

Attendance

Pastoral Charge

Benito - Kenville

Dauphin

Ethelbert

Flin Flon

Gilbert Plains

Grandview

Hillsview

Lakeside

Ochre River

Pine River

Roblin

Snow Lake

Swan River

The Pas

Thompson

Wellman Lake Camp

UCW Presbyterial

Conference Staff

(* in/out for funeral)

Lay Delegate

Linda Marlin

Sheri Pearson

John Towle

Bev Brinkman

Denie Quon

Eric Neufeld

Marg West

Sharon McMillan

Anna Stewart

Phyllis Verbeek

Ed Gorchynski

Linda Buchanan

Teena Ross

Dorothy Smith

Don Fulford

Nelson Skomorowski

Teena Ross (The Pas)

Clergy Delegate

Kevin Sprong (Sat.)

Ilene Dowd

Karen Kuzek

Karen Kuzek

Mark Hammond *

Jenny Sprong *

Joan Jarvis

Members at Large: Ron Marlin, Betty Rudd, Albert Quon, Nelson Skomorowski

Retained on Roll: Rev. Steve Wilson (Sat.), Rev. Leslie King, Rev. John Oussoren, Rev. Ed Loucks, Rev. Kathy Highmoor

Visitors: Grace Skomorowski, Lynn Simpson, Marilyn Simpson (Roblin)

Regrets: Ron Black (Flin Flon) Brian Cotton (Benito Kenville) Barbara Steinwandt (Grandview)

Friday September 16th 2016

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by the chairperson Rev. Leslie King at 2:30 pm. A quorum was present.

Welcome: Delegates were welcomed by the chairperson. Rev. Mark Hammond welcomed delegates on behalf of Knox United and the community of Roblin. Now that we are Affirming, we need to make extra effort to ensure that the needs of all are met as best as possible. He shared some of the local places to visit in town. He gave options in regards to some "free time" activities for Saturday.

Opening Worship: This worship session was conducted by Ron and Linda Marlin. Lighting of Christ Candle Hymn # 395 VU. Opening Prayer. Ribbon exercise based on Lord's Prayer. Hymn 138 MV. Commissioning.

Holy Manners: This was read aloud by the chairperson.

Housekeeping Motions

Quorum:

Motion # 1: Ron Marlin / Ed Loucks

That Northland Presbytery, for the current church year, utilize option # 2 for a quorum as per the Manual C.5.6.1

Explanation of a quorum and the suggested option # 2 in the Manual was given by Ron Marlin & Rev. Leslie King. CARRIED

Corresponding Members:

Motion # 2: Ron Marlin / Linda Buchanan

That all visitors to this meeting of Northland Presbytery be considered as corresponding members. CARRIED

Agenda:

Member's attention was drawn to the draft agenda that was previously sent out via e-mail and amended at the start of this meeting.

Motion #3: Ron Marlin / Don Fulford

That the agenda for this meeting be accepted as amended, with further revisions approved as needed. CARRIED

Minutes:

Ron Marlin referred members to the minutes from our last full court meeting held in The Pas February 26th / 28th 2016 which had been previously circulated.

Motion # 4: Ron Marlin / Teena Ross

That the minutes from the Northland Presbytery General Meeting held in The Pas from February 26th / 28th 2016 pages 2447 to 2466 inclusive be accepted as circulated. CARRIED

Motion # 5: Ron Marlin / Anna Stewart

That the minutes from the following meeting of the Northland Presbytery Executive be received as information; June 4th 2016 pages 2467 / 2470 CARRIED

Early Departures

Motion # 6: Ron Marlin / Marg West

That the Court gives its permission for any member at this meeting who is required to leave prior to the conclusion of this meeting to depart as needed. CARRIED

Acknowledgement of Regrets:

As noted on page one.

Correspondence List:

A correspondence list had been prepared but not printed off. Ron Marlin verbally reviewed the contents of the list with the court and advised that a "hard" copy would be in the minutes. There was nothing that required action – items had been referred to needed committees.

Theme Time # 1: GC# 42 Remit Reviews #5 – 7 – 8) This session was facilitated by our lay commissioner to GC42, Linda Buchanan.

She gave a short background of the remit process.

Remit # 5: Linda explained what a ministry partner is. Rev. Joan Jarvis gave a concrete example of what this would look like (not someone seeking admission to the UCC, just serving in a ministry unit of the UCC for a term period).

There was a short period of discussion in regards to the remit. Consensus decision was that the court was ready to vote, a show of hands would be used.

