**Eastside United Church Leadership Team**

**Minutes of the December 20, 2023 Meeting**

**Attendees:** Janet Bjorndahl (Chair), Bonny Manz, Cathie Henderson, Teresa Strachan, Leanne Sudom, Amanda Benesh, Jim Fallows, Sarah Tkachuk, Ron Brandow, Hazel Arbon

**Regrets:**  Doug Scheurwater, Sam and Delia Baidoo

| **Agenda****#** | **Discussion**  | **Action**  |
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| **1.**  | **Call to Order – Janet**Called to order at 7:03 |  |
| **2.** | **Opening Devotion/Prayer - Hazel** |  |
| **3.** | **Acceptance of the Agenda** *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.)Discussed potential conflict of Sarah under items 6.1. |  |
| **5.** | **Minutes of the Nov 15, 2023 Special Leadership Team meeting** *Approved by consensus.* |  |
| **6.**  | **Old Business****6.1 Office Administrator Shared Use Agreement**Formal approval of the written agreement to share the Office Administrator with Bread of Life and LSC so that Janet can sign the agreement. The Bread of Life Chair has already signed the agreement.*Agreement approved by LT. The agreement is available on Google Docs.* |  |
| **7.**  | **New Business****7.1 Collaboration with area United Churches**4 Regina churches (Eastside, Heritage, St James, Broadway) and 2 out-of-town churches (Lumsden, Regina Beach) are in conversation about possibly sharing ministry personnel. Amalgamation is not immediately on the table, but we know it is a future possibility/likelihood. We have a proposal on the table for a limited collaboration (Eastside and St James) that will buy us a year to continue conversations.There was a lot of positive feedback about the agreement. Should the agreement get buy-in from two of the churches, it would mean each of us would have the Minister leading the service two of the four or five Sundays each month; with lay people, pulpit supply, guest speakers, or any alternate type of service (ie. Prayers & Meditation, Faith Stories) on the other Sundays. A service could be provided to us by another Minister and a lay person could use it to lead the service, with a recorded sermon being played. Faith Formation should likely have more members as will be the ones determining what type of service may be provided, finding lay people or pulpit supply, etc. A suggestion was made by Leanne that Christian Education should be separated from Faith Formation, as it was in the past, because of all the extra work. And perhaps trying to hire a student or someone to take care of Sunday School. The next meeting of the 6 churches is Wed Jan 3 at 7:00 pm at Eastside, to discuss the proposal with the ministers: Russell, Joy, and Dexter. 1 rep from each of M&P and Faith Formation are encouraged to attend.There are a number of considerations that will need to be done with another congregation. Items such as which committees or programs could be combined, such as committees like M&P, Faith Formation/Worship, Courageous Faith, Open Books, Community Dinner, Outreach activities.  The point was brought up that we needed to keep our awareness on the fact that we have a covenant with Bread of Life and this cannot supplant what we have with them nor our relationship and shared services, etc. A suggestion was made that any month there are five Sundays, we should share BoL’s service, as well as summer. We will also likely continue sharing the summer services with BoL. Informal evaluation will be carried out to ensure Russell is not experiencing burn out, nor volunteers.A communication package will need to be prepared for presentation at the next AGM. Janet would appreciate input for that. The messaging must be positive with a focus on what opportunities may be offered to try different ways of doing services. Sarah mentioned that we need to ensure that we still need to meet our budget so that members don’t think they can perhaps take a break or reduce their offering. People need to be assured that it is a work in progress and changes will be made, as needed. The next meeting of the 6 churches is Wed Jan 3 at 7:00 pm at Eastside, to discuss the proposal with the ministers: Russell, Joy, and Dexter. 1 rep from each of M&P and Faith Formation are encouraged to attend. ANOTHER TOPIC: With Russell’s leadership to do with the Warming Centre, he has been asked if people can start donating and could do it through Eastside so that it could be claimed on Income Tax. It was agreed it could be done as it is one of the church’s Outreach activities. Donators will need to be told that, should the Warming Centre not be funded properly and open, any donations will be passed to Carmichel Outreach. Or, should it be closed at some point with funds that were donated still available, those funds will be donated to Carmichel. The donations will be kept separate from the general funds.  | Janet to let Sarah know what she can share with the LSCC.Teresa will attend from M&P and Leanne hopes to make it from Faith Formation. |
| **8.** | **Next Meeting** Wed Jan 17 at 7:00 pm. |  |
| **8.** |  **Closing Prayer - Hazel** |  |
| **9.** | **Adjournment**Sarah ? moved meeting be adjourned at 8:10 |  |