

**Agassiz Presbytery
Gladstone United Church
Saturday, November 18, 2017**

**Vision Statement:**

Agassiz Presbytery strives, and is called, to be a welcoming and affirming regional court of the United Church of Canada. Our purpose is to carry out the responsibility of providing oversight and support to our congregations and ministry personnel. Following Jesus' example of radical inclusivity regardless of differences such as ability, age, culture, gender identity, race, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status, we seek to emulate his teachings and love in our ministry to and with each other.

PRESENT:

Altona
Belmont
Carberry
Cartwright
Circle Marsh
Crossroads

Gladstone
Glenboro
Graysville
Holland

Kelwood
MacGregor
Manitou/Lariviere
McCreary

Meridan
Miami
Morris
Neepawa
Oakville
Pembina Parish
Portage - McKenzie

Portage - Trinity

Prairie Vision

CLERGY

Peggy Reid

Wendy Denbow
Karen Tjaden

Lynne Sanderson

Don Schau

Sarah Bruer

Wayne Sanderson

Kristin Woodburke

Kathy Platt

Julie Baker
Beth Kerr

LAY REPRESENTATIVES

Gloria Mott

Ann Craik
Lloyd Baker
Betty Park*
Pat Weber
Grace Olsen
Allison Abbott-Wiebe
Joyce Elder
Carol Kilfoyle

Judy Bradley
Elaine Benson
Norma Windle
Diane Trudeau
Barb Orchard

Sharon Deceuninck
Bonnie McRae
Wilma Shirriff
Charlotte Jones
Lesia Case
Dianne Sloane

Rock Lake		Linda Sharpe
		Neita Avery
Roland	Ken Thomas	Beth Bartley
		Ila Swain
Rossendale	Wilma Shirriff	
Treherne/Rathwell		
Valley		
U.C.W.		Claire Ommerli
YAAAY		
Conference Staff		

Members at Large: Mary Kalberg, Brenda Brand, Carol Zacharis

Retired/Retained: Heather Lea, Margaret Scott, John Lea, Leith Saunders

Visitors:

Regrets: Erica Wiebe, Linda Steinert, Susan Phillips, Joan Jarvis, Harold Kenyon, Shirley McLaren, Emily Lovell, Cheryl McKetrick, Cathie Waldie, Larry McCrady, Melanie Kauppila, Chuck Ross, Sandra Rex, Marion Reykdal, Lillian Cameron, Leslie Poulin, Ross Bruleigh, Jane Blannin-Bruleigh, Lois Creith, Brenda Gibson.

Permission to Leave Early: Dianne Sloane, Leith Saunders

Presbyters gathered at 9:00 am.

The meeting opened with worship led by Lynne Sanderson assisted by Pat Weber.

The business meeting convened at 9:35 a.m. and a quorum was noted.

Sarah Bruer thanked Gladstone Pastoral Charge and the members of the catering group for hosting this meeting.

Chair, Sarah Bruer, opened the meeting acknowledging that we are followers of Jesus, the only head of the Church, also acknowledging that we are meeting on treaty one land; Agassiz Presbytery churches reside on treaty one and two land, which is also home to the Dakota Tipi and Dakota Plains First Nations which are not party to the numbered treaties but are recognized as having use of this land, also the land of the Metis People and that we are an Affirming ministry.

MOTION # 1019: P.Reid/K.Tjaden that all visitors at this meeting be made corresponding members.
CARRIED

MOTION # 1020: C.Ommerli/L.Sanderson that the minutes of the meeting held September 30, 2017, be approved with the following correction: On Page 693, Motion # 1010 should read: "that we accept the suggestion that we reduce the allocation by \$10,000 from the Reserve Fund and this be applied to the 2018 budget".
CARRIED

MOTION # 1021: W.Sanderson/H.Lea that the agenda be accepted. **CARRIED**

As there was no formal fund raiser for the M & S Fund, Sarah passed around a cup to receive our donations.

TASK GROUP - ROCK LAKE CAMP REPORT

Karen Tjaden presented the following report from the Rock Lake United Church Camp Ad Hoc Group:

Sarah Bruer consulted with Dennis Reimer, Chair of RLUCC Board. We requested copies of Judy Bradley's recent reports to presbytery and shared her 2016 and 2017 reports and Personal Comments with Executive Secretary of Conference, Shannon McCarthy. We communicated with Neita Avery to inform her of the work and direction of our ad hoc group to date.

