



**Pinawa Christian Fellowship
September 29, 2019
Annual Reports**

Convenor Subcommittee

Bob McCamis

The PCF Convenor Subcommittee may consist of up to five individuals. The impetus for this change was mainly the shortage of volunteers who would be willing to make a multi-year commitment to serve in the role of convenor (or, chairperson). The Convenor Subcommittee also allows for increased flexibility and allows convenors to spell each other off. The Subcommittee membership for the 2018-2019 year consisted of Bob McCamis, Deb Smith, Myrna Tiede, and Chuck Vandergraaf, with Deb Smith serving as Senior Convenor.

The move of the PCF office from the W. B. Lewis Centre to the Sunova Mall has been a continuing success. Improved storage facilities “behind the scene” have been a notable change for the better. There is the always popular “Open House” on Tuesday mornings with coffee, tea and cookies. Rob Murray’s Friday morning Bible study continues with a small but steady attendance. Friday afternoons see a devoted number of ladies at the Knitting Circle. In August, we hosted our first week-long Vacation Bible School, and hope that it is the first of many. There are also seasonal, after school “Jesus-at-the-Mall” [JAM] activities for elementary school children.

At the 2018 September Annual General Meeting, the congregation voted to donate \$5,000 to the Gilbert School Parent Advisory Council (PAC) to be used for the construction of an accessible outdoor classroom that could be used for the PCF for outdoor worship services, etc. While nothing visible has changed in the school yard, we are hopeful that construction may yet commence in the fall of 2019. The PAC has the funds required, and has construction plans ready. With the decision of the congregation to continue worshiping in Gilbert school, the decision was made to offer for sale the church lot opposite the mall parking lot. The lot was quickly and successfully sold at the full, offered price. The proceeds of the sale have been invested, while the congregation considers the possibilities for the best way to use the funds.

Thanks to the continuing generosity of the members of the congregation, the congregation experienced an operating surplus for 2018. Thank you for your continued generosity.

The other reports in the package of reports for the 2019 Annual General Meeting document the work of the many individuals and subcommittees who work, often quietly but faithfully, to advance the work of the PCF.

On behalf of the Convenor Subcommittee and the congregation, I express my thanks to all the people who serve on subcommittees and who help in many ways for Sunday services. Every task, small and large, that is accomplished is appreciated. Thank you for your tenacity and your commitment. Our Mission Subcommittee and Congregational Care Subcommittee do an excellent job looking after the wider world and those at home. We need to be faithful Christians and work with them. A special thank you to Rob Murray for his invaluable teaching, preaching, guiding, and leadership. And, finally, a word of thanks to the members of PCF who support the congregation by prayer, giving, and serving.

Minister's Report

Rob Murray

Whenever I visit other churches, or attend denominational gatherings, I am reminded again what a great privilege it is to serve this unique congregation. The good humour that prevails in our worship and meetings, the inclusive spirit of our fellowship, are rare and precious qualities and I am very grateful for the Spirit of cooperation and encouragement that prevails here.

You will find a record of most of my days in the reports of our various committees but there are some things I have particular responsibility for. I keep the record of Baptisms, Confirmations, Marriages, and Burials and it is a pleasure to report that, for the first time in several years, we have occasions *other* than funerals to report!

In December of 2018 it was my pleasure to preside at the wedding of David Remington (Son of Jack and Barbara) and Lorraine Waldner in the Pinawa Lutheran Church. It was a particular privilege to baptize Josephine Hall at our joint service with Pinawa Lutheran Church on August 25th beside (and immersed in!) the Winnipeg River. This was our first baptism in five years.

Since our last AGM I have presided at Memorial or Committal services for Ruth Dobbin, Carol Walton, Gary Simmons, Roy Styles, and Fay Sochaski. It is sad to say farewell to some of our Pinawa Pioneers and to dear friends who have contributed so much to this community and this fellowship.

I realize that it may be difficult for Canadians to believe that I went to the Dominican Republic in April for a serious purpose, but I really did have a renewing time at the Presbyterian Pastor's Conference in Punta Cana. I was grateful for the opportunity to meet with colleagues from across the country in such a WARM and beautiful place. I also attended a preaching workshop with Anna Carter-Florence at Charleswood United Church last October. It wasn't the Dominican Republic, but the workshop was excellent, and it has transformed the way I approach Bible Study and sermon preparation. I am very grateful for your support of my continuing education and for the Pastoral Relations Committee who encourage me to pursue those opportunities.

I have been reappointed to the executive of the national Assembly Council of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and I continue to serve as a Keeper of the Vision at Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre. I am also serving as Interim Moderator for First Presbyterian Church in Kenora as they search for a new minister. I realize that these activities take me away from the community, but they are also an opportunity for me to share the story of the PCF and to apply what I have learned from you about being the church. I hope you will see my involvement as part of your ministry to the wider church.

