

Pinawa Christian Fellowship

IN-PERSON

Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday September 25, 2022 in the Lutheran Church

MINUTES

42 people in attendance

1. **Call to Order** – Bob McCamis – the meeting was called to order at 11:56 am
2. **Opening Prayer** – Bob McCamis
3. **MOTION to adopt Agenda** with the addition of Sandy Saulteaux Update by Rob Smith – Karen Ross/Garry Buchanan, carried
4. **Convenor's Remarks** – Bob McCamis
Bob initiated a discussion for information about a venue for PCF worship services; no decisions will be made today
 - Whiteshell school board met recently and are now allowing user groups so we are allowed to return to services at FW Gilbert School as they were pre-pandemic; since Covid restrictions were eased to allow gatherings, we have been renting space in the Lutheran Church for Sunday services and had joint services with the Lutherans in July/August as we had done for many summers.
 - Pros and cons of returning to FW Gilbert school:
 - o It's a very big gym and we are a fairly small congregation (over the summer we were lucky to have 10, recently around 20 people at services)
 - o Most of us are getting old or are there already; the logistics of setup and takedown (chairs, pulpit, backdrops, etc.) that we used to do were becoming problematic even before Covid and would now be even more so
 - o Pro is that we are comfortable there and have items stored at the school; if we decide not to return to services in the school, we will no longer have storage space and have to move a considerable amount of our belongings to somewhere else (can't fit it into the office)
 - o Lutheran Church is the right size for us but there are renter limitations; we have no way of using any of our banners and some feel a lack of identity there
 - o We have various options for venue and it's a difficult decision

Discussion/questions about venue:

- Cost of renting the church is currently \$95/Sunday; this was recently raised from \$75. The Lutherans will undergo a review of maintenance costs and a further increase may be reflected in our rent
- School rent was \$40/Sunday in the past but we don't have a current agreement so that might change
- If we were to go back to FWG school we could hire someone (unknown who at this point) for setup, cost of setup would be on top of the school rent
- When the school converted a classroom into the kitchen, we gave them \$5,000 as an advance on rent for use of the kitchen. We still have about \$1500 to use from that initial funding
- The Lutheran Church has a limited amount of space for a choir but Heather feels more limiting than the space is the interest in a choir. If a choir couldn't sit together, they could gather at the front for hymns and return to their seats in between

- Brief discussion of what we have in our storage space at FW Gilbert school; the large room at the end of the hall is now a classroom, no longer multi-purpose, so it's not available to us
- Deb has spoken with Scott Smith who is now principal at FWG school; in no way are they trying to push us out of the school (he appreciates our history with the community and with the school) but if we do not return, they want the storage space back
- Brief discussion on storage in the office; piano is in the office now which makes it a tight fit for meetings or other gatherings if they resume (coffee morning, knitting group, etc.). Hymn books and sound equipment were put in the office during Covid. Smaller banners and other easily portable items have moved to the office, the large stuff wouldn't fit – storing stuff at the office is not ideal, and in some cases not possible
- Garry Buchanan: Lutheran Church setting is much better venue for a funeral, Lutheran Church is quieter and layout is very convenient; Bob added that you can fit more people into the FWG gym if you really have to but it is an onerous task to bring up the extra chairs from the crawl space
- We are investigating a possible lease with the Lutherans. They are a smaller group now with some issues in supporting a building
- Sylvia Reid – if we resume services over the school and then get restricted again for some reason, how big a problem is that?
Every move is a lot of work; we could resume lease negotiations with the Lutherans if the school didn't work or pursue other venue options
- Wally Kukurudz: there challenges no matter what venue we look at, we have to look at our services: Can we have the services in FWG school? Logistically we don't have the numbers to do setup and takedown like we used to. Let's have services where we can all contribute without physical labour and worry about the rest later.
- Grant Delaney: with the Lutheran and PCF groups getting smaller we may want to think about amalgamating at some point
The PCF Executive Committee and Lutheran Council have met. The Lutherans have had some think tanks and amalgamation was briefly discussed. Some Lutherans wanted to maintain a separate identify and some are worried that as they shrink, we might outnumber them and they didn't want the perception that PCF would move into their building and take over by sheer numbers. We have communicated our position that we know it's their building and we do not want to come in and take over
Karen – at our meeting with the Lutheran council they mentioned that the building itself belongs to the parent Lutheran church so to amalgamate would require a lot of work on their part
Roger – regarding a concern about one group domination, one could say that about any of our individual denominations. Our history of different denominations working together has shown that it is not a problem, multi-denominational continues to work for us.