We met with Shannon McCarthy on November 1, 2017 to share information and develop a strategy for going forward.

We were in agreement that we cannot support operations continuing as in past years for the coming camp year, 2018. Some things need to change to ensure the camp can function and flourish in 2018 and into the future. We recognize that our whole church is changing, as well as church camping and the expectations and needs of families. We should only continue this valuable ministry if we are certain we have the resources to do so in a safe and sustainable manner.

Priority concerns for 2018 were identified during our conversation:

BOARD: Recruiting additional Board members for 2018, including presbytery representatives is critical. We would recommend that the Board refocus on policy level tasks and reduce the expectation that Board members also be active volunteers in the day to day operations of the camp. The Chair and Vice-Chair as well as a presbytery rep, will have resigned prior to the annual meeting January 10, 2018. That leaves 7 current members on the Board. We do not know if any of these members are considering completing their term on the Board. Some of the current and former Board members may be willing to continue to work at the camp as volunteers in other capacities.

STAFFING: RLUCC requires a full staff complement of committed people who receive excellent orientation and ongoing support. Possibly the Director position could be expanded in time, scope and salary to attract someone who would be able to effectively manage the staff team, including being involved in recruitment and selection. An increase in other salaries to attract more experienced and more mature candidates was also suggested. Adequate staffing, including supervision and training by the Director. We recommend that RLUCC involve the Director in hiring other members of the staff team for the coming year.

Presbytery might be able to help identify additional staff, especially for the Director position which might be expanded to include personnel functions currently provided by volunteer Board members.

FINANCES: While finances are a challenge, we did not see finances as the primary cause of the current crisis. We identified several new sources of funding that could be explored by the camp or presbyters: Seeds of Hope and BC Conference – possible funds available from sale of their camps

OTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION:

- We would ask RLUCC to consider increasing its registrations fees. The potential negative impact to some families could be offset with the significant funds available for camperships.
- We would encourage RLUCC to reach out to other presbyteries that have campers attending for possible fundraising efforts.
- We encourage RLUCC to consider a financial appeal directed at former campers and their families.
- We would encourage RLUCC to consider increasing its weekend rental rate (June and September) and advertise the availability of the camp to churches and groups in Assiniboine, Agassiz and Winnipeg presbytery.
- We would also encourage Agassiz Presbytery to use the authority it has prior to restructuring to consider designating some of our presbytery funds for RLUCC.

Shannon McCarthy offered to collect information from other Conferences to learn more about what is happening with camps in other places, including Lumsden Camp in Saskatchewan.

Agassiz Presbytery and RLUCC could explore new partnerships which could help breathe new life into this amazing resource in the heart of Agassiz Presbytery. What other groups might be excited about being a part of this special spot on the shores of Rock Lake?

We shared this written report with Dennis prior to the November meeting of presbytery and asked Dennis to share it with members of the Board.

We committed to meet with Dennis and as many Board members as possible when Dennis returns to Manitoba in early December. Karen Tjaden and Shannon McCarthy intend to be present at the RLUCC Annual Meeting on January 10, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Bruer
Don Schau
Karen Tjaden
Shannon McCarthy

Karen Tjaden led in a table group discussion about this report.

At the Presbytery meeting held on September 30, 2017 there was a motion, # 1008 on Page 692, to circulate the cabins again as a fund raiser and the subsequent motion, which was passed, that we postpone definitely until the November meeting. As noted above this matter was discussed, as a result the following motion was passed.

Motion # 2022: K.Tjaden/I.Swain that we circulate the cabins again as a fund raiser. **CARRIED**

TRANSITION WORK

There was a table discussion facilitated by Beth Kerr. Prior to the meeting some information was circulated.

The questions discussed were:

- What idea(s) would you like to explore further?
- What are some of the challenges associated with this idea(s)?
- What would we need to pursue this idea?
- What might the next steps be?

It was noted that we should know by our April Presbytery meeting what the Boundaries Commission will be proposing to the General Council meeting to be held in July 2018 in Oshawa, Ontario.

NOON BREAK

After the noon break the meeting space was cleared and Presbyters moved into the Sanctuary for afternoon business.

