

Pinawa Christian Fellowship
Annual General Meeting
October 24, 2021
in the Pinawa Lutheran Church and Online

Minister's Report

Rob Murray

When I reported to the Fall AGM in 2020 we were still struggling to adapt to the public health restrictions and the reality that the FW Gilbert School, where we have worshipped since 1963, was no longer available to us. One year later, we are beginning to settle into new routines. I have produced over 70 weekly YouTube worship videos. We have also met on two occasions for interactive communion and worship by ZOOM video conference. A portion of the congregation, on average 25-30 people, have been worshipping in-person at the Lutheran Church since August. Having had such a good relationship with the Pinawa Lutheran congregation for so many years, we really do feel at home in that space and I am very grateful for their close cooperation. It has been a challenge to discover where people's comfort levels are with in-person gatherings, and to re-invigorate our volunteer base, but we are beginning to find a weekly rhythm again. I am very thankful for the General Committee, and for all our faithful volunteers and committee members who have adapted to the ever-changing public health directions over the last 19 months. The challenges are not over, but I am confident that this congregation can cope with whatever the future brings.

I do regret that, during the pandemic, I have been spending more and more time interacting with technology rather than people. Technology keeps us in touch, but it can also be isolating and exhausting to spend so much time with computers. Maintaining the website, the weekly email newsletter, meeting by ZOOM, and keeping up with the flood of communication from four denominations, has been daunting. I also had to learn how to produce, edit, and upload weekly videos; and then streamline that process so it doesn't eat up my week. As we return to in-person worship, and visiting in-person becomes easier, it has been a real challenge balancing my time between the "virtual" and "actual" world. When I am at the church office in the mall I have a pretty steady stream of visitors and that is good. I don't want to give up the technology that genuinely connects us; but I do hope that I can spend more time with people than computers in the coming months.

There were far fewer funeral and memorial services than usual this past year as pandemic restrictions convinced many to postpone, or to forgo, public gatherings altogether. In March of 2021 we had a service to remember Robert Briercliffe. In July we celebrated the life of Garry Stokes in the Pinawa Alliance Church. As restrictions eased in the Fall we also had a committal service for Evelina Baumgartner, who died in October of 2019, and a memorial and committal service for Shirley Bell, who died in October of 2020.

In November of 2020 I presided at the very intimate wedding of Chris Williams and Magdalena Szwed; just the Bride and Groom and two witnesses gathered on the back deck of their house masked and distanced. Then, as restrictions eased in August, I presided at the wedding of Paul Crosthwaite and

Shelly Ramsay in the Pinawa Alliance Church. There have not been any Baptisms or Confirmations in the past year.

I finished my second term as a Keeper of the Vision on the Board of the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre this year and have now retired from that position. I am very grateful for the experience of Indigenous education I was given at that beautiful place and for the friends and connections I have made there. I continue to serve on the Assembly Council of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. All meetings of the Assembly Council this year were by ZOOM, as was the Presbyterian General Assembly in June where I was a Commissioner. I have also served as Interim Moderator for First Presbyterian Church in Kenora, meeting monthly with their elders by ZOOM, but will retire from that commitment in November. My intention is to wind-up most of my denominational and outside commitments to concentrate on the congregation and this community from January to April of 2022. I didn't have an opportunity to go away for continuing education this year, but had a reading week here in town and an opportunity to work on some writing projects. Online worship made it easy to take time for study, holiday, or denominational commitments, as we just "joined" other congregation's virtual worship.

For many of us, this last year has clarified what is most important in our lives. Some of our dear friends and long-time members have moved to be closer to family or services. Derri and Diana Evans moved to Winnipeg earlier this year, as did Roger Dutton and Irene-Loire Maillard. Dennis and Shirley Cann are moving to Ottawa this month. I will miss their constant encouragement and the energy they have contributed so faithfully through so many years. I am thankful that we can keep in touch, and that old friends even further away have connected with us this past year. We have also been seeing new faces in worship and Pinawa is certainly growing and changing. This congregation has rich opportunities for growth and new life.

August of 2021 marked my 25th year serving this congregation and we are now half-way through my final year with you before my retirement in April of 2022. It was my prayer when I first announced my intention to retire (two years ago!) that we would be able to manage a graceful transition after so many years. The global pandemic has complicated things, but I feel like we are making progress and I am feeling good about the future of the PCF. The Search Committee has been working hard and I am convinced that God will provide a new minister with gifts appropriate for the next stage of this congregation's life. You are a most adaptable, resilient, community of faith!

