Pinawa Christian Fellowship
Annual General Meeting
October 25, 2026 in the Pinawa Lutheran Church

Minister's Report

Liz Brasier

Over the past year, I have collaborated with the worship committee to develop worship series that touch hearts and expand our vision. The committee works diligently to create meaningful services for the congregation, and we are delighted to welcome Bernice Hawton as a new member.

Advent and Christmas seasons were busy, with a special Advent worship series entitled "Be Amazed" and a Friday morning bible study. The PCF choir was invited to sing at the Pinawa family holiday event at the arena which was lots of fun!

Our Lent worship series was entitled "Dwelling in Dissonance." Together we took a journey through John's Holy Week narratives throughout our Lenten worship.

Holy Week and Easter services went well. The well-attended Tenebrae service on Maundy Thursday was especially meaningful. This year, we held the Good Friday service at the church rather than the outdoor walk. Although icy conditions at the pergola forced us to cancel the Easter Sunrise service, the Easter Communion celebration inside the church warmly enfolded us in the joy of the resurrection.

For our summer worship in July, we used the series "God Shalom for our common home", focusing on our calling to live in peace with God, creation and each other. We worshiped with Pinawa Lutheran Church through July and August. I was delighted to officiate at the beginning of August, as Amy Smith and Rob Buenaventura were married at a lovely service in Deb and Rob Smith's back yard!

Book Studies: We had two book studies this past year. During Lent we looked at selected readings from "Bread and Wine" and in April and May we read "Naked Spirituality: A life with God in 12 simple words" by Brian D. McLaren.
2nd Hour: In February Josephine Hall shared her Sixties Scoop experiences.
Outreach: We continued our outreach this year, worshiping monthly with the Ironwood Supportive Care, Lac du Bonnet PCH, Whitemouth PCH and the Ironwood Gardens. Also, on two occasions, the Pinawa Hospital called me to offer pastoral care for families who were not connected with PCF.

With Special Thanks:
-To Glenys Norman Kukurudz and Giuliano Sanipelli for sharing your musical gifts
-To Barb Sanipelli for preparing our weekly PowerPoint presentations and providing wonderful photos
-To the Pastoral Relations Committee for your wisdom and care
-To Chuck Vandergraaf for keeping everyone informed about our worship and church life through "What's Up"

Finally, my heartfelt thanks to the entire congregation for your care during my recovery from a serious health incident at the end of May.

I look forward to journeying with you all through the next year.

Convenors Message

Deb Smith

What if small is enough?

"Most congregations don't have enough money, people or energy to do what they'd like to do — or what they think they should do. Churches are small, and for the most part, getting smaller. The "not enoughness" hangs in the air, like a weary sigh."

Broadview magazine September/October 2026

I believe that if we continue to care for each other, our community and those in need around the world, as we always have, then we are enough.

So many contribute in so many ways. We are blessed to have such dedicated members. Thank you to everyone who serves.

I would like to highlight just a few of these contributions.

A special thank you to:

Chuck, for your many years of service keeping us informed through What's Up. Chuck will be stepping down at the end of the year, and we thank Bob McCamis for taking over.

Barb Sanipelli, for the beautiful photography you use to enhance the PowerPoint "bulletins" you prepare for us each week. We all look forward to them.

Our worship team, for thoughtfully planning and preparing services each week where everyone is welcomed and feels included.

Our musicians and song leaders, for sharing your time and talents and helping us lift our voices together in song.

Our financial team, for keeping us informed about our financial situation and helping us understand the challenges ahead.

And finally, Pastor Liz, for your continued spiritual guidance, comfort and care. We are grateful for your presence among us.

As we move forward into another year we will continue to face challenges both physically and financially. By keeping our expectations realistic and planning thoughtfully, we can focus on what matters most: caring for one another, our community and those in need.

Small does not mean insignificant. What we are able to give, together, matters—and that is enough

Missions

Chuck Vandergraaf

The Missions subcommittee of the General Committee consists of Shirley Pellow, Karen Ross, Rob Smith, and Chuck Vandergraaf. Karen volunteered to replace Ken Reddig, who moved away this year.

