**Eastside United Church Leadership Team**

**Minutes of the April 17, 2024 Meeting**

**Attendees:** Janet Bjorndahl (Chair), Cathie Henderson, Leanne Sudom, Jim Fallows, Ron Brandow, Doug Scheurwater, Russell Mitchell-Walker, Jim Fallows, Bonny Manz, Teresa Strachan

**Regrets:** Sarah Tkachuk, Sam and Delia Baidoo

| **Agenda**  **#** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **1.** | **Call to Order – Janet**  Called to order at 6:58 |  |
| **2.** | **Opening Devotion/Prayer - Russell**  Exploring our “Why” and “The Dangerous Prayer” |  |
| **3.** | **Acceptance of the Agenda**  *Two items added. Amended Agenda moved by Teresa, 2nd by Ron. 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.) |  |
| **5.** | **Minutes of the March 13, 2024 Leadership Team meeting**  *Cathie moved acceptance, 2nd by Teresa. Approved.* |  |
| **6.** | **Business arising from the Minutes**  **6.1 Collaboration with area United Churches**  Update on the latest conversations and upcoming work:   * See Russell’s Report at end of minutes * Latest version of the Collaboration Agreement will be reviewed and discussed at the next sub-committee meeting on April 23rd * The Agreement will go to the full committee for review and approval * Will then be taken to Congregations for approval * Planned start date – July 1, 2024   **6.2 AGM Meeting Date**   * May 26th. Reports will need to be to Becca by last week in April. * The budget must be done for the last 6 months of 2024 | Approvals by committee and congregations  Janet to let Jim know budget implications for balance of year |
| **7.** | **New Business**  **7.1 Reps to Regional Meeting – Janet**   * We are allowed 2 reps based on our size. Ron plans to go and Becca has asked to go as well. Registration fee is $175. It is in Saskatoon.   *Cathie moved that Becca’s registration be covered by ES. 2nd by Leanne. Approved*  **7.2 Office Administrator Conference – Cathie**   * Becca would like to attend a 1-week conference for UCC office administrators in October.   *Cathie moved that Becca’s conference fees in the amount of $475.00 be covered from her training* budget*. 2nd by Jim. Approved*  **7.3 Joint Service May 19 (Pentecost and long weekend) at St. James – Leanne**   * Recommendation from Faith Formation to attend St. James for a shared Pentecost service on May 19. Agreement that ES will attend St. James.   **7.4 Outreach as part of Eastside’s ministry – Russell/Leanne**   * ES has no Outreach committee and most of work done by Russell and Faith Formation * Suggestion that a joint committee be formed with the other congregations in the Collaborative Ministry (CM), including a suggestion that churches have a budget line for it   **7.5 Finding volunteers for committees**   * Discussion on how to get people involved in the committees * Suggestions:   + Share information on what each committee does   + Approach people personally   + Include request for volunteers before the AGM in newsletter * The M&P committee is required to have another member and anyone joining has to be elected by congregation, so someone needed before AGM   **7.6 Options for a Sweat Lodge**   * Shilo from Queen City Pharmacy asked Russell if it was possible to put a sweat lodge on the land beside our building but City owned. Discussion on whether there may be other places more suitable and what the expectations would be for our building if it was done beside us.   **7.7 Mt. Sinai Issues**   * A number of issues have been brought forward by our building custodian, as well as some others (messy areas, juice on walls, children’s footprints on kitchen counters, damage to bldg., etc.) * No rent has been paid yet, and Becca has been trying to determine how much to invoice them, as it has been noticed that activities may be held at the church outside of their assigned rental time. Suggestion made to invoice for their regular times, and then determine any extra time to be invoiced. * The LSCC has determined that Russell, Stewart, and Brent (Chair of LSCC) will meet with them | No service at ES  Janet and Russell to bring it to the next CM meeting  Russell will discuss further with Shilo  Discussions to be held with them |
| **8.** | **Reports**  **8.1 Minister**   * Sandwich makers needed to assist on April 28th for Warming Centre, plus anyone willing to donate additional items such as juice, granola bars, etc. * Also see Russell’s report at end of minutes   **8.2 M&P – Cathie**   * Russell’s Job Description is to be updated * Also see Agenda items 7.1 and 7.2 re. Becca   **8.3 Region – Ron**   * No Executive meeting in March * Registration for Regional AGM will be open soon   **8.4 Finance – Jim**   * Offering has been fairly good   **8.5 Living Spirit Centre Council – Sarah (absent)**   * No report   **8.6 Faith Formation – Leanne**   * A new House Leader is needed for Dinah * A survey will be done for feedback on services provided during Russell’s sabbatical * Pride Sunday is on June 9th with a guest speaker from Lulu’s Lodge * Communion preparation is being returned to House Groups’ responsibility * Hyun Ju will be leaving the end of April, and Michelle Dickie is returning as pianist   **8.7 Gratitude team – Teresa**   * Discussion on whether Gratitude Dinner will be a dinner or just cake or something. And, if a dinner, if it will be catered or prepared by congregation members (Doug and ?) * The team would appreciate having another member to assist with writing “Thank You” cards * Stewardship will be done by other than the Gratitude Team (ie. Sub-group of LT)   **8.8 Congregational Care – Delia (report via email)**   * Had a resignation and only three members so more members would be appreciated   **8.9 Climate Justice Committee – Bonny**   * A DIY Energy Audit was downloaded from Faithful Footprints and members of the P&M committee are to complete it, with Bonny joining them, if available * No money for solar panels from LSCC so are investigating Wascana Solar Coop possibly doing them, suggesting congregation may wish to invest through them. The Coop will be invited to speak to LSCC. * Mary Vetter (BoL) providing weekly info. for newsletter * April 21- Earth Day- guest speaker * Possible outdoor services in summer time, getting more in touch with nature   **8.10 Chair – Janet**   * All items covered under other agenda items. |  |
| **9.** | **Forward Looking**   * Nothing |  |
| **10.** | **Next Meeting**  May 29, 2024 7:00 |  |
| **11.** | **Closing Prayer Russell** |  |
| **9.** | **Adjournment**  Doug moved to adjourn at 9:15 |  |