Convenor Committee Report

Bob McCamis, Senior Convenor

To say that the past year (or even the past 18 months and counting) have been challenging for the PCF, not to mention all of Planet Earth, is certainly an understatement. We have been unable to hold our worship services in the F.W. Gilbert gymnasium since 2020 March. Thanks to Rob Murray's leadership and hard work, we have been able to present a virtual, on-line worship experience weekly. Briefly in the fall of 2020, and since 2021 September 5, we have been able to hold in-person worship in the Pinawa Lutheran Church – our sincere gratitude to them. We do not know when we will be able to return to the Gilbert School gym, but even that prospect holds significant challenges for our aging congregation.

Along with Sunday worship services, other popular programs such as the popular Tuesday morning coffee time, Bible studies, and the Friday Dinner and Conversations had to be paused as well. We hope that these and/or other events will be able to resume as soon as we get through the pandemic. It is to be expected that, with a new minister and your suggestions, PCF life will be invigorated at that time.

Several PCF members served last December on the Pinawa Christmas Hamper Committee, ably led by Kelly McGirr, as the committee pivoted to a new method of delivering “hampers” in the face of all of the COVID-19 restrictions.

Lori Evenden created a PCF parade float, which was then part of the Pinawa Winter Parade/Christmas Parade.

Chuck Vandergraaf arranged for the PCF to join on-line worship services with a number of Winnipeg or even national congregations when Rob was on vacation or otherwise unavailable.

Convenor Deb Smith is chairing the PCF Search Committee, which is hard at work looking for a new minister, as Rob Murray’s retirement next Easter is rapidly approaching.

Myrna Tiede has served as one of the PCF co-convenors for several years, but she has resigned from that position. Also, Leny Ohta and Willa Reddig have resigned from the Pastoral Relations Committee after many years of serving on this valuable committee. With Rob’s upcoming retirement and the transition to a new minister, there will be significant work for this committee to perform. The PCF is also losing Dennis Cann, long-standing Chair of the Missions Committee; a number of other volunteer leaders have also stepped down or moved away from Pinawa. The PCF is in **urgent need** of new volunteers in these and a number of other positions as we attempt to re-start our programs after the pandemic shutdown. Please contact any member of the PCF Executive Committee to discuss further.

Thank you to all of the volunteers and to each and every member of the PCF congregation for your continued support and prayers during this unprecedented year. This support, whether in the form of continued financial donations, caring for each other in whatever way possible, or serving on committees is truly appreciated.

Search Committee Report

Deb Smith, Search Chairperson

Committee Members:

Barb Lambert, Betty McCamis, Deb Smith, Judy Platford, Ken Reddig, Peter Lovering, Wally Kukurudz

The Search committee has been working for the last several months on gathering, reviewing, and understanding the various requirements of our 4 parent churches for calling a new minister. While many components are similar, each denomination has its own specific requirements for both wording and format. We have been assigned a liaison for each and have met with some and will be meeting with others.

As part of the process, we have gathered resources from our church, community, and region. Using that information, we have created a congregational profile document. This document is a written description of our faith journey. It describes who we are, where we started from, and where we hope to go with our new minister. A copy of that profile is available on the website with the documents for the 2021 Fall AGM.

Thank-you to all the committee members for their commitment so far and for our forthcoming work as we continue the work of finding a replacement for Rob.

Christian Education

Chuck Vandergraaf

Maintaining a Christian Education program during the COVID-19 pandemic has been a challenge. Rob Murray started a series on *Revelation* in May of 2020, using Zoom with about seven participants. During Advent 2020, Dennis Cann followed up on that with a four-week Bible study, based on Ralph F. Wilson's *Christmas Incarnation: A Study of Jesus' Birth*, with about eleven participants, also via Zoom. I tried to emulate Dennis and led a second four-week Bible study on *Gideon* in March 2021, with a rather thin crowd. But, as Jesus said, "where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am with them" (Mat 18:20).

Dr Ralph Wilson's website, *Jesus Walk* (<http://www.jesuswalk.com/>), contains a large number of Bible studies on individual Bible books and topical studies, ranging from four lessons (Gideon) to 35 (Mark's Gospel) and the advantage is that there are no costs involved. I thank Dennis Cann for drawing my attention to this excellent resource.

