

WUC ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Westminster United Church

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Prepared for the
Annual
Congregational
Meeting of
March 17th,
2024

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Holy Manners

We will create a caring environment consistent with the love and compassion lived and taught by Jesus. We will communicate honestly, treating one another with respect, whether in agreement or disagreement. We will be careful in what we say and how we listen. We will avoid gossip. We will use email with care, and we will seek to address sensitive conversations face to face.

Meetings:

We will be as concerned about how we conduct meetings, communicate with each other, and make decisions, as we are about the issues. We will respect due process and honour the decisions of the majority. We will govern and conduct ourselves in ways that are consistent with the Constitution and By-Laws of The United Church of Canada.

Leaders:

We want our leaders to lead. We expect our leaders to consider the opinions of the wider congregation and keep the congregation informed of issues and decisions. We expect that leaders will honour the confidentiality of their office.

Outreach:

We believe that welcoming newcomers is a spiritual task which belongs to us all. We commit ourselves to this task. As a Christian congregation, we understand our context to be the community, the nation, and the world. We will seek to speak and to act as citizens of the larger community. We will seek the empowerment of others and we will find specific and concrete ways to express appreciation to others.

Disagreement:

We recognize that conflict is natural, and we will view it as an opportunity for growth. When conflict arises, we will acknowledge that it exists; we will address it respectfully and in a timely manner; we will seek to deal in person with the individual or group with whom the issue has arisen; we will seek resolution in positive, non-adversarial ways.

Personal Responsibility and Power:

We will use our time, talent and treasure to support God's work among us, and we will not threaten withdrawal of support as a means to manipulate the decision of the group.

Statistics

The following figures represent the congregation of Westminster United Church for 2022:

Members 131

Non-Resident Members 11

Received Into Membership

0

Baptisms 2

Funerals 7

Weddings 1

The following figures represent the congregation of Westminster United Church for 2023:

Members 124

Non-Resident Members 11

Received Into Membership

0

Baptisms 0

Funerals 1

Weddings 0

Annual Report of the Pastoral Charge Supervisor

Over the past year it has, again, been my privilege to serve as the Pastoral Charge Supervisor for Westminster United, Medicine Hat. I have attended the annual meeting this past spring, been present (by zoom) at Board Meetings monthly, and shared in several conversations about the life and work being done, and the future directions for God's people in this place. It has been a busy year.

I want to thank Anna-Marie Hancock for her capable work as Chair, and all the members of the Board for their willingness to engage in some challenging discussions and decisions. Their leadership will empower Westminster into its future.

Since my first board meeting at my first church (as a student minister) in September, 1965 I have seen the church quite frequently go through many changes and face significant challenges. This past year has been no different. In addition to the ongoing work of tending to the building, property, and people of Westminster, several significant challenges have been engaged. We need to update the names of the Trustees on the titles of the property of the church and manse, clarify the relationship with Little Owl Daycare and negotiate a new lease, and to begin discussions (with support from the Chinook Winds Regional staff) as to the future direction and life this congregation will embrace. That's quite a load!

We live in a much different world than the one I encountered as a student minister. So many changes in technology, the make-up of our culture, our economy, and even a pandemic, have caused us to know that what once was comforting and comfortable will no longer meet the needs of our world. Such transitions are not easy. Yet they lie before us, and we need to wisely listen for the leading of the Holy Spirit as we are called into new ways of ministry for these emerging days.

During this coming year, there will be lots more discussion and many challenging decisions. The work of God through The United Church of Canada in southeastern Alberta is growing and changing. As we engage in the discussions, dreaming, planning and enacting of those new patterns of ministry we remember: "We are not alone. We live in God's world."

Thanks be to God,

Rev Bob Wallace, Pastoral Charge Supervisor

Board of Elders

The Board of Elders of Westminster United Church is a group of people from our congregation representing a variety of committees. In 2023 the following people were a part of our Board: Pat Evans (finance & property), Anna Marie Hancock (chair of the Board), Jeannette Zollner (Secretary), Linda Kisell (Ministry & Personnel, Affirming Committee, Property), Margaret Taylor (Christian Development), Marg McCulley (Ministry & Personnel, Music & Worship and Chinook Winds Representative), Betty Sidlick (Pastoral Care), Melanie Rattai (Mission & Outreach) and Rev. Bob Wallace (Pastoral Charge Supervisor for the Chinook Winds region).

