**Eastside United Church Leadership Team**

**Minutes of the March 14, 2023 Meeting**

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

**Regrets:** Jim Fallows, Doug Scheurwater

| **Agenda**  **#** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
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| 1. | **Call to Order – Janet**  5:05 |  |
| 2. | **Opening Devotion - Russell** |  |
| 3. | **Acceptance of the Agenda**  Item 7.7 added. Cathie moved acceptance. 2nd by Teresa. Carried |  |
| 4. | **Minutes of the January 11, 2023 Leadership Team meeting**  Sarah moved acceptance. 2nd by Becca. Carried. |  |
| 5. | **Business arising from the Minutes**  5.1 Update on transition of Treasurer responsibilities  Bonny has taken on invoice processing, cheque writing and deposits. Janet is looking after Payroll. Charmaine Filteau is our new bookkeeper.  Janet has documented the financial processes which will be put on the Google drive. She is trying to improve some processes as part of that. She is also working with Jim on chart of accounts. Becca will be forwarding any electronic offering information to Charmaine. Charmaine has been asking a few questions, as well as giving a few suggestions on potential improvements to various things. Janet now has signing authority. Charmaine will have read only access to bank account and also access to payroll.  Also some changes to contacts to be made from Anita to Bonny.  5.2 Signing authority for Bonny Manz  ***Cathie moved that Bonny be given signing authority for cheques. 2nd by Teresa. Carried.***  5.3 Payment for BofL’s share of Becca’s salary  Janet met with Stewart to discuss and Stewart wants to ensure BoL’s payment is made in a timely manner.  5.4 Planning for Russell’s sabbatical  His plans are still evolving.  Eastside’s costs may be somewhat lower than during the last sabbatical, as planning to join with other churches for more services. | Jim to let Bonny know how much LSC payments will be this year.  Sarah to draft a contract between ES and BoL |
| 6. | **New Business**  6.1 Change to financial review requirements  Changes have been made to Saskatchewan’s Non-profit Regulations regarding auditing non-profits for any entities with revenue exceeding $100K. A formal audit review (GAAP) will need to be done, at an estimated cost of $3 to $4 thousand.  Changes to offering counting to be done, and it should be counted weekly, and not by Bonny. Sarah has volunteered to be one.  6.2 Status of Mortgage Fund  Funds that were set aside for the mortgage is no longer required as mortgage paid off.  ***Sarah moved that since mortgage is paid off, we take any designated mortgage funds and re-purpose them back to the general operating fund. 2nd by Cathie. Carried.***  6.3 Financial practices recommended by new bookkeeper  Should we have WCB for tech support and pianist?  And T4As for tech support and pianist(s)?  6.4 Request for notification of significant drop in giving  The suggestion was made to follow up with members when there is a significant drop in contribution to see the reason. Sonia could determine this, and the Gratitude Team would follow up on it.  6.5 Designation of income from Community Dinner  Discussion on whether the money donated at the dinners be put into general operations or assigned to the grant so it could be extended. Or whether people donating may want to be able to claim the donation on their income tax. Options were considered: 2 baskets, visitor envelopes, half to dinner/half to operations, or other.  6.6 Google Drive for Leadership Team documentation  Documentation will be saved on a Google Drive that can be accessed by specific people, although may need a google account except if view only.  6.7 Donations for Buffalo Robe  Janet part of a program through the University to do with Truth and Reconciliation. They are wanting donations towards prizes for a Pow Wow which is happening in April. One prize is a buffalo robe. Janet wondered if she can get up on a Sunday morning to ask for donations and/or if people want to buy tickets on a raffle for a blanket. | Becca to ask for more volunteers in newsletter  WCB to be researched  T4A’s to be instituted for 2023 year  Sonia will be approached about notifying Gratitude Team  Tabled until next meeting but envelopes will be put out at dinners  Janet and Becca will be working on this  Approval given |
| 7. | **Reports**  **7.1 Minister’s – Russell**  See report at end of minutes.  As well, Knox Met is currently under review and we have been asked to hold them in prayer.  Stewart Miller is going on sabbatical the end of May and we will be sharing services with them the end of June. Russell will be meeting with his replacement. Climate Justice spoke about having an outdoor service with BoL perhaps in June.  **7.2 M&P - Cathie**  With Russell full-time and Becca part-time they were determining the salary or “Time in Lieu” that should be given for Stat holidays. Charmaine has helped M&P determine that and agreements will be signed with both Russell and Becca.  Monthly check-ins will be instituted with Becca and Russell regarding workload, etc., by a member of the M&P committee.  **7.3 Region - Becca**  The regional conference is being help in Prince Albert from May 25 to 28, 2023.  **7.4 Finance – Jim**  Not in attendance.  **7.5 Living Spirit Centre Committee – Sarah**   Immanuel reps. are no longer on the LSC. The one rep. is Michael, a Minister with the diocese. Immanuel is worshiping at the church on Massey Road and will also be performing same sex marriage ceremonies there. BoL is trying to find new reps., as is ES.  **7.6 Faith Formation – Leanne**  No volunteers have come forward yet for the Easter Egg Hunt they were planning to hold on April 1st.  Pie Day is being held on March 19th with all proceeds from pies, and book marks made by Leanne, going to Lulu’s Lodge. The Entrepreneurs Day planned for late spring may be held in the fall.  A question was asked about composting at the church.  There have been more children at church and “Sunday School” is now being called “Children’s Time”.  **7.7 Gratitude team – Teresa**  The members are working on getting more responses to Stewardship from members. More volunteers for team would be nice.  **7.8 Congregational care – Delia**  There are about a dozen people they regularly contact. They also are talking about providing gifts to newcomers. And are talking about giving cards to families who have had children baptized. Grief books have been provided to those that needed them. | Composting question to be taken to LSCC |
| 8. | **Next Meeting**  May 10th, 7:00 p.m.  **Proposed:**  Annual Program Meeting to be held June 4th with perhaps a BBQ after the meeting. |  |
| 9. | **Closing Prayer** |  |
| 10. | **Adjournment**  Teresa moved meeting be adjourned at 6:59 |  |

