**Eastside United Church Leadership Team**

**Minutes of the May 10, 2023 Meeting**

**Attendees:** Janet Bjorndahl (Chair), Sarah Tkachuk, Russell Mitchell-Walker, Sam Baidoo, Delia Baidoo, Cathie Henderson, Becca Anderson, Teresa Strachan, Leanne Sudom, Jim Fallows

**Regrets:** Doug Scheurwater, Bonny Manz

**Deep Spirituality  
Bold Discipleship  
Daring Justice**

(United Church of Canada Call, adopted Oct 2021)

<https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/welcome-united-church-canada/our-call-and-our-vision>

| **Agenda**  **#** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
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| 1. | **Call to Order – Janet**  7:07 PM |  |
| 2. | **Opening Devotion - Russell**  To Alter Your World by Michael Frost and Christiana Rice- forward was read. |  |
| 3. | **Acceptance of the Agenda**  Cathie moved acceptance as amended. 2nd by Teresa. Carried |  |
| 4. | **Minutes of the March 14, 2023 Leadership Team meeting**  Cathie moved acceptance. 2nd by Teresa. Carried. |  |
| 5. | **Business arising from the Minutes**  5.1 Finance process review (separate meeting)   * Janet, Bonny, Becca, Russell, Sarah, Jim will meet at another time   5.2 Designation of income from Community Dinner   * Record will be kept and formula will be used and the impact of the Community Dinner against the grant will be determined at year end * Will continue to put out a basket or envelopes for donations at the Community Dinner   5.3 Request for notification of significant drop in giving   * Parameters developed by the Gratitude Team * Sonia will let Teresa (for the Gratitude Team) know if there’s a significant drop in givings * It can be difficult to determine if there’s a pattern to giving * Becca lets Sonia know of changes to PAR   5.4 Google Drive for Leadership Team documentation   * Becca set something up and Janet will review prior to implementation   5.4 Planning for Russell’s sabbatical   * Confirm planning leads (Faith Formation and Russell) * Congregation announcement and (on-going) communication plan * M & P provided a draft communication to let the congregation know of Russell’s sabbatical * Russell’s sabbatical will start Thursday December 7th. | Janet, Bonny, Becca, Russell, Sarah, Jim will meet at another time  A meeting will be held to further discuss the Community dinner at another time |
| 6. | **New Business**  6.1 United Church of Canada Remit 3   * [Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization | The United Church of Canada](https://united-church.ca/news/establishing-autonomous-national-indigenous-organization) * Need to take to a vote otherwise it’s seen as a vote against the remit * A vote needs to take place by April 2024   6.2 Planning for the AGM   * Agenda items (e.g., remit 3) * Reports * Confirm chair (Janet) and minute taker (Bonny) * Technology; other logistics * Need a Women’s Breakfast coordinator * Need another person for the LSC Board * We should consider who might be willing to serve on committees, LSC Board, or in other volunteer capacities and approach them prior to the AGM   6.3 Reps for the Regional Gathering   * $175 registration, accommodations approximately $575 for 3 nights. This wasn’t in the budget * Question if Becca should also have her registration and accommodations covered. The office would be closed. Becca would attend on personal time and not work time. * **Motion** to approve registration and accommodation for Becca to attend the Regional Gathering Sarah/ Delia Carried   6.4 Covid Protocol   * Question if masks still need to be ‘strongly encouraged’ during the services and required during singing. * Message will be changed to be ‘masks are welcomed, but continue encourage people not to attend if they are experiencing symptoms’   6.5 Becca’s Candidacy for Ministry   * Becca is in contact with the Region regarding the candidacy pathway * Leadership Team will need to provide a support motion as this progresses. * A Circle of Accompaniment would be required to support Becca   6.6 Confidentiality   * Becca has non-disclosure confidentiality forms that should be signed by M&P, Congregational Care and Gratitude teams, and the Leadership Team | Discussion; take to AGM  Discussion  Russell will let Brayden know that the annual meeting may cause the service to be a bit longer  Discussion; approval required  Need to include in the budget in future years  Becca will draft the new message. |
| 7. | **Reports**  **7.1 Minister’s – Russell**   * See attached report * Question if Eastside should consider moving back to the east sanctuary to have the congregation closer together   + Determined that we aren’t interested at this time as the west sanctuary is already set up and doesn’t need to be taken down and that there’s the option for greater social distancing in the west sanctuary. * There appears to be a lack of engagement of volunteers for many of the opportunities this year.   **7.2 M&P - Cathie**   * Issue in Becca’s salary typo in 2022 added an extra $1.00/ hour. Overall Becca was paid $1040.00 more than she was supposed to. Becca was informed and was not expected to repay the over payment. This has been corrected. * This will be included in the chair’s annual report to inform the congregation. * BoL has not provided Becca with a job description, contract or liaison as of yet. BoL members have been covering the roles that Becca has not been trained in yet. * Becca is not concerned about the lack of direction and training at this time and will wait for BoL to reach out to her. * Will meet with Becca and Russell to review their year plans and the committee appreciates feedback from the Leadership Team.   **7.3 Region - Becca**   * Becca will plan to attend the Regional Gathering if possible.   **7.4 Finance – Jim**   * Revenue in first quarter $38 000.00 which is a bit low. Deficit of $4000.00 as of the end of April. * Deficit was identified as slightly over $5000.00 This was corrected by Janet following the meeting * The transition of bookkeeping and Chair has caused reports to be delayed at this point. * Request for an update to share with the congregation soon.   **7.5 Living Spirit Centre Committee – Sarah**   * Anglican Diocese has indicated they will withdraw from LSC in one year. This is confidential at this time. * Implications will be to try to find another partner, the division of equity, etc. * Janet will write the cheque for building insurance ASAP, in Bonny’s absence, assuming sufficient funds in the LSC bank account.   **7.6 Faith Formation – Leanne**   * Lent services had very few Eastside people in attendance this year. * Children’s time format has changed due to the current age of those children attending. * There will be an entrepreneur event for the community on October 14. Leanne Sudom is coordinating and it will be open to anyone with small or home based businesses who reside in the Arcola east communities. Volunteers will be needed to make this successful.   **7.7 Gratitude team – Teresa**   * Created a letter to reach out to those who have not responded yet. * Planning stewardship campaign for the fall.   **7.8 Congregational care – Delia**   * Team of 4 plus Russell and hoping to get one or 2 more people. * There were 21 people contacted over the past couple of months. * There are Grief books available as well as prayer shawls are offered. * The prayer chain is active. * Newcomer’s welcome package and pens are available.   **7.9 Chair -Janet**   * Becca will inform pianist and tech support that they will receive a T4A next year and in future years. |  |
| 8. | **Next Meeting**   * Janet will send a poll to determine a date in September |  |
| 9. | **Closing Prayer** |  |
| 10. | **Adjournment**  Delia moved meeting be adjourned at 9:13 |  |

