**Eastside United Church Leadership Team**

**Minutes of the September 18, 2024 Meeting**

**Attendees:** Leanne Sudom (Chair), Ron Brandow, Russell Mitchell-Walker, Bonny Manz, Sam and Delia Baidoo, Sarah Tkachuk, Jim Fallows, Maureen Hughes, Lori Latta

**Regrets:** , Doug Scheurwater, Janet Bjorndahl

| **Agenda****#** | **Discussion**  | **Action**  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **1.**  | **Call to Order – Leanne**Called to order at 7:13 |  |
| **2.** | **Opening Devotion/Prayer - Russell** |  |
| **3.** | **Acceptance of the Agenda** Items 8.11 and 8.12 added*. Amended agenda moved for acceptance by Ron, 2nd by Sarah. Carried.* |  |
| **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 Apr 17, 2024, Leadership Team meeting****Minutes of the May 21, 2024, Leadership Team meeting***One amendment to April’s minutes. April’s amended minutes and May’s minutes moved for acceptance by Ron Brandow. 2nd by Sarah. Carried.***Ratification of the recommendation at the May 21, 2024, LT meeting***Moved by Leanne, 2nd by Teresa. Carried.* |  |
| **6.**  | **Business arising from the Minutes****6.1 Collaboration with area United Churches**Bonnie Yake will be Eastside’s M&P rep for the Collaboration |  |
| **7.**  | **New Business****7.1 Collaborative Opportunities**The LT committee was asked for collaborative ideas. The next collaboration meeting is the end of October, and a consultant will be assisting with the meeting. LT members are to give suggestions to one of the collaboration representatives to take to the meeting. A lot of work is required, as the various churches do many things differently; some examples being tech support, some have volunteers, we pay someone and have volunteers, and our Admin person does our social media, others have volunteers. ES also has a relationship with BoL to always keep in mind. A number of questions were asked, as follow:* Where’s collaboration going?
* What does it look like?
* How will it work?
 |  |
| **8.** | **Reports** **8.1 Minister - Russell** * See Russell’s report at end of minutes

**8.2 M&P – Lori*** Bonnie Yake and Lori Latta are the co-chairs, with Teresa Strachan as the other member
* There are a few things to work out with BoL to do with Admin. person’s work and vacation coverage

**8.3 Region – Ron**Ron gave us a report on the AGM, which he very much enjoyed, where there was lots of worship and lots of singing. Some highlights:* SK is lucky as there are many people out there doing a lot of work
* Many items were discussed by the attendees, such as diversity and inclusion; how to get members to volunteer when needed; being an affirming region (dancing and singing entertainment was presented by some two spirit people).
* All kinds of creative ideas were presented
* A celebration of ministry with retirees and new ministry staff and lay people was held, with a number of them telling about some issues they’ve had
* #1 – A presentation by Carmen Landsdowne, Moderator; Jordan Cantwell, Growth Animator Prairies; and Cameron Fraser, Director of Growth and Ministry Development. Carmen Landsdown spoke about Hope, Cam Fraser spoke about Looking Ahead, and Jordan Cantwell reminded us of the importance of Jesus in discerning the path that lies ahead, and that God has a plan for the United Church of Canada.
* Lois Wilson, former Moderator, died on September 13th

**8.4 Finance – Jim*** Donations down somewhat over the last few months.
	1. **Living Spirit Centre Council – Sarah**
* See Russell’s report

**8.6 Faith Formation – Leanne*** House of Dinah members will be folded into other leadership teams as no house leader
* A letter was received from the Chaplain, Regina Correctional Centre, asking for donations for Christmas items for people in custody. Some discussion but decision made not to donate this year but perhaps next. Also, suggestion that we see if someone could perhaps speak at one of our Community Dinners.
	1. **Gratitude team – Maureen**
* Stewardship will be done by LT this year, so work must begin on that soon. Discussion on what will be included in communication, whether responses will be requested this year, whether follow-up will be done, etc. Teresa could share a spreadsheet she had done for the Gratitude team.
* New members have joined the team – Trina Fallows, Jean MacKay, and Tanya Dyer and her daughter.