A very good resource is material produced by N Tom Wright, past Anglican Bishop of Durham, UK. There is a study based on his book, *Simply Jesus*. This on-line course can be purchased by a congregation at a one-time cost of about C\$150. The course would be amenable to Zoom or small discussion groups and could be used as long as we wanted.

Another option is to study one of Bishop Wright's books along the lines of a book club, independent from an on-line resource. Two of his books come to mind: *Simply Jesus* and *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church*. These are substantial books; the former is about 350 pages and the latter about 280 pages. I read *Surprised by Hope* a number of years ago and was impressed! Hard copies of these books are available for about C\$20.

I also came across a very interesting book by Rabbi Dr Laura Duhan-Kaplan, Vancouver School of Theology, entitled *Mouth of the Donkey: Re-imagining Biblical Animals*. It's a relatively short book, about 75 pages, less than 100 pages and retails for about \$20. The eight chapters on various animals used in the Bible (sheep, locusts, donkeys etc.) could form a nice basis for a four-to-eight-week study, either via Zoom or in a small discussion group, once the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

Rob Murray drew my attention to a wide range of courses offered by CMU (Canadian Mennonite University), called Portable CMU. The cost of the sessions is \$100 and the options offered are

- Up to three ~one-hour session offered over a week or on a weekend (Friday-Saturday “retreat” or all in one day)
- A ~one-hour adult Bible study, whether on a one-time basis, or up to three sessions scheduled over a few weeks
- A Sunday morning sermon (within a ~one-hour worship service)

A CMU presentation could possibly be combined with a worship service as a “second hour”, again once the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

At this stage (late October) and in light of the current uncertainties, my preference would be to have a Zoom Bible study using the *Jesus Walk* series. An eight-week study on the book of James would fit in nicely between now and Christmas. A nine-week study of *The Early Church: Acts 1-12* might be appropriate just after Easter. I am willing to lead these studies or host them using PCF’s Zoom account, if there is sufficient interest. Contact me if you are interested in any of the above suggestions or other topics.

Under the current uncertain conditions, it’s probably premature to think about resuming our Dinner and Conversations but I would encourage you to think of suitable topics that we could consider in future. Finally, I have been operating as a “one-man committee” and would welcome a few additional members.

Missions

Dennis Cann

The PCF Missions Subcommittee consists of 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 2020 givings to Missions were \$4443 From these plus a carryover of \$1122 from 2019 the Subcommittee made the following disbursements: \$600 to sponsor two acres for the MCC Grow Hope Project, \$500 for a Haitian Orphanage through Beausejour’s Open Doorways Orphanage, \$500 each to the Lac Du Bonnet and Beausejour Food Banks, \$500 to Winnipeg Inner City Missions (Presbyterian), \$500 to the Kenora Fellowship Centre (Presbyterian), \$500 to the Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre (United), \$500 to the United Church Winnipeg Missions (1JustCity), \$500 to Primates World Relief and Development Fund for Beirut Explosion Relief, \$250 to MCC Manitoba for Hurricanes Eta and Iota Relief and \$250 to Agape Table for their Inner City meal program in Winnipeg. \$965 was carried over to 2021.

Missions disbursements to date in 2021 include \$500 to MCC’s Grow Hope Campaign, \$500 to \$500 for a Haitian Orphanage through Beausejour’s Open Doorways Orphanage, \$500 to the Sandy Saulteaux

Spiritual Centre (United), and \$500 to the United Church Winnipeg Missions (1JustCity). The PCF has also given \$2450 each to the Beausejour and Lac du Bonnet Food Banks from General Revenue.

The Missions Subcommittee would like to recognize the continuing generosity of PCF members, even in the midst of COVID worries, for your support of people in need around the world. Also, the Winnipeg River Refugee Initiative would like to thank all those who contributed separately for the ongoing support of Mohamad Misto and his family in Beirut as they await their visas to come to Canada as refugees.

Stewardship 2021

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.

It's been a quiet year but as we move forward into in-person Church services, we are connecting with our membership to give updates and give you the opportunity to express your concerns or ideas. A newsletter was sent this Fall and we have a committee who are attempting to reach everyone by phone to have a chat.

As we are currently renting the Lutheran Church for services, our volunteer needs are less, as is the number of people available to help. We do have a schedule of people to help with greeting, reading, operating the projector, and bringing flowers up to mid November and will be continuing to add to that. If you would like to volunteer, please send Lori an email at lorievenden@gmail.com.

