

Pinawa Christian Fellowship
Annual General Meeting
November 26, 2023 in the Pinawa Lutheran Church

Minister's Report

Liz Brasier

Over the past months I have had tremendous support as I learned how an ecumenical congregation functions. It has been a welcome learning experience. Working with the Worship Committee has been encouraging and rewarding. Holy week was meaningful for me, as I hope it was for all. I am gleaning many ideas for future worship as I go along. I look forward to Advent and Christmas, the Lessons and Carols service and a candlelight Christmas Eve.

I have attended the annual meetings for the Prairie to Pine Region of the United Church, for Mennonite Church Manitoba, and a meeting with the Winnipeg Presbytery of Presbyterian Church.

In January I attended the Renew clergy training (online) offered in January by CMU (being stuck at home with covid allowed me the time to do so!). In October I attended an Anglican clergy meeting and workshop called Faith Horizons – focused on deeper inner knowledge of your spiritual path and how one brings that to outreach. I am currently taking part in book studies offered by the United church which center on deepening our understanding of our own and our congregational spiritual identity. These book study meetings take place on Zoom. All of this work comes out of conversations with members of the congregation. Many have expressed the desire to find out how PCF can have an active and meaningful presence in Pinawa where the demographic is changing. I am hoping that I can glean knowledge from these studies and workshops that I can share with the congregation in the new year.

I have been leading a bible study where we have been discussing Walter Bruggeman's book "Interrupting Silence: God's command to speak out".

I have taken part in the regular meetings of the MCM eastern cluster Mennonite, where pastors meet for lunch and mutual support.

I have had some opportunities for pastoral visitation in homes, and at the hospital. I look forward to meeting more folks in the coming year.

The installation service in June was very meaningful for me. I thank the choir, and all who worked to make it a special service.

Worship Report

Liz Brasier

This has been a busy year for the worship committee.

We purchased 7 copies of the new Mennonite hymnal 'Voices Together', and accompaniment book, and have been introducing some songs from that hymnal in services.

We had a meaningful Holy week, including a Stations of the Cross Walk, Easter Sunrise service at the pergola and Easter Communion.

A special installation service was celebrated in June, with representatives from all denominations present. We shared summer worship with the Pinawa Lutheran Church, with Pastor Liz leading in July and Pastor Stacey and lay leaders for PLC in August. This ended with an outside service on Labor Day weekend.

In the fall we were able to relax our covid restrictions a bit and began to offer communion at the front of the church (as opposed to carrying it to everyone) and passing the peace with handshakes once more. Unfortunately, as the uptick of covid cases became an issue in the fall, we are back to waving to one another as we 'share the peace' on Sunday mornings.

We look forward to a special service led by the Faith and Life (Mennonite) Choir on November 12, and an Anniversary celebration on November 19th, and then the Advent and Christmas services.

Convenor Committee Report

Deb Smith

Your Convenor Committee currently consists of Betty McCamis, Wally Kukurudz, me Deb Smith, who is acting Senior Convenor. Our By laws allow for 5 convenors, and we would welcome other voices and decision makers.

As I write this you will have received or will shortly receive our every member Fall Connect. In it you will find a pamphlet about who we are and how to connect with us. If you know of anyone who might be interested in PCF, please pass this along to them. Also included in the package is a general information sheet. Please take the time to fill this out and return it. We use the information to update and maintain our congregational list. Listed on the sheet are the many opportunities to be part of the life and work of the PCF. We all have different gifts and abilities. Please consider how you can contribute.

2 significant events have taken place in the past year. We have called our new minister and moved to our new "home".

After a time of dedicated work by your search committee, Pastor Elizabeth Brasier accepted the call. Thank you to Pastor Liz, for agreeing to be our new spiritual guide. She brings fresh ideas and enthusiasm. I know we all appreciate the consistency she brings. My hope is that we continue to grow together for several years.

If you have not yet had a chance to meet Pastor Liz, please join us for Sunday worship or drop by the church office in the mall.

After 60 years we have needed to make a change to better meet the needs of the congregation. Following a mandate from the congregation, and a few negotiating meetings, we have found our new home within the Pinawa Lutheran Church. We had another successful summer of shared services, and we look forward to more opportunities to work and worship together. Watch for the installation of a new sign on the church building indicating PCF time of worship and Liz Brasier as our Pastor.

Sunday Worship attendance has not returned to pre pandemic levels – some through declining membership due to members passing away, others feeling the need to relocate due to health concerns or the desire to be closer to family. These factors have had an impact on our church finances. We have been running a deficit for several months now and it is only because of our past sound financial management that we still have adequate cash reserves. I know we have a very generous congregation, and I am hopeful that we will be able to erase a significant portion of the deficit by year end. We will need to look seriously at our budget for next year.