Closing comments on venue:

Bob – this is a good start and we'd like to keep the discussion going; he will put something on the PCF website. If you get What's Up, please read it because it's the only way we have of getting information out easily.

Deb – it's important that we don't lock ourselves into one or either option, we are currently renting space in the Lutheran Church because of convenience and history but it's not our only option – there are

other venues in town. We need to think openly, creatively and look at all options before we make a decision.

We urgently require more volunteers

- 3 convenors at the moment Deb, Wally and Bob – this is Bob’s last year. We need more convenors and could always use more help on General Committee
- Setup is still required in Lutheran church – sound equipment, greeters, flowers. Lori Evenden compiles a list of volunteers; if you can help out contact Lori or one of convenors

Office presence

After Rob’s retirement we have been trying to create a presence in the office: Joye 2 half-days/week, Bob sometimes, maybe we could have the knitters come back or some entirely new activity. It would be good to have our office space used.

Bob thanked his fellow convenors, the Search Committee and General Committee members, all the volunteers who do things for PCF, and everyone for their financial and moral support and advice.

5. **MOTION** to approve Minutes of the October 24, 2021 General Meeting – Betty McCamis/Rob Smith – carried
6. **MOTION** to approve the reports of the Convenors, Treasurer and various committees of the PCF, as published on www.pinawa.church and as distributed at the meeting, be received and all recommendations adopted – Ken Reddig/Dorothy Walker – carried
7. **MOTION** to approve the slate of PCF General Committee candidates (below) – Cindy Litke/Isabel Acres, carried

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| Convenor Committee | Bob McCamis, Deb Smith, Wally Kukurudz |
| Secretary | Marg Stokes |
| Treasurer | Karen Ross |
| Worship Committee | Judith Platford |
| Christian Education | Chuck Vandergraaf |
| Missions | Chuck Vandergraaf |
| Social | Barb Lambert |
| Stewardship | Lori Evenden |

Pastoral Relations Sub-committee: Vacant

8. Treasurer’s Remarks – Karen Ross

Thank you to the team (Marg, Bob, Betty and George) that helps keep track of our finances. The financial reports to the end of August are available online and have been distributed to you today. We are behind our giving goal year to date by about \$16k. This giving goal was based on having a full-time minister for the full year. Our expenses are less than planned (~26k) because we have not found our full-time minister yet. So, we are only \$1800 in the red. We will see more recovery in September. We will need to increase our monthly donations from ~\$5800 a month to ~\$9300 a month once we have a new minister. Thank you again for your continued generosity.

I am happy to entertain any questions you have today or at any time. Feel free to email me at treasurer@pinawa.church or rosski@mymts.net.

Following a review of the income/expense table (in the AGM reports document), there were a couple of questions:

What do we pay for office rent? – \$492.19/month

What is the balance in the account? – approx. \$88k available for operating expenses and \$152k restricted funds, which includes \$101k in term deposits. Based on current donations we are viable for at least 5 years.

9. Search Committee Report – Deb Smith

We are working hard and have considered four viable candidates:

- one chose to go to Oshawa, ON
- one graduating ministry student didn't get to the interview stage; he was not a good fit for our congregation. His incredibly thick accent would have caused a communication problem and he would likely be seeking the cultural opportunities of a bigger centre
- one young woman decided she was not a good fit and is going to Edmonton
- we are feeling positive about a recent zoom interview with a woman; we will share the interview with committee members who could not attend and proceed from there
- our profile package was sent to another man this week

Not a lot of people are going into ministry. There are 292 empty parishes in United Church; we are not alone in our search.

Garry Buchanan commended the Committee for their work, on behalf of the congregation.

10. New Business

Sandy Saulteaux Centre – Rob Smith

Thank you for your generous gift to the Centre in the spring. I was hoping it would be well underway by now and that I would have pictures to show you. The building permit process is taking a long time because of a municipal road we did not know was on the property. There is a rezoning meeting coming up in October at which we would be glad to have anyone's support.

We have received \$136,789 from the Prairie to Pine Region of the United Church. It is 10% of the proceeds from the sale of their building in Brandon.

Thank you to PCF for your support over the years.

11. MOTION to Adjourn Meeting – Bernice Hawton – 12:46 pm

12. Closing Prayer – Joye Platford