Remit # 5 YES

Remit: # 7: Linda Buchanan gave a background of the process of this remit, referring to appendix A of the remit handout outlining the details. This would make for a more uniform approach when looking for new ministry personnel. Presbyteries are currently involved. Should our structure change, then the Manual would have to be re-worded to reflect these changes (i.e.: Region vs Conference). The hope will be that candidacy will be streamlined and more uniform across the UCC. Linda felt that it is the intent that needs to be reviewed not all of the intricate details.

A question was asked about our process – with the idea that we would not be voting until tomorrow and we have presbyters who are not here. Comment was then made that persons here today will be gone tomorrow.

The chair felt that we needed to stick with our original decision to vote tomorrow. There are no provisions for a proxy vote. We approved the agenda so we need to stick with it. An opportunity was given to the ministerial persons present to give an opinion on this new pathway vs. the way it was done when they went through.

Remit # 8: A short explanation of this remit was given by Linda Buchanan. The decision still would rest with the congregation; they get the decision as to yes or no about voting. A number of churches have been allowing this already, without formal authorization. Discussion was held about the benefits of being a member and just being an adherent. We should not forget about the “benefit” of being a full member. Participation of persons in various aspects of the church life is important.

Pastoral Charge reports:

Dauphin: Linda Marlin gave a short report. We celebrate the re-retirement of Rev. Larry McPhail and welcome Ilene Dowd to continue our church journey.

Outreach wise the Syrian Refugee families are doing well. The church takes a meal to the food bank six times a year and the Christmas dinner is one the horizon. The church is vibrant.

Gilbert Plains: John Towle gave a short report. They have ministry two times a month (SPA) with Rev. Karen Kuzek. There is a new choir member. Blessed with many banners, they are changed on a regular basis. Enjoying worship and just being church

Grandview: The Choir is active; they celebrate their partnership with Gilbert Plains. Care of the church, both inside and outside is important and well taken care of. The church is actively involved with the Food Bank. They get the children into the church with their Wacky Wednesday program for youth.

Roblin: Rev. Mark Hammond & Nelson Skomorowski gave a report. New church year is going. Congregational members well involved with the community, they are also doing the Affirming Process. There are lots of church activities – bible studies – choir etc. They have a prayer shawl ecumenical ministry with the Catholic Church. The church building has only \$21000.00 left from an almost \$350000.00 loan from GC.

They help out Meals on Wheels and a school breakfast program. They also supported refugee initiatives in both Dauphin and Swan River and fundraising for the Food Grains Bank.

Swan River: Rev. Jenny Sprong gave a report. They had a Flower and Harvest festival this year (slides shown). 65 participants and lots of art and talent were shared. Slides showed what was at this festival, with contributions from a number of people. The refugee committee continues their work. There were many areas of community interest and involvement highlighted. Things are good.

Thompson: Report given by Dorothy Smith

The charge is still looking for a minister but lay persons and outsiders stepping up to provide needed ministry. The training of Sacraments Elders has made a great difference at their point. Church has received new coat of paint.

The Pas: Teena Ross gave a report. UCW is very active - \$1000.00 donation to the Dauphin Refugee initiative. Community involvement is active, with catering done, allowing use of church property for events and putting on a carol service. They put on a special medieval meal. Care of the church property is a priority (church garden). Congregation is very appreciative of the two LLWL who lead their services.

Snow Lake: Report given by Phyllis Verbeek. Services continue with lay leadership and occasional visiting ministers. They have started to use the rainbow candle in the church. They had one day of going from church to church to talk about what each church did. Snow Lake is still here!

Hillsview: A group of nine lay people are leading services while they are without a minister. Sunday school is active. Rev. Kathy Highmoor is coming back to do two Sundays a month pulpit supply. Services are planned now until the end of the year. They have many gifted people at the church.

Education & Students doing a presentation for Sac Elders and then a second day of pastoral care education in October (weekend event)

Ethelbert: Report given by Ilene Dowd. She is doing services at Ethelbert once a month, vote split for service times 8am or 1pm. Will be doing some services at each time and then a firm decision – with assistance from presbytery – on a continued basis with blessing from Dauphin.

Lynn Lake: Rev. Leslie King gave a short report. They meet weekly, mostly lay leadership but one main “cog” has left. There is a second person who might be leaving. Discernment is going on about what the future might look like. They have already voted on the first set of remits. Rev. King goes maybe ¾ times a year and provides occasional pastoral care.