Tuesday morning Coffee has returned to the church office. Please drop in on your way to pick up the mail or groceries. Coffee is served from 10:30 – 12:00. Everyone is welcome.

Bible study and the Knit a Bit group have resumed for the fall. Attendance at these groups is lively and entertaining.

A huge thank you to all members of the congregation. Each one of us contributes to the life and work of the Pinawa Christian Fellowship as we are able.

Christian Education

Chuck Vandergraaf

Much of the load of the chair of the Christian Education member of the General Committee has now been taken over by Pastor Liz. She has organized a fall series of discussions of the book, *Interrupting Silence*, by Walter Bruggemann.

I advertised a series of on-line lectures in the *January Series* of lectures offered by Calvin University (my Alma Mater) in “What’s up @ PCF” and an occasional Zoom discussion on a topic intersecting science and religion by the American Scientific Affiliation, of which I am a member. Calvin University will again be offering a series of on-line lectures in January 2023. These lectures and Zoom discussions are offered at no charge.

As I mentioned in my report for 2022, there is a wealth of programs and resource material available for Bible and Christian studies. Rob Murray alerted me to the Canadian Mennonite University’s *Portable CMU program* that provides speakers on a wide range of topic. There are also some excellent movies with a religious theme (for example, *The Mission* [1986] containing the haunting solo *Gabriel’s oboe*) that we could watch and discuss. *The Mission* is available for viewing on YouTube.

Now that we have some clarity on our meeting venue for the foreseeable future, we could consider resurrecting the *Dinner & Conversation* programs. However, with the current uncertainties about the recurrence of Covid-19, it is probably not advisable to resume this just yet.

Missions

Chuck Vandergraaf

The PCF Missions Subcommittee consists of Shirley Pellow, Judy Platford, Ken Reddig, and Subcommittee chair, Chuck Vandergraaf. Rob Murray, Holley Parcey and Bruce Willams have resigned from this committee.

The Pinawa Christian Fellowship supports Mission/Outreach in three ways financially:

- direct support of the programs of its parent churches from general revenue,
- forwarding funds to specific Mission projects as directed on collection envelopes, and
- 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.

As of the end of September, the Mission Fund stood at \$1,436.91, including a carry over from 2022 of \$465.91. Most of the Mission funds are donated through PAR. This amounts to \$249.00 per month for a projected total of \$2,988.00 for 2023. In addition, \$230.00 was donated for non-specified mission projects.

The Missions Subcommittee made the following disbursements during 2023:

- Mennonite Central Committee (Grow Hope Project) - \$700.00
- Agape Table - \$200.00
- 1 Just City - \$200.00
- Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Center (General Programs) - \$200.00
- Winnipeg Inner City Missions (for Aboriginal Individuals) - \$200.00

An urgent appeal was received from the Kenora Fellowship Centre in June to support this Centre financially. At that time, the Centre’s year-to-date income (January to March 2023) was \$159,391. Their expenses for the same period were \$178,276, leaving them with a deficit of \$18,884. As of the end of May they had about \$41,000 in their bank account. With the permission of the General Committee, we embarked on a fundraising campaign that was supported by an anonymous donor who pledged to match the first \$500 raised dollar-for-dollar. The generosity of the congregation was evident in that a total of \$1,995 was raised, including the matching \$500. At the suggestion of the Memorial & Honour Fund, a decision was made by the General Committee to donate an additional \$1,000 to the Kenora Fellowship Centre.

The Mission Subcommittee still needs to meet to select recipients for about \$1,000.

Recommendations:

- That the General Committee approve donations of \$2,500 to Beausejour and Area Food Bank and to the Lac du Bonnet and Area Food Bank from General Revenue. This is a modest increase of \$50.00 over last year.
- That the Memorial and Honour Fund consider matching donations for special appeals that are recommended by the Mission Subcommittee and supported by the General Committee.

Congregational Care

Shirley Pellow

Congregational Care committee members are Shirley Pellow, Brenda Morash and Joan Ticknor. Judy Platford was a long-time member of this committee. We thank her for all her years for service and wish her well.

Our committee continues to reach out to those who need support. We would appreciate being contacted if anyone is unwell and needs assistance or would like to hear from us that we are thinking of them.

There were three PCF ladies' lunches at the Pinawa Club this past year. Attendance was good and everyone enjoyed getting together.

At Christmas and Easter, we like to let our PCF members know they are a very important part of our church events. Greetings and goodies are delivered to them. Brenda continues to send out her beautiful stitched cards.

Thank you to Pastor Liz for reaching out to a lot of people of the church with visits and phone calls. Hopefully over the winter months we can do some visiting with our shut-ins.