The Board meets on a monthly basis, generally on the 2nd Monday of each month. We generally hold our meetings on ZOOM, to facilitate the attendance of Rev. Bob Wallace, who resides in Lethbridge. We anticipate continuing with ZOOM meetings for the next while.

We want to encourage our congregants to take a more active role in the operations of the church. This can easily be attained by joining one of our many committees. Being on a committee does NOT mean you would have to attend Board meetings. The chairperson of each committee fills the spot on the Board; other committee members are able to help with a variety of activities that the committee wants to undertake. We are also looking for someone to fill the position of **Treasurer**. Please consider becoming a part of one of our committees. If you have any questions about the Board or the committees, please talk to Pat Evans or Anna Marie Hancock.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Marie Hancock
Chair of the Board of Elders

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees holds the Westminster United Church property in Medicine Hat in trust for the United Church of Canada.

The trustees for 2023 were Pat Evans (Chair), Sharon Clay, BJ Maddaford and Rev. Bob Wallace, Pastoral Charge Supervisor. Trustee responsibilities include investments and insurance. Our investments are held through the United Church Foundation and are held in a fund which follows the Foundation's ethical and performance objectives. The market value of our investments as of December 31, 2023, was \$34,396.12. We withdrew \$17,500 from our investments in 2023 to cover the cost of replacing the manse roof and our operating deficit.

We transitioned to the new in-house insurance program developed by the United Church of Canada in June, 2023. The new in-house program is intended to reduce insurance premiums but provide the same coverage as the previous program. The UCC Protect program provides comprehensive property and liability insurance as well as crime, equipment breakdown, abuse coverage and Directors' and Officers' liability coverage. The insurance premium for 2023 was \$9,616.25 compared to \$12,061.65 for 2022. The church is insured for \$4,690,865.00 and the former manse is insured for \$394,693.00.

The former manse continued to be rented to Ali and Hakima Al Mansour.

In 2023, Little Owl Learning Centre continued to rent a substantial portion of the lower level of the church and have done considerable upgrades including to their playground area. With the assistance of Joel Den Haan from the Chinook Winds Region productive negotiations were held with Little Owl regarding renewal of their lease. I would also like to acknowledge the assistance of Linda Kisell for all the help she has provided in working with Little Owl Learning Centre. Little Owl children presented a Christmas concert in our sanctuary on December 22nd to a large group of family members.

Pat Evans and BJ Maddaford attended an informative online Trustee webinar in March, 2023 which provided information about trustee roles and responsibilities.

We have been working to update our property titles with the assistance of Chinook Winds Region.

Respectively submitted,

Pat Evans

PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The owners of Little Owl Learning Centre have done leasehold improvements at their expense, including many renovations and upgrades to the areas that they are renting. During 2023 they began renting the Dot Wilkinson room. They also upgraded the playground area, which looks great! The Girl Guides continued to meet at the church on Tuesdays and Wednesday evenings and now meet in Memorial Hall and the former nursery. One support group is meeting at the church on Thursdays in the former nursery. We also have a small group of line dancers who practice in Memorial Hall regularly and PEO which meets once a month.

We continued regular required maintenance activities and repairs. This included cleaning the eave troughs, tree trimming of the large pine tree on the north side of the church and the spruce trees at the manse. The manse roof was replaced in April, 2023. Lawn maintenance and snow removal was handled by Crock's Lawn and Snow. Required inspections of the alarm system, fire extinguishers, boiler, backflow preventers, kitchen fire suppression system, and wheelchair lift were conducted.

We were advised to upgrade the expansion tank on the boiler which will be done in early January, 2024.

Utility costs have risen sharply over the last couple of years, however we did receive a rebate on our electricity costs.