John Oussoren: gave a short overview of his involvement in the Bredenburg, Saltcoats, Churchbridge and Langenburg areas. They have not had a regular full time minister. Retired ministers assist and they have a student supply person present (two Sundays a month) dividing services at two locations each week. John attends to provide periodic communion services. He gave some examples of community involvement at those points.

Pine River: Report given by Ron Marlin. Their long time Sunday supply person (Rev. Marg McCallum) is no longer going there. They have also lost some of their main lay persons. They are hopeful that presbytery will be able to help with service provision.

Ochre River: Report given by Ron Marlin. No services at this location for a year. Congregation has been in a period of discernment for a couple of years. Church property has been sold and the congregation is making some decisions in the future about the continuation of the congregation. Some main people there are now attending Dauphin.

Ste. Rose: Report given by Ron Marlin. They are content with life; they are getting services once a month by Rev. Steve Wilson. They have a dedicated group of thirteen people coming and their budget is in the black. Both satisfied and blessed with the ministry they are getting.

Closing Worship: This worship session was conducted by Rev. Karen Kuzek. She gave a reading of a poem by Sue Brown "Christian Traditions" from her book "Seeing Christ in Others". Some words of meditation and a rock exercise. Hymn 278 VU, finished with blessing.

Saturday September 17th 2016

The meeting was reconvened at 9am by the chairperson

Announcements: Presbyters were reminded to have their expense sheets ready for submission to the treasurer this afternoon. The court was reminded to keep Rev. Alex McGilvery and his wife (Flin Flon) in our thoughts and prayers. Local arrangements advised to let them know about numbers visiting the museum. Nelson is willing to take group out to a combine demonstration. John Oussoren advised the court about Touchstone magazine, (hardcopy & web based) which contains a number of articles in regards to our remits.

Opening Worship: This worship session was conducted by Linda Buchanan and Teena Ross. Opening prayer, Hymn #10 MV. Reading from Mathew 25: 31-46. A short message was given by Linda Buchanan. She spoke about "homeless Jesus" focussing on a statue by Timothy Schmatz. He has done a number of these and they are around the world. She asked input from the court about images of Jesus we have experienced. Examples of what Pope Francis has done were given. Hymn 702 VU.

Pastoral Oversight Committee:

An update on the status of this committee was given by Rev. Leslie King. This committee does not have a chair. We have a mandated responsibility to do this. Northland Presbytery is not fulfilling this. Don Fulford advised that he has looked at this, but would like more information on the logistics of doing this. Leslie gave some basic background of this committee. The main role is to support both ministry personnel and pastoral charges. In a perfect world three pastoral charges would be visited each year. A short discussion was held about human resources. Response was resource of people available/willing plus scheduling times to do the work. Perhaps teleconference would be a way of assisting to do the work. Offer an honorarium for the convenor. (Theme discussion at Minitonas March 2017?)

Nominations Committee:

A report was given by Rev. Karen Kuzek. This committee is aware of the vacancies. Pastoral Oversight and the Green Committee need members. Marg West has agreed to convene the Green Committee. The position of chair elect is also open.

Motion # 7 Karen Kuzek / Albert Quon

That the report of this committee be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

Pastoral Relations Committee:

A report was given by Linda Buchanan. The committee met yesterday and reviewed where things are in the presbytery. They had a discussion about whether the pastoral charges should be paying the cost of the supervision. They felt that this was a mandate that Presbytery has and as such the cost would be presbytery. Technology can be used. Each pastoral charge supervisor should be reviewed each year. Possibly some education on the role of the supervisor could be done. Difference between Oversight

and Relations was discussed. Charges need to be sent an overview of the role of the supervisor. Linda then gave an overview of the current situation within the presbytery. (Same attached as Appendix "A")

Motion # 8: Linda Buchanan / Teena Ross

That the report of this committee be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

Theme Time # 2: GC42 Remits (continued from Theme time # 1)

Linda Buchanan gave a short review of yesterday's session.

She then focussed on the discussion held on **Remit # 7**. There are still options in this proposed process that allows a longer term of discernment and that each Region will still have input into how this structure will unfold. Consensus was to vote by a show of hands.

Yes

Short review then given on **Remit # 8**

Consensus was that the vote be taken by a show of hands.

Yes

Wellman Lake United Church Camp: Report given by Rev. John Oussoren, Nelson Skomorowski and Rev. Kevin Sprong. Thanks were given for all the time and support that has been given. A written report was circulated (Attached as Appendix "B"). The contents of the report were then reviewed. A request was made to get stats in regards to where (regionally) the campers came from. Information was given about the relationship and involvement with Good Spirit Presbytery. Sask. Conference has given their "blessing" to this partnership.