**Eastside United Church**

**Leadership Team Minster’s Report**

Russell Mitchell-Walker

April 17, 2024

**Regina Cluster & Collaborative Ministry**

I met with the Cluster close to monthly while on sabbatical to plan the event that just happened this weekend which included a joint service that all city churches participated in except Lakeview. The event had about 45 people attend with good engagement with Jordan Cantwell and conversation about our WHY as a church and how we be church in Regina. We heard from Terry Page from Immanuel Anglican who shared how they assessed their buildings in the 5 to 1 process. There were also workshops on Growing Your Church, Growing Generosity, and Stewardship of Buildings’ Carbon Footprint. The worship gathered over 300 people including about 60 people in a mass choir from 6 churches.

The Collaborative Ministry is coming along well and has been a lot of work. We are working with St. James, Heritage, St. Andrews’ Lumsden, and Regina Beach (for once a month coverage). The plan is to follow the model that Heritage and St. Andrews’ has been doing, which is a minister preaching in person and providing a video of the sermon for the other congregation(s) that would have a lay led service. There are now three groups working and meeting: the whole group; a Worship planning group; and an Agreement group, working out the details of the Agreement. Janet Bjorndahl has done an incredible amount of work in all these groups and particularly in creating and rewriting the numerous drafts of the agreement (we are on draft 5). It has been a lot of work in general sometimes I have had three meetings within 7 days. We are aiming to have the Collaborative Ministry Agreement approved by the whole group May 7 and then go to each community of faith for congregational approval. The minister at Heritage has given her notice and will be finished at the end of the month, so Dexter vanDyke and I have developed a schedule, approved by the Worship Group, for coverage for the 4 communities of faith during May and June. Dexter is also leading worship for me when I am away next weekend.