Special thanks to our secretary/custodian Jennifer Johnson for all manner of assistance in dealing with building users and looking after the church on a day-to-day basis. We also extend our thanks to everyone who helped out with property matters in 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Evans

Music and Worship 2023 Annual Report

Committee Members: Chris White Anna Marie Hancock, Kathy Neilson. Marg McCulley

The committee met regularly on the first Sunday of the month. Planning for upcoming seasons and worship proved to be stimulating and exciting. The committee has been diligent in ensuring that all Sunday services were possible with regularly scheduled Worship leaders. We are grateful that we have had leadership by Rev Dr. Shane Andrus, Rev Bob Cruikshank, Rev Kristy Reimers Loader. Chaplain George Koopmans, Anna Marie Hancock Jen Zollner and Marg McCulley. Each person comes with a different slant to worship and congregational feedback has indicated that for the most part all are appreciated.

Choir Director Chris White treated the congregation to two cantatas this past year, one at Easter and one for Christmas. Thanks to Chris and choir for their dedication to providing inspiration and beautiful music.

We thank all the congregation members who volunteered to read scripture, minute for mission, Easter and Christmas liturgies. Thanks to the greeters, ushers, and elders in charge who ensured the services went well. We appreciate all who prepared and served coffee after the services. Thanks to all who baked and spoiled us with the delicious treats they offered.

Thank you to our Minister Emeritus Reverend Helen Reid who conducted the communion services. Thank you to all those who served communion to the congregation. Thank you to Dawn Knowles who prepared the bread and wine for us.

A special thanks to Linda Kisell who spent her time finding volunteers for the services. We appreciate your dedication and all you do to ensure that the services are provided with willing and welcoming greeters, elders in charge and coffee hosts.

Thanks to Kathy Neilsen and Debi Hoefling for running the power point. And thank you to Pat Evans for ensuring that the microphones are all working and for filming the services.

As chair I want to bring attention to the committee, Chris White, Anna Marie Hancock and Kathy Neilsen. Thank you for your support and input that have made the services interesting and meaningful.

Respectfully Submitted

Chair Marg McCulley

Ministry and Personnel Committee

Respectfully submitted by Chair Marg McCulley and Committee Member Linda Kisell

The committee accepted with regret the resignation of Debi Hoefling this past year. The staff all remained in their current positions: Jennifer Johnson secretarial and custodial duties, Chris White music director and Kelly Grozell security and handyman. As always with staff there were minor issues which arose during the year and were handled by the committee in consultation with the staff. The committee met several times with the staff to discuss ongoing plans. Office hours were adjusted to accommodate the requirements of the secretarial staff.

We appreciate the time and effort of the staff to ensure the positive ongoing activities in the church. As chair I appreciate the support and wisdom of Linda Kisell. Thanks so much to all for a successful year.

Christian Development Committee

The Christian Development Committee (CD) consists of one member, myself. Conventionally, it is the committee at the Board of Elders charged with overseeing Christian Development activities for the congregation of Westminster United Church. This oversight could/would include the Sunday School, the Nursery, Bible Study(ies), Youth Group, as well as supporting CD activities beyond our congregation, such as St. Andrews' and St. Stephens' Theological Colleges, and Chaplaincy programs such as the Medicine Hat Ecumenical Chaplaincy Program at the Medicine Hat Community College.

We did not have a Sunday School, Nursery, or Youth Group in 2023, for the lack of a "need" of them. There is an Adult Bible Study Group that meets on a weekly basis, at Chinook Seniors Living Complex with Rev. Dave Pollard from our sister congregation at Fifth Avenue Memorial leading the group.

Due to fiscal challenges, we have elected to not send financial support as a congregation to St. Andrews' and St. Stephen's Theological Colleges. We did send our budgeted pledge to the Medicine Hat Ecumenical Chaplaincy Program, albeit a greatly diminished amount. If individual members of the congregation wish to contribute to these, they are most certainly invited to do so.

In October, a monthly "sock" drive was started for donations of socks, with each month's "basket" being delivered to a local community organization dedicated to helping the less fortunate. In November, I took the first basket of socks to the Salvation Army Community Resource Center, in December, the delivery was to the Root Cellar, and it is hoped that future community recipients will include the Women's Shelter, the Homeless Shelter and other organizations in our community.

We also collect donations of non-perishable food items and personal hygiene products for the "Pantry" at the Medicine Hat Ecumenical Chaplaincy. These are picked up on a monthly basis by a volunteer from the Board of Directors of the Medicine Hat Ecumenical Chaplaincy Program.