The financial report is a "draft preliminary" one, so it will change. They have had to use their line of credit this year. There should be an additional grant amount of \$5000.00 coming in. At the 60th anniversary celebrations donations of just over \$3500.00 was raised. A donation of \$1300.00 from the closing of the UCW Presbyterial went to the camp.

Motion # 9: Don Fulford / Sharon McMillan

That this report be received as presented

CARRIED

Good Spirit Presbytery: Rev. Leslie King gave an update in regards to the presbytery to presbytery relationship. She read out the short correspondence to the court. One idea was to have a joint meeting at the same geographical location. She would like to follow up on the invitation. Next full court meeting is March 3rd/5th 2017 in Minitonas. Leslie will be in touch with them to ensure that our presbytery follows up on this.

Pastoral Charge Sharing

Flin Flon: Report given by Sheri Pearson. She updated the court on Rev. McGilvery's absence and how they are coping. They have a core group of five lay persons who do pulpit supply. UCW is active. The Sunday school has revived with regular student attendance. Their Sacrament Elder has done two communion services. They have a short term (3 month) appointment coming up.

Calling Lakes Centre: Anna Stewart advised that a potential buyer for the facility is in the wings. The board of this centre is still active and both she and Rev. Karen Kuzek are on it. Rev. Joan Jarvis gave information about the national picture of these types of centres.

Finance Committee: A report was given by Rev. Steve Wilson. The financial report was distributed (Same attached at Appendix C)

He reviewed some of the figures in the report. One pastoral charge has not made any assessment remittance to date, the 3rd quarter assessments are due. Our expenses are eating into our investments and one GIC has had to be cashed in this year. As surpluses have been made by the previous assessments, this surplus should be used as it relates to our pastoral charges.

IF presbyteries “disappear” any financial balance may end up going to the new region

Motion # 10: Steve Wilson / John Towle

That the report of this committee be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

Property Committee:

A report was given by John Towle. Ochre River United Church building and property has been officially sold.

Motion # 11: John Towle / Karen Kuzek

That the report of this committee be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

Process and Polity Committee:

Report was given by Rev. Leslie King. The court was polled and three current delegates do not have a binder. All were asked to check with their pastoral charge as initially binders were distributed to match the delegate count from their charge. It lists not only requirements of the Manual, but also requirements that we imposed on ourselves. We are not the same presbytery now as we were in 2009 when this binder was prepared. There has been some “policy” we passed but has not yet made it into the binder. The new 2016 Manual will change references again. If anyone wants to know what the responsibility of presbytery committees are, they are in the binder. Initial information is there, and then if you have questions you can contact someone. Our SAPRPP policy was reviewed for the court. Officers of the Court were identified.

Motion # 12: Ron Marlin / Denie Quon

That the report of this committee be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

Finance: Wellman Lake Camp

Presentation of the \$3000.00 contribution from the presbytery was made for 2016.

Youth Report:

This position on presbytery has been vacant now for almost five years. At our winter meeting motion # 24 (page 2457) was passed. The executive has not received any input from any pastoral charge about either programming or a possible youth delegate. The question was asked about keeping this on our agenda. Discussion was held about this. Youth involvement is considered important; consensus is to keep this on the agenda.

UCW Presbyterial:

A report was given by Teena Ross. Northland Presbyterial account has been closed and transferred to the Wellman lake Camp. Teena was unable to attend the Conference spring event.

Motion # 13: Teena Ross / Bev Brinkman

That the report of this committee be accepted as presented

CARRIED

2017 Mission Support Grant Applications:

A report was given by Ron Marlin.

Lynn Lake: He provided the basic information about the Lynn Lake background, referring to the pastoral charge sharing time. This has been a long time historical grant application

Motion # 14: Ron Marlin / Sheri Pearson

That Northland Presbytery recommends approval of the Mission Support Grant application from the Lynn Lake Pastoral Charge in the amount of \$1500.00 for the 2017 year. CARRIED

Pine River Pastoral Charge: Background information in regards to Pine River was given. It was also announced that there was a possible solution to the pulpit supply matter. This has also been a historical grant application.

Motion # 15 Ron Marlin / Karen Kuzek

That Northland Presbytery recommends approval of the Mission Support Grant application from the Pine River Pastoral Charge in the amount of \$1000.00 for the 2017 year.