GENERAL COUNCIL COMMISSIONERS

We have been asked to name the commissioners to attend General Council. We can name one lay and one alternate, one ordered and one alternate. See motion under Nominations.

PASTORAL RELATIONS

Julie Baker presented the following report:

MOTION 1023: J.Baker/L.Case that Marg Scott be appointed as pastoral charge supervisor for Carberry Pastoral Charge from January 1 2018 to June 30 2018. **CARRIED**

It was reported that Pastoral Relations is aware of three pastoral charges who are planning for sabbatical leaves for their ministers in 2018: Crossroads Pastoral Charge (Karen Tjaden), Trinity Portage Pastoral Charge (Julie Baker) and MacGregor Pastoral Charge (Sarah Bruer)

EDUCATION & STUDENTS

MOTION 1024: M.Scott/L.Sanderson that Agassiz Presbytery request that Sacrament Elder Gloria Mott be licensed to administer the sacraments on the Carberry Pastoral Charge from January 1 to June 30, 2018. **CARRIED**

PASTORAL OVERSIGHT

Heather Lea presented the following report:

- Kelwood United Church congregation passed a motion at their October 24th meeting that they wish to disband as a United Church congregation. They have begun the steps leading to that action.
- Three pastoral oversight visits have been completed, the reports received and reviewed since this time last year. Thank you notes and a carnation have been given to the pastoral charges who did the visits: Roland for their visit to Holland; Glenboro for their visit to Manitou-LaRiveire; and Neepawa for their visit to Trinity in Portage.

NOMINATIONS:

The following report was presented

- Peggy Reid has resigned as chair of the Nominations Committee due to a change in her Pastoral Charge
- Sandra Rex has resigned as the contact person of the Life Committee
- We have no Chair Elect.

MOTION 1025: L.Baker/W.Denbow that Kathy Platt be nominated a commissioner to General Council and that Sarah Bruer be the alternate. **CARRIED**

It was noted that we still need a lay representative and a lay alternate. If you would like to submit your name the deadline is December 31.

YAAAY

A report was submitted by Erica Wiebe in pdf format and will be attached to these minutes.

MOTION 1026: D.Schau/L.Baker that Elizabeth Kenyon be appointed a second representative of Agassiz Presbytery to our Conference YAAAY committee. **CARRIED**

WIDER CHURCH

This report was presented by Sarah Bruer:

The 42nd General Council reconvened electronically on September 30, 2017 to deal with 4 motions arising from the approved remits. They approved January 1, 2019 as the date for comprehensive renewal implementation. They approved the appointment of a Nominating Committee for the 43rd General Council Executive. They established a Boundaries Commission to determine the boundaries for the regional system we will move into. They approved the report of the nominations committee, including the appointment of members to the Boundaries Commission.

The MNWO Conference Executive met on November 3 and 4; Lynne Sanderson and Sarah Bruer represented Agassiz. In addition to the usual reports, we were joined for one afternoon by two members of the Boundaries Commission, who said that many of our concerns are shared by others across the church; except for time zones, which we were the first to mention.

That evening we were joined for a meal and conversation with our siblings from ANCC about how we might walk together in the future.

One request from our Archives is to send as much as we can to them from our presbyteries now as she has some great student help until February 2018. Joan Jarvis also reported that Aaron Miechkota from the Iridesce Project, a national initiative for people affected by our Church's 1988 decision, will be here in our conference for the month of May and available on a first come, first served basis to listen, preach, offer workshops, etc. in our midst.

OTHER BUSINESS:

It was noted that Lloyd Baker made available copies of the Balance Sheet as of 17 November 2017, the Balance Sheet for the Jubilee Fund and 2018 Allocations. These will be attached to the minutes.

KAIROS BLANKET EXERCISE

In the two-hour Kairos Blanket Exercise (KBE) Presbytery members and guest David Single, Mayor of the Westlake-Gladstone Municipality, role played the part of Indigenous Peoples, while a team of four Kairos facilitators narrated about 500 years of history and played the part of Europeans and Settlers. Indigenous Elder Susie, from Brandon, opened and closed the Exercise with singing, drumming, prayer and smudging.

Participants began the exercise by stepping onto the blanket-covered floor, which represented Turtle Island, what we know as Canada. They chatted, moved about freely, and traded with a few items on the blankets.