I continue to be the representative from Westminster United Church on the Board of Directors of the Medicine Hat Ecumenical Chaplaincy Program. This group meets once a month, and receives a monthly report from Pastor George Koopman.

The "Knitting Circle" meets once a week for knitters and crocheters to get together, "ply their craft" and enjoy each other's company. Anyone who wants to spend a Tuesday afternoon socializing is welcome. There is no cost to join. Just bring your needle(s) and yarn. Donations of yarn are always welcome! This Fall, donations of toques and scarves, made by our knitters, were delivered to the Root Cellar and the Women's Shelter. Prayer Shawls already on hand are being distributed to congregational members by the Pastoral Care Committee.

Thursday afternoons, we have "coffee hour" for anyone wishing to enjoy a "cup of Joe" and socialize with others. Noon hour luncheons were also hosted on an irregular schedule to provide an opportunity to enjoy some "breaking of bread" time with others. Many thanks to those who help host these gatherings. It is true that "many hands make light work".

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Taylor, Chairperson

Pastoral Care Committee

Members: Anna Marie Hancock, Linda Kisell, Pat Marshall (hospital visitor), Patty McFarlane, Velma Pearson.

The Pastoral Care Committee is primarily concerned with the spiritual health and well-being of every person in the congregation. This is accomplished through various programs such as: Shrove Tuesday Pancakes & March 15 Pie Day. Margaret Taylor, Patty McFarlane & Jenifer Johnson prepared supper for the Ministerial Plan workshop with Karen Medland & Joel Denhaan. Chris White prepared, with contributions from the congregation, an Octoberfest luncheon on November 1st. All of the above was well received.

Several people have been making phone calls to those who can't get out to church. Christmas cards were bought, addressed & mailed out to the congregation from Westminster United Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Sidlick, Director

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Mission and Outreach is under construction more to come in 2024. I am working to develop my role in this committee and develop more meaningful outreach in the church and the community. Sorry for the lack of report for 2023.

Melanie Rattai

Report of Affirming Committee

The affirming committee had a good year.

We participated in PIE Day this year by putting on 4 readers theatre pieces. We explained the meaning of PIE and we served pie as dessert between shows. They were well received, and we made approx. \$1100.

We also attended the pop-up pride festival at Rotary Park on June 10. We spent the day handing out doughnuts from McBride's Bakery and rainbow stickers. Linda Kisell, Sharon Clay, Marg McCulley and Debi Hoefling spent the day and fun was had by all.

We are hoping to increase our participation in events this coming year.

Thank you

Respectfully submitted.

Debi Hoefling

Committee chair.

**Westminster United Church
Proposed Budget 2024**

	Actual as of December 31, 2023	2023 Budget	2024 Budget
REVENUE			
Income			
Co-op fundraising project	40.14	0.00	40.00
Coffee Money Sundays	1,765.65	1,000.00	1,800.00
Funerals	200.00	200.00	200.00
Local Assistance	0.00	700.00	200.00
Mission & Service	9,630.00	0.00	9,700.00
Broadview	30.00	0.00	30.00
Fellowship meals	1,512.50	0.00	1,500.00
Tax Assessment – Little Owl	15,446.76	15,000.00	17,000.00
Interest	4.46	2.00	5.00
Offering Envelopes	41,294.15	55,500.00	44,000.00
Offering Initial	5.00	10.00	10.00
Offering Loose	4,917.04	2,300.00	4,990.00
Cost Recovery - Building	510.00	2,500.00	3,500.00
Cost Recovery - Manse	18,000.00	18,000.00	18,000.00
Cost Recovery – Little Owl	31,425.00	30,300.00	41,025.00
Wedding Fees	0.00	225.00	225.00
Misc	0.00	10.00	10.00
Utility cost contribution – Little Owl	0.00	0.00	11,000.00
Offering PAR	56,119.00	70,000.00	58,500.00
Special appeals	861.45	0.00	900.00
Reimbursements	242.00	200.00	200.00
Gains (Loss) on Investments	5,354.49	2,500.00	500.00
Fundraisers	1,125.27	5,000.00	3,500.00
Total Income	188,482.91	203,447.00	216,835.00
TOTAL REVENUE	188,482.91	203,447.00	216,835.00