At the beginning of this calendar year, the Mission Fund stood at $639.91.

Since the start of 2026, and as of the date of the 2026 AGM, the subcommittee will have disbursed the following:

- Beausejour Food Bank $ 360.00
- Christmas Hampers $ 250,00
- Grow Hope (MCC) $ 800.00
- Lac du Bonnet Food Bank $ 360.00
- Sandy Saulteau Centre $ 250.00
- Winnipeg Inner City Mission (WICM) $ 300.00
- UCC Northern Missions $ 300.00

For a total of $2,620.00

In addition, the Special Gifts committee allocated $500.00 from its funds to WICM and another $495.00 was raised in a campaign to support WICM, $300.00 of which was donated in memory of Judy Platford. The $495.00 was matched by an anonymous donor. In total, $1,790 was donated to WICM. In response to PCF's donation to WICM, I received an email with the statement, *Wow - thank you for this. It is so much appreciated!*

As of the end of September, the Mission Fund balance stood at $1,650.91 [not reflecting the $1,000 disbursed during October]. Additional income, mainly through PAR is ~$230.00 per month and the projected balance by the end of 2026 should be approximately $1,340. A meeting of the Mission subcommittee is planned for later this year to discuss this and to disburse much of the remaining and expected funds this year.

What's Up newsletter

Chuck Vandergraaf

I dug into the metrics available on MailChimp for "What's up @PCF" about a month ago.

The most important metrics are

- Number of subscribers
- Number of unique "opens"
- Number of unique "clicks"

When covid struck in 2020, we had 133 subscribers and, typically, about 100 "opens" The "clicks varied widely, depending on the number of hyperlinks in "What's up" and the interest of the subscribers. Often, links to published obituaries and links to PCF documents increase the number of "clicks". Links to articles in the sidebar generate relatively few "clicks", indicating a lack of interest.

- These numbers did not change appreciably during the covid era.
- I relieved Rob Murray on occasion sometime before 2022
- I took over from Rob when he retired; my first issue was prepared for Palm Sunday 2022
- Rob had his last worship service on Easter Sunday, April 17 and officially retired on April 24.
- At that time, we had 147 subscribers and around 108 “opens”
- Pastor Liz started her ministry in January 2023
- The number of subscribers at that time was 141 and the number of “opens” was 106.
- These numbers held steady: by May 24, 2024, the number of recipients was 136, and the number of “opens” was 100.
- The number of “opens” then suddenly dropped by 50%, to 55-60 and have not recovered
- The latest numbers, for last Saturday/Sunday (October 3-4), are 118 recipients and 46 “opens” (40%)
- There have been two “soft bounces” recently. I have emailed the recipients and have not had a response.

Questions

- what has led to the sharp decrease in “opens”?
- what should be done to clean up the list of the number of recipients?

Comments

I have been looking after “What’s up” for 4+ years now, what started off as assisting Rev Rob Murray. I had not intended to make this my life’s goal. It is now time to look for a replacement. I am willing to continue preparing “What’s up” until the end of the calendar year, 2026.

Thanks to Bob McCamis who has spelled me off occasionally.

Congregational Care

Shirley Pellow

In the past few years, the membership of the congregation has decreased in numbers but needs of the present members have increased due to aging and disability. The committee is too great to be managed by myself alone.

Some of the tasks are visitation, phone calls, meals when necessary and transportation for church. Cards are sent for birthdays, sympathy and get well. At Christmas time, on behalf of the church I purchase small gifts for the elderly which is appreciated.

We are very short of prayer shawls so if people would like to knit or crochet, it would be helpful.

Ladies luncheon will continue throughout the year.

This fall when filling out your visitation packages, please consider taking on a small task for the Congregational Care committee, or contact me.