**8.8 Congregational Care – Delia*** Still trying to find more members; although it’s exciting, it is very busy, especially over the last while
* As well as contacting member they also formally welcome attendees every Sunday and have newcomer responsibilities
* The Grief books that are given to people that have lost someone, are from Stephen Ministries. Stewart Miller has offered to do some training on grief, based on information from Stephen Ministries, for those interested
* A suggestion has been made to start a grief support group. Heather Balfour was suggested as someone that could assist with that, if willing

**8.9 Climate Justice Committee – Bonny and Ron*** Further discussion will be held with Wascana Solar Co-op on a smaller solar array
* Another call was held with the person responsible for approving the grant, and decisions have been made to add additional items to reduce our footprint (Ideas: Replace fridges and water heater)
* Brian Abrahamson gave us a powerpoint presentation on a plan for how to get our building to a lower carbon footprint. It was also presented to the Property & Maintenance Committee for their buy-in.

**8.10 Chair – written report from Janet**See report following minutes.**8.11 Stewardship/Gratitude Dinner*** There is budget for this, and the LT committee made the decision to hold a lunch after church on October 20th.
* Minute for Mission will be done about Stewardship. It will be framed around the collaboration and what it will bring our congregations
* Gratitude lunch will be announced and RSVP’s requested
* Lunch will be catered; Delia will help with a program for the lunch, with help from Leanne, and others if they wish. Sarah also volunteered to help at the lunch.
* Deadline has to be soon for the letters, as packages need to be prepared and printed by Becca.
* Some Open Book members at the meeting, volunteered the people in Open Books to put the packages together

**8.12 Letter from Jim Balfour*** Request to join our congregation as a member after his retirement.
* Supported by LT, if Heather agrees 😊
 | Leanne will speak to Dinah membersLeanne will draft email response and send to Becca and RussellDelia to follow up with HeatherRussell will follow up with Filipino catererLeanne to draft message and send to Becca and Russell |
| **9.** | **Forward Looking*** Nothing
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| **10.** | **Next Meeting** November 13, 7:00 p.m. |  |
| **11.** |  **Closing Prayer Russell** |  |
| **9.** | **Adjournment**Sarah moved to adjourn at 9:08 |  |

**Eastside United Church**

**Leadership Team Minster’s Report**

Russell Mitchell-Walker

September 18, 2024

**Regina Cluster & Collaborative Ministry**

The Collaborative has it’s covenanting service Sept 29 at Heritage United Church at 10am. Ministry staff have been meeting once a week, and had a team building session on Sept 3. We will continue to meet regularly on Tuesdays at noon. We had a Worship Tech meeting last week that focussed on PowerPoints and trying to get consistency for the staff preparing. There is a variety of skills and understandings among the group which make it a bit challenging. We had a steering committee meeting last night and had some conversation about the focus for the Collaboration and potential goals for what we may become. One of the areas was properties, and that we should do an assessment of each community of faiths’ property like the Anglicans did. We agreed that the majority of the next meeting should be spend imagining possible scenarios or outcomes of the Collaboration so we can discuss where we may go from there. The last two weeks have been incredibly busy with meetings and has made me wonder if the Collaboration is less work! However with only preaching twice a week, it does make a big difference.

**Parish Ministry/Outreach**

Food for Thought at the Queen City Wellness Pharmacy has been going well, with last week I had 6 people. This week however I had no-one. There were a few people in the lobby when I came out to give away the food, who would have come in if they had known. With it being only the first and third Wednesday it is hard for street people to keep track of. It would be better if we could meet every week but I don’t have the volunteers to make lunch or financial resources to do it every week.

Indigenous Day- went quite well, and was a learning experience for what to bring. Next time we need to have things to give away (food, water, bubbles, promotional items). We did get interest from one youth who came to Film and Faith which was unexpected!

INI Café Live is on hiatus for now, while ICF looks for a program staff person.

LSC Climate Justice Committee is working with Faithful Footprints to complete the audit and secure the funding to begin the solar panels and work toward getting heat pumps. Once approved if we move forward in reducing our carbon footprint by purchasing an electric water heater for the dishwasher, we can get another $10,000. They also encouraged us to find other sources of funding.