May of 2019 marked the 30th anniversary of my ordination to ministry and, in August, my 23rd year in ministry with the Pinawa Christian Fellowship. I will be turning 60 in December and it is time to begin thinking about retirement. I'm not committed to a date, but I believe we should be looking at a transition sometime in the next two years. To that end, I intend to begin a process of discernment that will look at our ministry together and set the stage for you to begin your search for the next person, or persons, who will work with you in ministry. If we are to do this well, we need to begin now. I have been in touch with representatives of our parent denominations and, this winter, I will be convening a small group to consult with our own congregation and the wider community to come up with a process. Then, it will be up to you. My prayer is that these next few years will be a time to consolidate the things we have learned together over the last, soon to be, quarter century, and that we use that learning to build a strong foundation for those who will benefit from this remarkable Christian community in the years to come.

Missions Subcommittee

Dennis Cann, Convenor

The PCF Missions Subcommittee consists of Diana Evans, Lorna Hiebert, Rob Murray, Holly Parcey, Shirley Pellow, Judy Platford, Ken Reddig, Chuck Vandergraaf, Bruce Williams and Convenor Dennis Cann.

The Pinawa Christian Fellowship financially supports Mission/Outreach in three ways: 1) direct support of the programs of its parent churches from general revenue, 2) forwarding funds to specific Mission projects as directed on collection envelopes and 3) by the Missions Subcommittee allocating funds received through the “Missions” amounts listed on collection envelopes and PAR forms to local, denominational, national, and international mission projects

In 2018 the Missions giving was \$6928. From these plus a carryover of \$752 from 2017 the Subcommittee decided to make the following disbursements: \$600 to sponsor 2 acres for the joint MCC/Canadian Foodgrains Bank Grow Hope Project , \$500 for a Haitian Orphanage through Beausejour’s Open Doorways Orphanage, \$500 to Presbyterian World Service and Development for African Cyclone Relief, \$500 to the United Church Emergency Response to the Rohingya Crisis, \$500 each to the Lac Du Bonnet and Beausejour Food Banks, \$500 to Winnipeg Inner City Missions (Presbyterian), \$500 to Survivor's Hope Crisis Centre, \$500 to Hospitality House Refugee Ministry in Winnipeg, \$1000 to the Kenora Fellowship Centre (Presbyterian), \$500 to the Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre (United), \$400 to Winnipeg’s Agape Table and \$400 to St Matthews Maryland Community Ministry for a total of \$6900. \$780 was carried over to 2019.

Other Mission activities in 2018 included: 1) the knitting of mittens and other items by the Friday knitting group at the PCF Mall office for various mission and outreach projects, 2) the Choir’s performance of the Dream a Dream Cantata in support of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank 3) PCF members providing and serving refreshments during the break at the EMCA Christmas concert with the \$500 in proceeds going to the Foodgrains Bank and 4) the collection of food donations at the Thanksgiving Service for the Lac Du Bonnet Food Bank.

Missions disbursements to date in 2019 include \$600 to MCC's Grow Hope Campaign, \$500 to the Kenora Fellowship Centre, \$500 to the Winnipeg Inner City Missions, \$500 each to the Lac Du Bonnet and Beausejour Food Banks and \$500 to \$500 to the United Church Emergency Response to Hurricane Dorian Relief in the Bahamas. Finally, many peelers and choppers helped prepare 95 Shepherd Pie concentrated soup pucks for Winnipeg Inner City Missions. The ingredients for this cost \$96.

Social

Shirley Pellow

Coffee fellowship continues following weekly services. Thank you to our hostess volunteers for providing beverages and goodies.

Our first social event for 2019 was our agape feast in conjunction with our PCF Anniversary. A potluck was enjoyed by all. In December the Lutheran congregation joined the PCF for a Christian Cantata service. There was a large attendance for the service and Luncheon that followed. The final service before summer was celebrated with a Potluck. Mid-August the PCF and Lutherans gathered at the river to witness the Baptism of Josephine Hall. Following the service, a special cake and coffee was served in celebration of Josephine becoming a member of Christ's church.

As we move into the 2019/ 20 church year it has been decided to use washable cups/ mugs instead of Styrofoam cups. Space will be available for people who wish to donate coffee mugs or bring their own. Styrofoam cups will be available for big social events.

I would like to express my thanks to all the people that helped out for the special events. It is greatly appreciated.

Congregational Care

Brenda Morash

Our activities have included making Christmas baskets to give to members of the congregation who are now in Personal Care Homes. This year we made and sent out cookies to several of our members who are unable to make it to church especially in the winter.

Cards are sent out throughout the year... get well, thinking of you, sympathy, milestone birthdays and anniversaries.

We also try to make phone calls just to keep in touch, prayer shawls have been donated to those in need for example in hospital, after a death or dealing with a serious illness. We arrange meals for those in need ...especially after a bereavement. We provide rides to church when needed or requested.

We meet several times throughout the year and go over the membership list with Rob to identify members who need some help.

Stewardship

Lori Evenden

The Stewardship Committee strives to organize information about the PCF members in order to attend to their needs and the needs of the Church in terms of filling volunteer positions.

Often, a package is delivered in the Fall with information and surveys to help with this. Sometimes, as we did last year, we simply ask if you have any changes and we revise the forms from the previous year.