Social

Barb Lambert

I met with Deb Smith and Barb Sanipelli at the end of October to go over set up for the luncheon following the Mennonite Faith & Life Choir service Nov. 12th. Deb and I will set up the luncheon table and Barb will set up the coffee and tea area. I have cleaned out most of the supplies from Gilbert kitchen and have purchased all supplies needed for both the Nov 12th event and PCF 60th anniversary service Nov. 19th. I will order the fruit and veggie trays for the 12th and order the cake, fruit and veggie trays for the 19th the week after. I spoke to Shirley about the cake and I will order it from Co-op in Beausejour. Garry will arrange the table set up and Faye will put the table cloths and center pieces on the tables. I have all the stuff that I took from Gilbert School at my place until our storage cabinets arrive.

Treasurer's Report

Karen Ross

We are behind our giving goal year to date by \$19,861. Our expenses are slightly less than planned¹, and we are only \$17,565 in the red. We hope to see an increase in donations in November and December.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

PCF Financial Report to 2023 September 30

	2023 Actuals	2023 Budget	% of Budget
GENERAL FUND INCOME			
Donations	\$0.00	\$0.00	NA
Local Offering	\$60,325.25	\$113,186.57	53.3% ²
Open Collection	\$167.00	\$250.00	66.8%
Interest and Dividends	\$1,807.34	\$660.00	273.8% ³
Fundraising	\$10.00	\$0.00	-
TOTAL GENERAL FUND INCOME	\$62,309.59	\$114,096.57	54.6%

PCF EXPENSES

	2023 Actuals	2023 Budget	% of Budget
Administration Account			
Advertising	\$514.97	\$650.00	79.2%
Bank & PAR Charges	\$325.26	\$400.00	81.3%
GST Paid (50%)	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Insurance & Property Taxes	\$2,958.00	\$1,300.00	227.5% ⁴
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$40.00	0.0%
Offering Envelopes	\$247.24	\$180.00	137.4% ⁵
Office Expenses	\$1,058.68	\$900.00	117.6% ⁶
Office Rent	\$4,682.98	\$5,770.00	81.2% ⁷
Telephone & Internet	\$700.27	\$850.00	82.4% ⁸
Worship Rent	\$3,360.00	\$5,560.00	60.4%
Total Administration Account	\$13,847.40	\$15,650.00	88.5%

PCF EXPENSES	2023 Actuals	2023 Budget	% of Budget
General Account			
Christian Education	\$0.00	\$500.00	0.0%
Congregational Caring	\$77.99	\$600.00	13.0%
Denominational Meetings	\$184.00	\$250.00	73.6%
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$25.00	0.0%
Social	\$136.92	\$600.00	22.8%
Worship (Worship and Choir Supplies)	\$609.73	\$750.00	81.3%
Total General Account	\$1,008.64	\$2,725.00	37.0%
Parent Churches Account			
Anglican	\$1,215.00	\$1,620.00	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	\$3,000.00	\$4,000.00	75.0%
United Church Assessment	\$1,533.00	\$2,044.00	75.0%
Total Parent Churches Account	\$7,883.70	\$9,799.70	80.4%
Pastorate Account			
Congregational Pension Assessment	\$2,675.24	\$3,579.00	74.7%
Continuing Education Allowance	\$0.00	\$1,800.00	0.0%
Employer CPP	\$2,296.17	\$3,289.44	69.8%
Employer EI	\$994.97	\$1,403.43	70.9%
Extended Health and Dental	\$945.20	\$1,275.12	74.1%
Housing Allowance	\$6,217.74	\$9,000.00	69.1%
Pulpit Supply - Education Leave	\$0.00	\$500.00	0.0%
Pulpit Supply - Other	\$0.00	\$500.00	0.0%
Pulpit Supply - Vacation Leave	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	0.0%
Salary	\$41,387.14	\$58,784.88	70.4%
Travel	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	0.0%
Utilities	\$2,618.33	\$3,790.00	69.1%
Total Pastorate Account	\$57,134.79	\$85,921.87	66.5%⁹
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENSES	\$79,874.53	\$114,096.57	70.0%
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	-\$17,564.94		

NOTES

- 1 Expenses should be around 75% of budget by end of September.
- 2 Lower than planned (the income is actually 75% of what was planned for by end of Sep).
- 3 Higher than planned, GICs reached maturity and interest realized.
- 4 Switched insurance providers and added D&O insurance and Lutheran Church location – received rebate \$815 back in October, still \$800 more than last year.
- 5 Post apologised for the increase in cost, just the way things are.
- 6 Increase in office cleaning (\$300).
- 7 Lewis rental for meetings, was free for a bit, now covered under Lutheran Church rental though.
- 8 Phone discount period ended partway through the year.
- 9 Pastorate account lower because Liz started near the end of January 2023.