Any questions or comments - email Lori at lorievenden@gmail.com

Congregational Care

Brenda Morash

We have been keeping in touch with members of the congregation by telephone calls, cards and some personal visits. [Christmas](#) baskets were delivered to members of the congregation who were in Personal Care Homes. Easter treats were delivered to several of our seniors. We continue to send cards to those who are hospitalized. Several sympathy cards were sent to grieving families. Birthday cards were sent to those who were celebrating milestone birthdays. Prayer shawls were delivered to those needing some extra support.

Hopefully we will soon be able to meet as usual...many members are really missing being together due to the pandemic.

Treasurer's Report

Karen Ross

We are under our budgeted local offering by \$3690. Our expenses are as planned and, including subsidies received in the early part of 2021, we are in the black (\$6869). Without subsidies we would be in the red (\$8719). In-person worship seems to be helping us stay in the black. Thank you for your continued generosity.

PCF Financial Report to 2021 September 30

	2021 Actuals	2021 Budget	% of Budget
GENERAL FUND INCOME			
Donations	\$0.00	\$0.00	NA
Local Offering	\$71,658.19	\$107,348.22	66.8%
Open Collection	\$150.00	\$400.00	37.5%
Interest and Dividends	\$490.71	\$1,400.00	35.1%
Fundraising	\$0.00	\$0.00	-
TOTAL GENERAL FUND INCOME	\$72,298.90	\$109,148.22	66.2%
Government Grants	\$15,588.40	\$0.00	
Administration Account			
Advertising	\$497.15	\$650.00	76.5%
Bank & PAR Charges	\$282.23	\$325.00	86.8%
GST Paid (50%)	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Insurance & Property Taxes	\$1,023.00	\$985.00	103.9%
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$40.00	0.0%
Offering Envelopes	\$168.97	\$180.00	93.9%
Office Expenses	\$572.79	\$994.10	57.6%
Office Rent	\$4,324.23	\$5,758.68	75.1%
Telephone & Internet	\$574.21	\$1,020.00	56.3%
Worship Rent	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	0.0%
Total Administration Account	\$7,442.58	\$10,952.78	68.0%

PCF Financial Report to 2021 September 30	2021 Actuals	2021 Budget	% of Budget
General Account			
Christian Education	\$0.00	\$200.00	0.0%
Congregational Caring	\$0.00	\$350.00	0.0%
Denominational Meetings	\$0.00	\$488.46	0.0%
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$25.00	0.0%
Social	\$0.00	\$500.00	0.0%
Worship (Worship and Choir Supplies)	57.89	\$600.00	9.6%
Total General Account	\$57.89	\$2,163.46	2.7%
Parent Churches Account			
Anglican	\$1,170.81	\$1,561.10	75.0%
Mennonite	\$610.20	\$610.20	100.0%
Presbyterians Sharing	\$915.30	\$915.30	100.0%
Presbyterian - Winnipeg Presbytery	\$610.20	\$610.20	100.0%
United Church M&S	\$2,945.73	\$3,927.65	75.0%
United Church Assessment	\$932.07	\$1,242.77	75.0%
Total Parent Churches Account	\$7,184.31	\$8,867.22	81.0%
Pastorate Account			
Congregational Pension Assessment	\$3,884.94	\$5,179.92	75.0%
Continuing Education Allowance	\$656.52	\$600.00	109.4%
Employer CPP	\$2,248.11	\$2,997.48	75.0%
Employer EI	\$1,182.69	\$1,245.36	95.0%
Extended Health and Dental	\$3,444.00	\$4,592.00	75.0%
Housing Allowance	\$6,750.00	\$9,000.00	75.0%
Pulpit Supply - Education Leave	\$350.00	\$360.00	97.2%
Pulpit Supply - Other	\$175.00	\$360.00	48.6%
Pulpit Supply - Vacation Leave	\$875.00	\$540.00	162.0%
Salary	\$43,924.50	\$58,500.00	75.1%
Utilities	\$2,842.47	\$3,790.00	75.0%
Total Pastorate Account	\$66,333.23	\$87,164.76	76.1%
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENSES	\$81,018.01	\$109,148.22	74.2%
SURPLUS/DEFICIT (not including subsidies)	-\$8,719.11	-\$0.00	
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	\$6,869.29		