Treasurer's Report

Karen Ross

We are behind our giving goal year to date by $11,122 which is about 11% more than planned[1]. Our expenses are as planned, and we are $21,498 in the red with a budgeted deficit of $9,202. We hope our historical pattern continues and we see an increase in donations for remainder of the year. Thank you for your continued generosity.

PCF Financial Report to 2026 Sep 30	**2026 Actuals**	**2026 Budget**	**% of Budget**	Notes
GENERAL FUND INCOME				
Donations	$0.00	$0.00	NA	
Local Offering	$58,378.25	$100,000	58.4%	1
Open Collection	$38.50	$200	19.3%	
Interest and Dividends	$4,560.33	$6,000	76.0%	2
Fundraising	$0.00	$0.00	-	
TOTAL GENERAL FUND INCOME	**$62,977.08**	**$106,200**	**59.3%**	
Administration Account				
Advertising	$725.46	$900	80.6%	
Bank & PAR Charges	$289.48	$500	57.9%	3
GST Paid (50%)	$0.00	$0.00		
Insurance & Property Taxes	$1,471.00	$1,400	105.1%	4
Miscellaneous	$0.00	$40.00	0.0%	
Offering Envelopes	$0.00	$0.00		
Office Expenses	$651.69	$1,200	54.3%	
Office Rent	$0.00	$0.00	0.0%	5
Telephone & Internet	$1,182.45	$1,450	81.5%	6
Worship Rent	$4,525.00	$6,000	75.4%	
Total Administration Account	**$8,845.08**	**$11,490**	**77.0%**	

PCF Financial Report to 2026 Sep 30	2026 Actuals	2026 Budget	% of Budget	Notes
General Account				
Christian Education	-$3.26	$100	-3.3%	
Congregational Caring	$228.12	$600	38.0%	
Denominational Meetings	$250.00	$400	62.5%	
Miscellaneous	$0.00	$25.00	0.0%	
Social	$525.81	$600	87.6%	7
Stewarship	$0.00	$500	0.0%	8
Worship (Worship and Choir Supplies)	$418.87	$750	55.8%	9
Total General Account	**$1,419.54**	**$2,975**	**47.7%**	
Kitchen Rent	**$1,306.25**			10
Parent Churches Account				
Anglican	$1,064.25	$1,419	75.0%	
Mennonite	$1,100.00	$1,100	100.0%	11
Presbyterians Sharing	$250.00	$250	100.0%	11
Presbyterian - Winnipeg Presbytery	$500.00	$500	100.0%	11
United Church M&S	$2,250.00	$3,000	75.0%	
United Church Assessment	$1,638.75	$2,185	75.0%	
Total Parent Churches Account	**$6,803.00**	**$8,454**	**80.5%**	

PCF Financial Report to 2026 Sep 30	2026 Actuals	2026 Budget	% of Budget	Notes
Pastorate Account				
Congregational Pension Assessment	$2,900.16	$3,866.86	75.0%	
Continuing Education Allowance	$100.00	$1,800.00	5.6%	
Employer CPP	$2,719.35	$3,625.77	75.0%	
Employer EI	$1,323.69	$1,572.30	84.2%	
Extended Health and Dental	$1,054.71	$1,281.36	82.3%	
Housing Allowance	$6,750.00	$9,000.00	75.0%	
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	$48,327.84	$64,437.24	75.0%	
Utilities	$2,925.00	$3,900.00	75.0%	
Travel	$0.00	$1,000.00	0.0%	
Total Pastorate Account	**$66,100.75**	**$92,483.53**	**71.5%**	
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENSES	**$84,474.62**	**$115,402.53**	**73.2%**	
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	**-$21,497.54**	**-$9,202.53**		

Notes

1) 11% lower than planned for September
2) GICs reached maturity interest from M&H and Project goes to operating
3) Canada Helps fee included
4) Insurance one-time payment
5) Office rent expensed through M and H fund
6) Phone increased in August
7) Lots to celebrate
8) Will see expense in October
9) One License
10) Advance on kitchen rent written off the books
11) Full payment made in January