The Community Dinner will have Shylo Stevenson from the Queen City Wellness Pharmacy speaking this week on Reconciliation. There is still sufficient funds to continue having Munch Cater, and I have also asked Doug Scheurwater if he is willing to provide a meal every other month.

The Warm Welcome Coalition has completed a pamphlet of questions to ask provincial candidates as a resource. We will print 500 to distribute as well as email to networks. We will ask our network to help fund this and I said we could receive and hold that money. We also have questions for the municipal candidates. We met with Minister Makowski in August and received confirmation last week for funding for the Carmichael Warming Centre. We hope it will be operational by November 1 and will provide meals again. We need someone from Eastside to coordinate meals/sandwich making for our contribution.

**Pastoral Care**

I have been so busy since I got back that I have hardly been able to make any calls to check in on those needing pastoral care. We had two funerals over the summer – Dale Banks and Barry Adamko. Pastor Stewart is now dealing with his father who has cancer and may not have very long left. Another member’s husband died while I was away and Dexter took the funeral.

**Gratitude Team**

Teresa Strachan did an amazing job sending emails to a number of people over the summer, to recruit members for the Gratitude Team. We have three new members as a result willing to help at some level: Trina Fallows, Jean MacKay, as committee members and Tanya Dyer (and her daughter) who are willing to help with Gratitude notes. Maureen Hughes will be leaving the committee after the next meeting.

**Faith Formation**

Film and Faith had a good number of folk to watch Inside Out 2 in June. We will meet again Sept 27.

Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Books started the book The Wall Between written by a Palestinian and a Jewish person, which was published just before the war broke out. It is very insightful and timely.

Messy Church will continue once a month on the second Thursdays from 5:30-7:30 starting Oct 10. We agreed to have one location which will be LSC. We have lost the support from Harmony’s staff person and Mary Vetter from Bread of Life. I have asked the Collaboration if there is anyone from their congregations willing to help.

Courageous Faith continues online drawing from the speakers in the most recent summit by Convergence on the theme of Rethink Children and Youth Ministry.

**Continuing Education & Wider Church**

I have been working with the Cluster on a gathering for Oct 5 that will help communities of faith to identify what issues they wish to work on with other congregations and provide an opportunity to begin that work together. There is a Cluster Wide worship scheduled for October 6 but only the Collaboration churches and Westminster are planning to participate by not having worship that morning. We are discerning whether it should happen in light of this.

The Cluster, the Collaboration, and the Strong Towns local chapter will be working toward a Strong Towns event for the new year (January/February).

Jenni Krall is entering the Diaconal Ministry program and has asked me to be her Mentor. I have also helped her to find her social justice placement, at the Friendship Centre, and a few other pieces (like the Pharmacy, Warm Welcome, Hawk Co-op)

**LSC/MAP**

Mt Sinai returned to their original location in August.

ADPA the African Descent Professional Association (UCAS) have moved in and begun participating with us in staff meetings. They have three rooms for offices (two upstairs and one down) LSC Council needs to work to develop what a partnership agreement might look like given they are not a worshipping community and that there is uncertainty about involving equity like we did in the past. We do still have room for another worshipping community Sunday morning if there is a community of faith interested.

We will have a shared worship with Bread of Life on November 10 for Remembrance Day/Peace at 10am.

**Eastside United Church**

**Leadership Team Chair’s Report**

Janet Bjorndahl

Sep 2024

This summer saw the official beginning of the Collaborative Ministry, and we’ve already seen some benefit. Dexter covered pastoral care and support for the Leadership Team while Russell was away in August, and Regina Beach invited us to a worship service and BBQ on August 11, which packed their church. The choir welcomed us with a lovely song, and the children’s choir, formed from several of our congregations, offered a number of lively songs.

In addition, the availability of Dexter’s written service and recorded sermon meant that Russell could attend an out-of-town family event in July while I led the service in his absence.

Bonnie Morton started her position with the Collaboration on Aug. 12.

We look forward to our covenanting service on Sep 29, at Lumsden St. Andrew’s.

Just a reminder: I am away until Sep 25.