Over the next 45 minutes, the arrival of Europeans and Settlers ushered in smallpox, death, Indian Act restrictions, reservations, residential school losses, 60's scoop, and more. As Settlers claimed larger pieces of land, the blankets were folded or removed. Many Indigenous people were sidelined, and those who remained were crowded onto a few remaining blankets.

KBE participants and facilitators then gathered in a talking circle, Elder Susie offered prayer and song, then each person spoke about their feelings, thoughts, Many spoke of deepened awareness of many issues related to Indigenous and Settler relationships. Many were deeply touched by the experience and sharing.

Elder Susie concluded the KBE with a smudging ceremony in which most were able to participate.

FAREWELL

A mug was presented by Peggy Reid who will leaving Agassiz Presbytery on December 31, 2017 for a Pastoral Charge in New Brunswick. She was thanked for her many years to dedication to Agassiz Presbytery and we wish her well in her future endeavors.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:45 on the motion of Peggy Reid.

Attached is the Report from the Settlement Commission of meetings held for September 26 and October 10, 2017

Next meeting of Agassiz Presbytery will be held on Friday & Saturday, February 9 & 10, 2018.

Next meeting of Agassiz Presbytery Executive will be held on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 in Trinity United Church, Portage la Prairie commencing at 1:00 p.m.

Chair: Sarah Bruer_____

Secretary: Claire Ommerli_____

**Agassiz Presbytery Report from the Settlement Commission of the Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario
for September 26 and October 10, 2017**

TO: Claire Ommerli, Secretary of Agassiz Presbytery

CC: Julie Baker, Pastoral Relations Convener of Agassiz Presbytery; Cathie Waldie and Ila Swain, Settlement Commission Representatives for Agassiz Presbytery; Heather Robbins, Chair of the Settlement Commission; Judy Hare, Conference Personnel Minister; Cherry Abad, Conference Administrative Assistant

FROM: Elsie Douglas, Secretary of the Settlement Commission of the Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario

Please attach this report to your circulated minutes as an appendix.

At the meeting of the MINISTRY PROFILE REVIEW GROUP of the Settlement Commission on SEPTEMBER 26, 2017, the following omnibus motion was approved:

MOTION 2017/2018 MPR #3

Moved: Elsie Douglas

Seconded: Diane Gillis

That the Ministry Profile Review Group of the Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario approve that:

Having received from Birtle-Miniota Pastoral Charge the Ministry Profile Reports from Birtle United Church (Dated April 26, 2017) and from Miniota United Church (dated April 1, 2017), Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario Form PR 403 RMP (Record of Ministry Profile Report) (dated September 17, 2017, the updated Financial Viability Reviews for Birtle and Miniota, a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Birtle-Miniota Pastoral Charge Council dated April 18, 2017, a copy of minutes of the congregational meetings at Birtle and Miniota dated September 17, 2017, that the Ministry Profile Review Group of the Settlement Commission of the Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario declare a vacancy for a ministry position (OM, DM, DLM) on the **Birtle-Miniota Pastoral Charge**, effective October 1, 2017(or November 15, 2017 if listing on the National Vacancy List) for 16 hours per month with the following terms

1. *Minimum Comprehensive Salary up to and including: 10% of Category F (16 hours per month) for Cost Of Living (COL) Group I.*

No Manse, but housing options may be available and can be negotiated. No Additional salary above minimum.

2. *Telephone/Internet costs (budgeted dollar amount): to be negotiated. (Minimum of \$ 35.00 per month)*

3. *Continuing Education and Learning allowance: to be negotiated (Minimum of \$ 128.22 or \$ 10.68 per month)*

4. *Study Leave: N/A* prorated time*

5. *Vacation: N/A* prorated time*

6. *Sabbatical: N/A* prorated time*

7. *Pension and Group Insurance as assessed if Minister appointed/called in another setting and the TOTAL workload adds up to 14 hours per week or more this IS applicable)*

8. *Moving Expenses: N/A Charge is responsible for moving expenses if a move happens or a negotiated portion of a move if sharing Ministry Personnel with another charge*

And that the vacancy will not be listed on the National Vacancy List until all changes in minimum requirements have been communicated and acknowledged, and all outstanding material have been received by the Conference Office, specifically financial materials for Pastoral Charge accounts and Form MNWO 425 V (Record of Vacancy)

CARRIED

We will reapply for an ADP #. Pay amount may be under the ADP threshold but if Minister is using hours toward pension contributions then ADP will need to be applied for.