EXPENSE	Actual as of December 31, 2023	2023 Budget	2024 Budget
Affirming Committee			
Affirming Committee	100.00	100.00	100.00
Total Affirming Committee	100.00	100.00	100.00
Christian Development			
Bible Study Material	0.00	0.00	0.00
Camp Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00
Camp Shagabec Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chaplaincy MHC	250.00	250.00	250.00
Conference Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00
Confirmation	0.00	0.00	0.00
Leadership Training	0.00	0.00	0.00
Broadview-Donation	0.00	0.00	0.00
St Andrews College	0.00	0.00	0.00
St Stephens College	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sunday School Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00
Messy Church	0.00	0.00	0.00
Misc.	0.00	0.00	0.00
Spring Picnic	0.00	200.00	0.00
Vacation Bible School	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Christian Development	250.00	450.00	250.00
Pastoral Care			
Coffee Purchases	202.41	400.00	300.00
Name Tags	0.00	25.00	25.00
Broadview Subscription	0.00	0.00	0.00
Special Events	901.32	550.00	900.00
Supplies	0.00	55.00	55.00
Total Pastoral Care	1,103.73	1030.00	1,280.00
Finance			
Financial review	0.00	200.00	200.00
Bank Charges	767.55	575.00	780.00
Computer Programming	618.03	150.00	650.00
Computer Service	63.00	400.00	400.00
Offering Envelopes	0.00	0.00	100.00
Office Supplies	94.30	300.00	100.00
Paper Products	117.85	200.00	150.00
PAR Charges	232.50	300.00	300.00
Photocopier Expense	1,306.24	1,500.00	1,500.00
Postage	94.30	120.00	120.00
Publications	78.75	300.00	100.00
Telephone	2,792.81	2,500.00	2,900.00
Equipment Replacement	0.00	200.00	800.00
Website Administration	629.62	600.00	630.00
Total Finance	6,794.95	7,345.00	8,730.00

	Actual as of December 31, 2023	Budget 2023	Budget 2024
Ministry & Personnel			
ADP Fees	366.90	300.00	366.90
EI Expense	981.08	960.00	1,225.00
CPP Expense	2,524.48	2,400.00	2,725.00
WCB Expense	200.00	200.00	200.00
FT Minister Cont Ed.	0.00	00.00	0.00
FT Minister Salary (E)	0.00	0.00	0.00
FT Minister Travel	0.00	0.00	0.00
Misc.	-42.00	0.00	145.15
Secretary - Church Office	24,960.00	26,434.00	26,590.00
Security	5,664.15	5,475.00	6,034.00
Senior Music Director	10,391.60	11,000.00	11,071.45
Bookkeeper	9,600.00	10,000.00	10,226.88
Benefits	10,164.62	11,080.00	10,164.62
Custodian	12,480.00	14,819.00	13,295.00
Handyman	0.00	1,120.00	1,120.00
Personnel Training Cost	0.00	500.00	500.00
Total Ministry & Personnel	77,290.83	84,288.00	83,664.00
Mission & Outreach			
Annual Assessment	7,140.00	7,140.00	8,880.00
Local Outreach-Benevolent Fund	0.00	700.00	200.00
M & S Fund	9,630.00	0.00	9,700.00
Misc.	0.00	100.00	100.00
Total Mission & Outreach	16,770.00	7,940.00	18,880.00
Music & Worship			
Baptism Supplies	0.00	50.00	50.00
Communion Supplies	28.69	50.00	50.00
Guest Music	0.00	500.00	500.00
Misc	0.00	200.00	200.00
Worship Resources	0.00	500.00	500.00
Music Supplies Senior	270.76	100.00	100.00
Organ Repair	0.00	250.00	250.00
Palms	0.00	0.00	0.00
Piano Tuning	230.00	230.00	230.00
Publications	0.00	100.00	100.00
Pulpit Supply	11,099.66	11,940.00	11,900.00
Decorations Seasonal	0.00	0.00	0.00
Supply Organist	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00
Worship Advertising	0.00	0.00	0.00
Licensing	489.85	500.00	500.00
Worship Service Supplies	287.88	200.00	200.00
Total Music & Worship	13,506.84	15,720.00	15,680.00