**Eastside United Church**

**Leadership Team Minster’s Report**

Russell Mitchell-Walker

May 10, 2023

**Regina Cluster**

Nothing has happened with the cluster since the last meeting, other than a report written for the Regional Gathering at the end of the month. Now that Easter is done, hopefully we will have a meeting before the summer.

I have reached out to the minister of Broadway, Jim Balfour but not received any response. I received an email from Verna Mang who is chair of Broadway Board inquiring about connecting with the Cluster. In providing her with that information I shared with her the Cluster's work to encourage us to explore sharing ministry and that we are very open to that with Broadway as they move through their transition. She called me and indicated they too are very interested. While their building is solid, an engineer has assessed it, they are committed to Climate Justice and the retrofitting necessary has a somewhat prohibitive cost. I also let her know that renting our space for worship is possible while they explore with us. I also let her know that we would be open with our board and LT meeting together to get to know each other.

**Parish Ministry/Outreach**

March INI Café Live was a smaller gathering as there was a Round Dance at another organization, but we had good representation for a change with almost half of attendees being our folk. They really enjoyed it and wanted to spread the word to get more out. April had to moved because of staffing issues which meant I couldn’t be there. They have suspended having any more INI Café Lives until the fall because of increased events at ICF in the spring and early summer, but want to have an INI Café Karaoke night May 19. I am waiting for that to be confirmed.

LSC Climate Justice Committee has been working on poll for the Solar Panel project to assess support, including financial to the LSC. We had to reschedule our April meeting to May 30.

The Community Dinner, has been well attended with video presentations on Water Defenders in March and a great presentation by Taylor Balfour on Mental Health and the Opioid crisis, with an added presentation by Shylo Stevenson from Queen City Wellness Pharmacy. Shylo left some Narcan kits with us for those who wish to have them in case you are around someone who overdoses. The presentation was recorded on Facebook Live so is on our Facebook page. This was a good idea to do and we may continue, if presenters are comfortable. Next week, May 18, we have a presentation by Elder Lorna Standingready on Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women.

**Pastoral Care**

I have learned that there is no longer grief counselling through Greystone Bereavement Centre and it took a run around to get that information. I did get a contact of someone from SHA who does coordinate groups and individual counselling. I have supported Jean MacKay after Harold had a difficult reaction to anesthetic before hernia surgery. I also called Mary Belle and Ken Powers after Mary Belle’s brother had a heart attack.

**Faith Formation**

Film & Faith Continues with the March evening watching a movie in the church and April at the theatre.

Messy Church is in hiatus as there is insufficient capacity by all congregations to continue. Michael with the Anglicans is working on getting all Messy Church organizers together to see if we can coordinate to offer one program for the city.

Courageous Faith has ended for the season but are eager to start again in the fall. Convergence who we have purchased the sessions from, has another summit this month: *Can the Church Change?*

The Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Books group finished A Good War: Mobilizing Canada for the Climate Crisis and finished for the summer. We will start up again in September with the book Bible Stories for Grown-Ups by Josh Scott.

**Continuing Education & Wider Church**

The Inhabit conference in Seattle sponsored by the Parish Collective, April 19-23 was very good. I shared a number of stories and learnings from it in the April 30 worship service.

I am considering attending a workshop in Saskatoon in early June, on *Wild or Forest Church* about worshiping in nature. The Climate Justice group suggested having an outdoor service with this focus in June.

**LSC/MAP**

The Holy Week services went very well and were well received.

We received a letter from the Anglican Diocese indicating that they will be withdrawing from the partnership with LSC in one year and will help us find a new partner. I have shared this with the LSC Council Chair, the Chairs of BoL and our chair, Janet.

**Sabbatical Plans update**

I met with Laura Sundberg who is willing to help lead worship for some of the time that I am away, mainly during Advent and some of Lent (which starts Feb 14). I sat with Shylo at the Community Dinner and discussed the possibility of volunteering with him for some of my sabbatical and he was very open to that. I meet with Kelsey Dumont this week to talk about the neighbourhood, she lives in the area, as well as Houselessness and my sabbatical.

Faith Formation has begun discussing plans for other coverage for worship. We also discussed what programs would continue with lay leadership and which might take a break (like Community Dinner). I will find someone or a roster of folk for Pastoral Care which will include attending Congregational Care meetings. We also need a Community of Faith Supervisor appointed by the Region.