**Parish Ministry/Outreach**

INI Café Live takes place this Friday with a Non-Inidgenous performer I have been trying to get for a long time. I had her lined up for last month (before I left on sabbatical) and ICF cancelled on me, so I am very glad she was able to do this month.

LSC Climate Justice Committee is hosting its third shared service and pot luck this Sunday with guest speaker Dale Hjertaas who will speak on ways we can mitigate climate change in our homes and yard and gardens. We are working toward getting the Wascana Solar Co-op to speak to the LSC Council about them doing the solar panels and we purchase shares(individually or as a congregation/community). We are also working toward doing a full energy audit of the building.

The Community Dinner had Bonnie Morton speak on guaranteed liveable income in March and Laura Stewart will be presenting Earth Day music she has created on Thursday.

**Pastoral Care**

There were a number of folk who had pastoral needs while I was away.  I am grateful to the Congregational Care Team for offering support to these folk, and Pastor Stewart for visiting when asked, while I was away. Over the last few weeks, two members had surgery, one was heart, two members lost sisters, and another member’s mother died.  Two members are living with cancer and treatments.

**Gratitude Team/Stewardship**

Gratitude Team is holding off on planning a stewardship campaign until the LT gives some direction for this planning. We have been focusing on Gratitude, providing thank yous and focusing on messages of generosity and the possibility of a Gratitude Dinner. We need more members, and have been asking people outside the Team to offer Minutes for Mission.

**Faith Formation**

Film and Faith was facilitated by Carlin Richards and Kacey(Lilac) Colibaba while I was off. Since back we have had one evening in March, with low attendance.  
Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Books continued to meet while I was on Sabbatical, finishing the book Do I Stay Christian by Brian McLaren and were able to end it with a session where Brian joined us online for Q&A. We are now reading **Braiding Sweetgrass** by Robin Wall Kimmerer Attendance is around 10.

Messy Church has continued once a month on the second Thursdays from 5:30-7:30. Attendance has been low as well.

Courageous Faith continues online and was led by Kacey(Lilac) while I was off, and since I’ve been back as I have had conflicts some of the Thursdays. There are 6 participants.

Faith Formation had a Games afternoon that went well though a small attendance

**Continuing Education & Wider Church**

I am going to Seattle for the annual Inhabit Conference of the Parish Collective where stories of being church in the neighbourhood are shared. I am volunteering to get free registration and accommodation during the conference, but it is in a different venue which means I needed to rent a car, and have accommodation on either end of the conference. With increased costs this has been higher costs than expected.

I have been invited to apply to a Diakonia Overcoming Violence Exchange (DOVE) in San Bonito, Texas Oct 14-19, to live and learn with migrants about immigration issues and challenges.

I continue to be consultant for the national church, working with workplace harassment, sexual abuse and pastoral misconduct, and ethical practices for minister.

**Sabbatical Houselessness Follow up**

I continue to co-chair the Warm Welcome Coalition that is working with the warming centres and providing food support for them. We have also moved to the wider agenda of ending houselessness and to this end are focusing on the upcoming elections and providing resources for people to engage with their candidates.

Eastside has not been able to provide food for the warming centre(s) but will be joining with Bread of Life to provide food on April 30 with making sandwiches on April 28.

Coming out of my work the Queen City Wellness Pharmacy, I have started a discussion group, twice a month called Food for Thought. This provides an opportunity for folk to bring questions about God, the Bible, the church, Jesus, etc for non judgemental conversation. We are looking for folk to provide food for 5-10 people and church members are welcome to attend as well.

**LSC/MAP**

We have spent significant time among staff discussing the challenges of managing Mt Sinai congregation .and the mess and damages we have found and are leaving. There are also concerns regarding their denomination not being supportive of LGBTQ folk or ordaining women. The LSC Council needs to meet with them to discuss not only these issues but raising their rent as they are paying old rates and are using space more than originally agreed upon. The Council will need to discern if this rental can continue.

Broadway considered a motion at their annual meeting to visit here on a Sunday to get a sense of what it would be like to worship here. It was tabled until the fall. If they came and Mt. Sinai is still here, Broadway would have priority.