	Actual as of December 31, 2023	Budget 2023	Budget 2024
Property			
Cleaning Supplies	508.34	400.00	550.00
Inspections	1,204.67	500.00	1,300.00
Insurance	9,616.25	11,500.00	10,000.00
Maintenance Bldg	12,949.19	12,000.00	14,000.00
Misc	0.00	20.00	21.00
Property Tax – Little Owl	14,672.86	15,000.00	17,000.00
Maintenance - Reception House	0.00	500.00	1,000.00
Facility Renovations	0.00	500.00	500.00
Utilities	28,510.43	26,000.00	33,500.00
Grounds Landscaping Maintenance	7,057.57	4,700.00	7,500.00
Equipment	0.00	200.00	200.00
Property Tax - Manse	2,920.36	3,200.00	3,000.00
Total Property	77,439.67	74,520.00	88,571.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	193,256.02	191,393.00	217,155.00
NET INCOME	(4,773.11)	12,054.00	(320.00)
Generated On February 26, 2024			

WESTMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 26, 2023 12:00 noon

Opening Prayer: Reverend Bob Wallace

1. Holy Manners (Page 4 of the 2022 Annual Report)
.... read by Margaret Taylor
2. Constitution of Annual Congregational Meeting
Establishment of Quorum Margaret Taylor

Margaret Taylor, Chairperson, established there was a quorum.

"I constitute this meeting of the congregation of Westminster United Church in the name of Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, for all business that is appropriate to bring before it."

a) Elect secretary of Annual Meeting

Moved by Dawn Knowles, seconded by Deb Hoefling:

"That Patty McFarlane be appointed as recording secretary for the Annual Congregational Meeting". Carried.

b) Power of Adherents to vote

Moved by B. J. Maddaford, seconded by Sharon Clay:

"That all people who are adherents in the congregation be permitted to vote." Carried.

c) Acceptance of Agenda

Moved by Judy Cruickshank, seconded by Linda Kisell:

"That the Agenda for the Annual Congregational Meeting be accepted as outlined." Carried.

d) Adoption of the minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of April 24, 2022 Annual Report

Moved by Sharon Clay, seconded by Linda Kisell:

"That the minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of April 24, 2022 be adopted as circulated in the 2022 Annual Report." Carried.

3. Past Year in Ministry - Annual Report

a) 2022 Highlights

The following reports as presented in the Annual Report:

Report of Pastoral Charge Supervisor

Board of Elders - Chairperson

Board of Trustees

Committee Reports
Music & Worship Committee / Music Director
Property Committee
Pastoral Care Committee

Ministry & Personnel Committee
Christian Development Committee
Medicine Hat College Campus Ministry
Affirming Committee
Bible Study
Theatre Committee
Finance Report
Community Awareness Committee - ad hoc committee
copy distributed at the meeting (copy attached to minutes)

Anna Marie Hancock, Chairperson of the Board, commented on events of the past year ... the departure of Reverend Lynn McKinnon in July who has accepted

a call to Balzak United Church ... which has led to recruitment of a very wonderful

pulpit supply over the past months and after a two-year absence the congregation

enjoyed a lovely Christmas Eve service

b) Memoriams - 2022

Marian Jean Riggins (October 9, 1931 - January 9, 2022)
Gwen Munroe (January 21, 1939 - February 20, 2022)
Margaret Caroline Smith (July 30, 1927 - March a4, 2022)
Ronald 'Wayne' McDonald (July 15, 1942 - April 18, 2022)
John Sidlick (August 28, 1938 - May 7, 2022)
Charlotte Anne Lonson (December 5, 1938 - May 16, 2022)
Irene Cunnings (1919 - May 29, 2022)
Grace Lemon (June 15, 1930 - July 19, 2022)
Al Cruickshank (February 4, 1950 - July 21, 2022)
Clare Crews (June 22, 1944 - October 1, 2022)
Archie Szabo (September 21, 1931 - December 10, 2022)
Mabel Schafer

Moved by Mike Jantze, seconded by Albina Jackson:

"That the Annual Reports of the Pastoral Charge for 2022 be accepted for information". Carried.

