**EASTSIDE PROGRAM CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**MAY 26, 2024**

**PROGRAM MEETING NOTICE:** Notice for this meeting was part of the weekly announcements which are sent via email to Eastside members. As well, the meeting notice was given at the church services, the last three Sundays.

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 12:40 by Janet Bjorndahl.

1. **Motion to allow adherents to vote.**

*Moved by Carol Hein. Seconded by Ron Brandow. Carried.*

1. **Motion to adopt the agenda.**

*Item 8.b added. Motion to adopt amended agenda - Jayne Krueger. Seconded by* *Donna Lindskog. Carried.*

1. **Motion to adopt the minutes of the February 25, 2024 Congregational Finance Meeting.**

*Moved by Elaine Hill. Seconded by Donna Lindskog. Carried.*

Additional Motion: Moved by Jayne Krueger to ratify the motions made at the February 25 Congregational Finance Meeting.

1. **Programming Reports:**
	1. Leadership Team
	2. Ministry and Personnel
	3. Faith Formation
	4. Congregational Care

 Elaine Hill made a plea for additional people on their committee. They have one monthly meeting and go for lunch afterward. They keep in touch with many of our members who perhaps don’t make it to church services, or are struggling. Claire Banks added her admiration for what this committee does.

* 1. Living Spirit Council

1. **Proposed Collaborative Ministry Agreement – Janet Bjorndahl**

Janet expanded on what was written in the Annual Program Report package.

Of the 5 congregations named in the Collaborative Ministry Agreement, Heritage and St. Andrew’s shared a minister for 18 months until the end of April, when their minister left for a call in Ontario. St. James and Eastside each have a full-time minister, and Regina Beach doesn’t have a minister but uses pulpit supply every Sunday.

The congregations have been feeling some gaps, such as adequate time for pastoral care. Regina Beach has trouble finding people, especially United Church people, for pulpit supply, and has no pastoral care coverage. These needs led to an interest in collaboration.

For May and June, Russell and Dexter Van Dyke are looking after 4 churches (Eastside, St. James, Heritage, and St. Andrew’s), while Regina Beach continues with pulpit supply.

Heritage and St. Andrew’s appointed Bonnie Morton as their new full-time minister, to start about the middle of August. In the meantime, Russell and Dexter, with assistance from our usual summer collaboration with Bread of Life, will ensure that worship services continue. As of July 1, Russell will continue in full-time ministry, while Dexter will drop to half-time.

The agreement includes some efficiencies by preparing worship services and sermons to be shared, which frees up ministers’ time for other things. There is a suggested schedule that shows how we can have worship in each church each Sunday – this schedule will evolve over time.

Janet read the “purpose” under #2 (Page 2), and spoke about #4 (Page 3) saying the biggest change is the sharing of ministers. This will mean that laypeople will be leading the service twice a month, with a minister doing the other two. Laypeople will be provided with the service and a recorded sermon. Congregations are also being encouraged to participate in other congregations’ program activities and events.

Each congregation will keep their own Admin. person and their own M&P committee.

Ministers’ salaries work as follows:

* Heritage and St. Andrews will each be responsible for half Bonnie Morton’s salary
* Eastside will be responsible for ¾ of Russell’s salary and St. James will be responsible for ¼ of Russell’s salary, as well as Dexter’s half-time salary
* Regina Beach will contribute the value of pulpit supply for one Sunday each month.

Congregations are asked to make a one-year commitment to this, although adjustments may be made over that time.

1. **Questions and Answers/Discussion**

*Q1) Will just ministers be moving between churches or the congregations?*

*A1) Ministers will be moving the majority of the time, although joint services may be held sometimes. As well, ES may worship with BoL occasionally, like what is done now.*

*Q2) Will our ES services be held at the same time in June?*

*A2) For most of the month, yes. (We start our summer schedule on June 30.)*

*Q3) What is happening in relation with the Region and National with what’s happening?*

*A3) There are already some other collaborations being done. The National office has information on how collaborations work. The Region still considers us as 5 separate churches.*

*Q4)* *How do the ministers feel about this?*

*A4) Russell answer – The ministers feel pretty good about it so far. He has noticed he had a bit of free time already. He also said Pastoral Care will continue to be by him for Eastside people, and ministers will do the same at their main charges. And they will share the Pastoral Care for those in the other congregations between them.*

*Q5) Eastside is already familiar with our services and programs here, and have been open to varied ways of doing things. Will we still have our uniqueness with this agreement?*

*A5) The ministers have discussed what and how they manage different aspects of their ministries but, if any members find they have concerns or issues, please bring those to their attention.*

*Q6) How long will the Nigerian and Philippine renters be continuing to hold services here?*

*A6) The Nigerian congregation may be moving as early as mid-June. The Philippines are long-term renters.*

1. **Motions**

*“That Eastside United Church agrees to enter into a collaborative ministry agreement with Heritage United Church (Regina), Regina Beach United Church (Regina Beach), St. Andrew’s United Church (Lumsden), and St. James United Church (Regina) and to:*

1. *Abide by the terms and schedules as set out in the Collaborative Ministry Agreement;*
2. *Follow all basic requirements of The Manual.*

***Moved by Janet Bjorndahl. Seconded by Elaine Hill. Carried.***

“*That Eastside United Church requests that Living Skies Regional Council approve the content of the Collaborative Ministry Agreement.”*

***Moved by Janet Bjorndahl. Seconded by Ron Brandow. Carried.***

*“That Eastside United Church empower:*

1. *The Leadership Team to appoint representatives and alternates to the Joint Steering Committee;*
2. *The Faith Formation Committee to appoint a representative and alternate(s) to the Joint Worship Committee;*

*who will represent the interests of Eastside United Church in the implementation of the Collaborative Ministry Agreement (see* ***Collaborative Ministry Agreement*** *attachment for details).”*

***Moved by Janet Bjorndahl. Seconded by Leanne Sudom. Carried.***

1. **Finance Report: Projected Expenses for July – Dec 2024 – Jim Fallows**

The Collaborative Ministry Agreement will mean a savings of approximately $30,000.00 over a year, although the LSC are losing Emmanuel so their revenue will be lower. (See Report)

There will be a transition time and it will take awhile to determine how much difference it will make to our budget requirements.

Russell said they are currently in discussions with a possible new partner for the LSC.

1. **Nominations and Elections**
	1. **Ministry and Personnel**

Bonnie Yake put her name forward to be a member of the Ministry and Personnel committee.

***Lori Latta moved that Bonnie Yake be appointed to the committee. Seconded by Ron Brandow. Carried***

* 1. **Regional Council**

Ron Brandow will be attending as our Regional Representative. Becca asked if she could attend as a second representative.

***Leanne Sudom moved that Ron and Becca be appointed as our representatives. Seconded by Bonnie Yake. Carried.***

1. **Enabling Motion**

“the Eastside Leadership Team be empowered to deal with and act on all routine and emergent matters until the next congregational meeting except those matters which, according to the Manual of the United Church of Canada, require congregational approval.”

*Moved by Sonia Abrahamson. Seconded by Anita Tessier. Carried.*

1. **Motion to Adjourn**

Bonnie Yake moved meeting be adjourned. Adjournment - 1:45 p.m.