Recently we have noticed that the volunteers for "Setting up for Church Service" has been declining for a number of reasons which has caused an increase in frequency of turns for those who have volunteered for this. The General Committee is addressing this issue with some short-term and long-term possible solutions. In the meantime, if you are able to volunteer for Set-up, even occasionally or as a spare, please let us know on this year's form.

We are also in need of someone who would be willing to coordinate the needs of congregational members with those who have volunteered to help them as well as more members on the Congregational Care Committee.

In Fall, 2019, we will send out a revised “Fall Connect” Package. Thank-you for taking a few minutes to read and complete the form. Please read it over with fresh eyes and think about what you may be able to help with. Thank you for all of the volunteer time and effort you have done for our Church - we couldn't run without our dedicated volunteers! These forms can be returned to the Church Office, Church, or to Lori Evenden by Nov. 3.

In the Spring of 2020, we are planning to change our system to a “Spring Connect” to gather information that will be implemented at the beginning of September of each year.

Thank-you again for your participation!

Special Gifts Fund Team

Cindy Litke

The Team

With the passing of our Chairperson – Gary Simmons, the Special Gifts Fund Team comprises Holly Parcey and Cindy Litke.

General

Holly Parcey, and Cindy Litke are willing to serve again on the Special Gifts Fund Team. We would like to see another individual appointed to the committee.

The Treasurer notifies the Special Gifts Fund Team, of donations made to the Memorial and Honour Fund in the name of a deceased individual. The Team acknowledges those donors by sending a card / letter of thank you, as well as a card / letter to the survivors of each individual so honoured.

Account Activity

This report covers the period from September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019.

The Memorial and Honour fund received interest in the amount of \$1996.88. There were memorial donations of \$19,465.03 received during this period.

Two disbursements were made from the Memorial and Honour Fund – Support for the PAC Outdoor Classroom - \$5000 and the purchase of 20 copies of Voices United - \$575.48. The balance in the Memorial and Honour Fund at the end of August 2019 is \$97,141.04.

The Directed-use or Named Endowment funds received no donations from September 2018 to August 2019. The balance in the Directed-use or Named Endowment funds is zero. Therefore, no directed-use commitments have been taken on by the PCF.

The Unspecified-use Endowment fund from September 2018 to August 2019 received interest in the amount of \$13.75. There were no donations to the unspecified-use endowment fund during this period. The balance in the unspecified-use endowment fund at the end of August 2019 is \$654.45.

Worship

Judith Platford (Presbyterian Rep and Chair)

Lorna Hiebert (Mennonite Rep)

Glenys Norman-Kukurudz (Anglican Rep)

Brenda Morash (United Church Rep)

Giuliano Sanipelli (Musician)

Heather Westdal (Choir Director)

Rob Murray (Minister)

Worship is the central act of our Christian congregation. Week by week, we glorify God together and build up the people of God for service in the world. Your Worship Committee is responsible for planning and providing all of our regular and special worship services. We ensure that space is rented for worship and practice, any needed supplies are acquired, and people are prepared. We also ensure that worship continues to respect the traditions of our parent denominations while adapting to our unique multi-denominational situation. Some members are designated by the four denominational groups within the congregation while others serve the congregation "at-large".

We rely upon, and sincerely thank, our musicians, Barb Remington, Giuliano, Margaret Koroll, and Roger Dutton who leads the choir along with Heather. We deeply appreciate the contribution of all the Choir Members. We also thank the folks who set up and the team who prepare Communion. Thank you all!

PCF worship is labour intensive and we are facing the facts that our pool of volunteers is getting smaller and is aging. We are working on making the weekly set-up easier, but we still require many able people to transform the gym every Sunday morning. If you can assist in any way, please be in touch with the church office. Thank you to all the folks who set up and the willing hands that help put things away week by week. Thank you also to our Greeters, the people who share flowers and decorate for special occasions, and to Barbara Sanipelli who formats our worship bulletins.

We didn't make many big changes to worship this year but continue to evaluate what we do and tweak things as necessary. We gratefully received, and dedicated with prayer, altar candles from St. John's Anglican Church in Lac du Bonnet after their closing. We now light the candles as a sign of Christ's presence as we are called to worship. We have added some new copies of *Voices United* and have purchased copies of the two Mennonite hymnals, *Sing the Story* and *Sing the Journey*, for the choir. We have added 12 chairs with arms and they have been well appreciated by those who need the extra leverage getting up and down. We anticipate adding some more arm chairs this year but are also aware that they are heavy and add to the burden of set-up.

We continue to provide regular worship at the Lac du Bonnet and Whitemouth Personal Care Homes and the Ironwood Supportive living Residences. Our shared Summer Worship with Pinawa Lutheran Church is appreciated by both congregations and was well attend this year. We participated in the Good Friday Way of the Cross, the only worship event shared by all the Christian congregations of Pinawa and on Easter Sunday morning, at Pentecost, and for Josephine's Baptism, we also worshiped outdoors. We anticipate more opportunities for "Wild Church" this year, particularly when the outdoor classroom space is available at the Gilbert School.

Thank you all for your participation in worship. The church has many important roles and tasks but they all grounded in, and sustained by, the regular worship of God's people.