Considerable discussion resulted from this application. Discussion was held about the money possibly being used for community activities and not for the core support of the church. The narrative in their application on this was shared. Pros and cons of community outreach were shared. Amount of our total M & S donations vs. the amount we are requesting back. Community involvement is really considered by the charge as Outreach, which is part of their ministry. The amount of money from General Council for M & S will be declining for 2017.

(Vote on Motion)

CARRIED

Admission to the United Church of Canada:

Ron Marlin read out the current names of people seeking admission to the United Church of Canada. Copy of the names attached as Appendix "D"

Sunday Supply Honoraria

Motion # 16: Steve Wilson /Ed Loucks

That Northland Presbytery encourages Pastoral Charges to meet the United Church of Canada honoraria standards for all worship leaders for the 2017 year. The standard is \$206.00 plus appropriate expenses.

CARRIED

Youth:

Motion # 17: Ed Loucks / Steve Wilson

That we encourage our presbytery representatives to raise the issue of youth ministry at all levels of their pastoral charges. CARRIED

Discussion was that we, as the presbytery, need to have a program that the youth can be involved in. This was also brought up at our last winter meeting. It is a lot of work to get a youth program in place. A lot of resources locally go to Wellman Lake Camp. If there is no youth involvement at the congregational level, how can we get a youth at the presbytery level? The issue of having youth present and the requirement of having a criminal records check and child abuse check for presbyters would come into effect. How much knowledge would youth have of church governance? A comment was made if there is any benefit in having youth present at our current meetings. The initial motion has led the court into a broader discussion of the youth issue. It is this type of discussion is needed at the pastoral charge level.

Conference of MNWO – Report and Observations:

A report was given by Rev. Joan Jarvis (conference staff). She mentioned the upcoming Rendezvous event in Montreal. The ALF fall event is taking place in Carman Mb (grade 7 – 12) Oct 21st/23rd. She mentioned the staffing changes that have taken place at the Conference office (Shannon McCarthy sharing duties in Alberta with Bill Doyle of SK Conf.) A priority at the Conference level is support to the presbyteries. Rev. Jarvis is now supporting all rural presbyteries within the Conf. They will look at agendas and if another staff person is more appropriate they would come. Logistics are being put in place.

New 2016 Manual is effective September 28th. She reminded presbyters of the requirement to post draft minutes. There has been a stewardship program package that was sent to all pastoral charges. There is a ministry of supervision course taking place in February 2017 in Sask. LLWL training will be taking place in Cambrian presbytery. (See Conference weekly news)

Education & Students Committee:

A report was given by Rev. Steve Wilson. The primary function is exercising oversight of LLWL and Sacraments Elders. All Sacrament elder renewals have been processed at the Conference level. LLWL renewals were done at the presbytery executive level.

Steve has taken a sacraments elders training to Thompson – Flin Flon and also some worship leaders training at locations. Local pastoral charges have paid for this training on their own (gas bill, feed the presenter and a place to stay). In October, Hillview will be having a Sacraments Elders and a Pastoral Care workshop. Lynn Lake is on the horizon for a workshop. He is dialoguing with Good Spirit presbytery about training.

Motion # 18: Steve Wilson / Marg West

That the report of this committee be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

(Break time given from 2:50pm - 5:00pm for local arrangements free time)

Mission and Outreach Committee:

A report was given by John Towle. He advised that our service tomorrow will conclude our Affirming process and we will then have to live out our commitment at future meetings.

Dauphin Correctional Centre Chaplaincy:

Rev. Steve Wilson provided some information in regards to his role. He is in a .7 position. The province pays for this service in all provincial correctional institutions. He read out the Mission Statement. The environment is multi-faith. Staff and inmates have access to this service. Most people he meets with are in a state of a life crisis. He is currently facilitating a week long program “Life beyond Loss” which is done twice a year. He is on call if there is an emergent issue. The work is exciting and demanding and deals with people who have a number of issues. There is a capacity rating of 61 with 77 current inmates at the Dauphin Centre. Although a male correctional centre, there are provisions for housing young offenders and females. Rev. Wilson then entertained questions from the court about the work. At Dauphin (and The Pas) there is app. 95% aboriginal population. Domestic violence offences are the most common. There is a sweat lodge at the centre and a new aboriginal elder has just been appointed. A question was asked how, as a presbytery, we could help this ministry. The Gideon’s come in and has a bible distribution. One church at Christmas does up cookies. There however are a number of restrictions on what can come in. One thing that he does is obtaining candies that are given out three