At the meeting of the SETTLEMENT COMMISSION on OCTOBER 10, 2017, the following omnibus motion was approved:

MOTION 2017/2018 # 5 (A-D)

Moved: Mary Best

Seconded: Rob Smith

That the Settlement Commission of the Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario approves the following actions:

A. Minutes of the Settlement Commission –September 12, 2017

That the minutes of the meeting of the Settlement Commission of the Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario on September 12, 2017 be approved as corrected: *Aileen Urquhart was not present at the meeting and sent her regrets.*

B. Minutes of the Ministry Profile Review Group – September 26, 2017

That the minutes of the meeting of the Ministry Profile Review Group of the Settlement Commission of the Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario on September 26, 2017 be received as circulated.

C. Call to Jenny Sprong from Roblin Pastoral Charge

Having received completed Form PR 450 (Covenant for Call, Settlement or Appointment), updated financial information including 2016 year-end Financial Statements and year-to-date comments for 2017, that the Settlement Commission of the Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario, on behalf of Northland Presbytery, approves the **CALL** of **JENNETTE LOUISA SPRONG** (Ordained Minister) to **Roblin Pastoral Charge** (Knox United Church, Roblin and Tummel United Church), effective January 1, 2018, at full-time, with the following terms:

1. Salary Category E with manse \$42,704.00 per year
 2. Telephone and internet up to \$100.00 per month (\$1,200.00 per year)
 3. Continuing Education and Learning \$1,393.00 per year
 4. Three weeks of study leave within each pastoral year, including Sundays
 5. No less than three consecutive months of sabbatical after five consecutive years of service to the pastoral charge that is party to this covenant
 6. A minimum of one month vacation (including 5 Sundays) within each pastoral year (July 1 – June 30)
 7. Moving expense (*based on reasonable estimates*)
 8. Adequate secretarial assistance defined as 18 hours per week
 9. Travel expenses reimbursement based on current Minimum Salaries for Ministry Personnel
 10. Pension and other benefits as assessed
- With the Pastoral Charge committing to remuneration of the ministry personnel through the Pastoral Charge Payroll Service (ADP) WOUW

D. Appointment of Settlement Commission liaisons to Ministry Profile processes

Having received Forms MNWO 403 A (Presbytery Request to Initiate Ministry Profile Process), that the Settlement Commission of the Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario appoints the following persons as **Settlement Commission representatives to resource the Ministry Profile committees** in the following locations:

Carberry Pastoral Charge (Agassiz Presbytery) – **Harold Kenyon**

Gladstone Pastoral Charge (Agassiz Presbytery) – **Ila Swain**

Rivers Pastoral Charge (Assiniboine Presbytery) – **David Howell**

Birtle-Miniota Pastoral Charge (Assiniboine Presbytery) – **Don Sellsted replacing David Howell**

Fort Frances: Knox Pastoral Charge (Cambrian Presbytery) – **Joy Bott**

Kildonan Pastoral Charge (Winnipeg Presbytery) – **Mary Best**

Windsor Park Pastoral Charge (Winnipeg Presbytery) – **Roberta Tucker**

Trinity Pastoral Charge (Winnipeg Presbytery) – **Diane Gillis**

And with requests for assistance in responding to requests for Service Agreements in the following locations:

Dryden Pastoral Charge / Sioux Lookout Pastoral Charge (Cambrian Presbytery) – **Rob Smith**

St. Andrew's, River Heights Pastoral Charge / Spirit Path United Church (Winnipeg Presbytery) – **Mary Best**

CARRIED

Settlement Commission liaisons previously appointed to Pastoral Relations processes in Agassiz Presbytery:

Meridian – Rob Smith

Miami – Cathie Waldie

Pembina Parish – Harold Kenyon

Valley – Harold Kenyon and Ila Swain

The next meeting of the **Settlement Commission** (Ministry Profile resourcing and Search matters – motions related to calls, appointments, and transfers) will be on **Tuesday, November 14, 2017**. (Deadline for paperwork noon Friday, November 10.)

The next meeting of the Settlement Commission **Ministry Profile Review Group** (declaration of vacancies) will be on **Tuesday, November 28, 2017**. (Deadline for paperwork noon Friday, November 24.)