that sick time can be carried over.   + Current practice is to use vacation time once sick time has been used up.   + Short term disability is available at 2\* weeks of illness. (\* This was reported as 3 weeks during the meeting, but a check on United Church policy shows that it is 2 weeks.)   **8.3 Region – Ron**   * 2024 Regional Conference will be at Travel Lodge Saskatoon on June 13-15 and Sunday service at a UC in Saskatoon * Loan to LBC has not been completed due to some conditions to be met * Feb 22-23- Living Skies executive and staff met with Jordan Cantwell for visioning for the Region * Ron is willing to continue as the representative for Eastside * Registration for Russell is $175.00   **8.4 Finance – Jim**   * Jim provided the finance report. Currently on target for budget. * Small surplus for January & February, however, some people provided their full contribution for the year at that time   **8.5 Living Spirit Centre Council – Sarah**   * LSC budget 2024- Anglican participation end July 1. 10% for Anglican Diocese * Conversation with Anglican Diocese regarding what they have put into the LSC over the years. Agreed to use equity amount. LSC has no capacity to pay Anglican Diocese yet, but they would like to have payments if other partners are brought in (they hope for repayment within 25 years). If the building is sold the Anglican Diocese will get their payment first. No concept of interest. * BoL took solar panel proposal to their leadership team. They are unable to participate in a capital investment of solar panels at this time. * Mount Sinai congregation-Stuart is going to work on welcoming language in a longer-term rental arrangement. It is considered to be short-term. Their rental contract is month to month.   **8.6 Faith Formation – Leanne**   * Faith Formation has not met since the last LT. * Games afternoon will be March 16 * April 14- Regina Cluster has a service at Westminster and has asked all congregations to attend. Cluster meeting will be April 13 at Sunset. * Motion: That Eastside attend the Regina Cluster service at Westminster and not have a service at Eastside on April 14. Leanne/Doug Carried.   **8.7 Gratitude team – Teresa**   * No report   **8.8 Congregational Care – Delia**   * Congregational Care has struggled to have members available due to many different circumstances. * Concern raised that they are unable to meet the needs. * Other congregational members have stepped in to assist.   **8.9 Climate Justice Committee – Ron**   * Jan 28 special service on climate. It is available to download. * April 21- Earth Day- Matt Dipple will speak.   **8.10 Chair – Janet**   * See Janet’s report * Book keeper recommended T4A for pianist, tech support and pulpit supply. Janet is following up on this to get SIN for reporting. | Russell will add his work days to Becca’s spreadsheet  Recommendation to review the sick time policy.  Cathie will review the number of sick days earned every month. |
| **9.** | **Forward Looking**  Program meeting date- May 5 or May 26 |  |
| **10.** | **Next Meeting**  April 17 2024 7:00 |  |
| **11.** | **Closing Prayer Russell** |  |
| **9.** | **Adjournment**  Doug motion to adjourn 9:22 |  |

**Chair’s Report**

**Collaborative Ministry**

With Joy Cowan leaving Heritage/St Andrews at the end of April, it was recommended that Heritage and St Andrews (Lumsden) combine to create a one-year appointment for a minister, with a view to either extending the appointment or issuing a long-term call after the year is up. This is not expected to be a formal interim ministry, as there are only 2 qualified interim ministers in Saskatchewan right now, and one of them is Dexter, who will continue half-time at St James. We decided to accept the recommendation, and the appointment process is underway. The expectation is that the new person will be part of the Collaborative Ministry – in fact, the Collaborative Ministry is expected to generate excitement amongst those who would consider the appointment.

A sub-committee was struck to draft a Collaborative Ministry Agreement, using the existing Heritage/St Andrews agreement as a starting point, and a process we received from the Region (which identifies some additional things to consider). Russell and I are both on this sub-committee. Our first meeting is on Mar 19.

The “resource allocation” working group meets Mar 14 to discuss how the ministers might allocate their time aside from Sunday morning worship – e.g., for pastoral care and social justice, and to provide education and other programming.

The main Collaborative Ministry group meets next on Mar. 20.

Broadway United has their AGM on Mar 17. We should know more about their direction in terms of their building after that, and whether they are interested in pursuing worship at LSC.

**Thanks**

Many thanks to everyone who took on extra responsibilities during Russell’s sabbatical, whether it was to perform pre-arranged tasks, such as setting up Zoom for the book study, leading Film & Faith, or covering congregational care; or to address unanticipated issues, such as finding a backup tech person and a backup pianist.