**Leadership Team Minster’s Report**

Russell Mitchell-Walker

March 14, 2023

**Regina Cluster**

The event went quite well, although I am not sure the groups had the kinds of discussions we were hoping for, that would give us direction for next steps on the topic areas. There was good energy for the issues and working together in general. I was unable to make the follow up meeting of the Cluster planning team, but they identified a few areas of next steps:

* 3 one off Dinner Church services, hosted by Joy (Heritage) and Cam (Knox-Met)
* Messy Church – proposal for it to be a shared rotation among the three congregations offering. Michael Bruce of the Anglican Diocese Youth and Family Ministry is working to get all parties together to discuss this.
* Shared Ministry Panel – Vicki Nelson is proposing a session which would hear from other churches across the country who have embarked on shared ministry endeavors/experiments

Wesley and Sunset have agreed to move forward with discussing amalgamation. Wesley will join Sunset to worship together after the Tri-parish summer sharing.

I have had conversations with Dexter van Dyke who is the Interim Minister at St. James to let him know we are interested in shared ministry opportunities if that is the direction they are interested in and have reached out to Jim Balfour at Broadway to continue a conversation about possible shared ministry interest as he retires.

**Parish Ministry/Outreach**

INI Café had a good turnout in February with some ES folk volunteering. I was very appreciative of the generous response of a few individuals I reached out to whose donations enabled us to bring Khodi Dill here for INI Café and worship. This week we have Dennis Hendricksen, (Josh’s dad) from Christ Lutheran and Errol Kinistino.

ICF Breakfast is continuing on the fourth Saturday of the month, with volunteers needed to help serve the take out breakfast. It is take out because ICF doesn’t have the capacity for the numbers they are serving.

LSC Climate Justice Committee has been focusing on the Solar Panel project. They are working toward getting an energy audit which is needed before we can receive a grant from the UCC. We have developed a monthly Seeding Climate Justice article about concrete things we can do to address Climate Change. We are talking about doing something around Earth Day after church, as well as promote the Saskatchewan Electric Vehicle Assoc. Drive Electric Earth Day event.

The Community Dinner, has been a bit lower the last few months, and the Black History Month presentation was well received, thanks to Sam Baidoo who found Father JB.

Houselessness Advocacy – the group has been focusing on the Catlyst committee report and plans, raising the questions how can we afford these big ticket items when we can’t afford to end houselessness? There are also major concerns about opioids continuing to be laced with other drugs that are causing problems in other major cities and it is only a matter of time before they come here.

**Pastoral Care**

I have been visiting those in the hospital, and supporting someone whose father died recently.

**Gratitude Team- Stewardship**

The Gratitude Team has been working to get responses back from the Stewardship campaign which has been slow. The committee decided to follow up with an email and financial update from Jim’s most recent report, as well as a check in. We will send out a follow up letter once the committee meets again this week. The Committee is still looking for more members, as with three members, if one cannot make it we need to reschedule the meeting.

**Faith Formation**

Film & Faith had its largest turnout ever in January with 15. February was a smaller group. I have wondered about alternating between in theatre and watching a streamed movie at the church to offer better choice.

We tried Messy Church in person again January 28. I got Messy Church bags done in early December and Elaine and Anita helped deliver them.

Those involved in the Courageous Faith sessions enjoy them so much we will continue in the new year here, with new sessions starting Jan 26.

We have 11 participating in the Craft/Study group, with the next book being A Good War: Mobilizing Canada for the Climate Crisis

Eastside will visit Wesley United Church on April 23rd, when I am away.

**Continuing Education & Wider Church**

I am planning to go to the Inhabit conference in Seattle sponsored by the Parish Collective, which I have been to a number of times. It is April 21-23 and I am volunteering, which provides me with free registration. Others from the congregation would be welcome to attend. Some folk bring a group from their congregations to experience the stories and insights.

**LSC/MAP**

Wednesday Lenten services have had very poor ES attendance, so if you appreciate these services, I encourage you to attend.

Holy week we will share Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Breakfast services.

**Sabbatical Plans update**

I have recently been thinking about adding to my plans, shadowing some of those who work with the unhoused, to get a better sense of the needs and what we can do.

Brian learned that a trip to Egypt about the origins of the Enneagram led by one of our teachers is happening during my sabbatical time, so we are considering that as the trip during my time.