4. Nominations

a) Appointment of Board of Elders

The following people be nominated to the Board of Elders, and to specific positions where indicated:

Anna Marie Hancock, Board Chair

Jeannette Zollner, Secretary
Treasurer vacant
Debi Hoefling, Affirming Committee
Margaret Taylor, Christian Dev't Committee
Pat Evans, Finance Committee
Margaret McCulley, Ministry & Personnel Committee
Melanie Rattai, Mission & Outreach Committee

Margaret McCulley, Music & Worship Committee
Margaret McCulley, representative to Chinook Winds Region
Betty Sidlick, Pastoral Care Committee
Pat Evans, Property Committee
Pat Evans, Board of Trustees
Linda Kisell, Member at Large

It is noted the Treasurer position is vacant ... this position was held by Al Olson, who has moved away from Medicine Hat. The Board is recruiting to fill this position.

b) Call for further nominations to the Board of Elders (3 times)
There being no further nominations, Chairperson Margaret Taylor declared that the

call for nominations for Board of Elders is closed.

Moved by Judy Cruickshank, seconded by Linda Kisell:
"That all those nominated to the Board of Elders be so appointed". Carried.

c) Committee Member Appointments

"That the following people be nominated to the committees of the congregation:

Affirming Committee
Debi Hoefling, Chairperson
Linda Kisell
Margaret McCulley
Christian Development Committee
Margaret Taylor, Chairperson
Finance & Stewardship Committee
Pat Evans
Anna Marie Hancock
Ministry & Personnel Committee
Margaret McCulley, Chairperson
Linda Kisell
Debi Hoefling
Mission & Outreach Committee
Melanie Rattai
Jennifer Oster
Cameron Lockerbie
Music & Worship Committee

Margaret McCulley, Chairperson
Charlotte Bryant
Anna Marie Hancock
Hayley McKim
Kathy Nielsen
Chris White (Senior Choir Director)

Pastoral Care Committee
Betty Sidlick, Chairperson
Anna Marie Hancock
Pat Marshall
Velma Pearson
Joyce Scott
Linda Kisell
Patty McFarlane
Judy Taylor
Property Committee
Pat Evans, Chairperson
Dawn Knowles

d) Call for further nominations (3 times)
There being no further nominations, Margaret Taylor declared the call
for further nominations for Committee Members closed.

Moved by Pat Evans, seconded by Carol Dureault:
"That all those nominated to committees of the congregation
be so appointed." Carried.

e) Trustee Appointments
"That the following people be affirmed as Trustees of
the congregation."
Sharon Clay
Pat Evans
B. J. Maddaford
Rev. Bob Wallace

It was noted that it is a United Church and Provincial requirement
that there must be at least three Trustees on the Church board.

f) Call for additional nominations for Trustee members
There being no further nominations for Trustee members,
Margaret Taylor declared the call for further nominations for Trustee members
closed.

Moved by Margaret McCulley, seconded by Pat Evans:
"That all those nominated as Trustees be so appointed."
Carried.

5. Mission and Service Objective

"That the Mission & Service goal of \$11,000 for 2023
be adopted as presented."

** Mission & Outreach Budget - Annual Report - page 20
M&S Fund budget 2023 - line item \$11,000

Moved by Judy Taylor, seconded by Dawn Knowles:
That this motion be tabled until after the budget discussion
Carried

Moved by Margaret McCulley, seconded by Deb Hoefling:
"That the 2023 congregational budget be amended to remove
the M&S Fund budget line (11,000) from (both the Income and Expense)
of the Mission & Outreach Budget." ... Carried.

Concern was expressed about the commitment of \$11,000 to Mission
& Service as the Church is experiencing financial concerns with
increasing expenses (insurance, utility costs, building maintenance
and declining attendance.).

Moved by Ted Sherring, seconded by B. J. Maddaford:
"That the M&S Fund of \$11,000 be subject to the congregational
designated gifts given to Mission & Service."

6. 2023 Budget (page 19 of the 2022 Annual Budget

Moved by Pat Evans, seconded by Deb Hoefling:

"That the Congregational Budget for 2023, as amended,
be adopted." Carried

.. It was noted that Pulpit Supply is moved from the Ministry & Personnel Budget
to Music & Worship Budget.

7. New Business

a) Future Direction for Westminster United Church

The question facing many congregations with increasing expenses and
declining attendance .. Is there a way to look beyond our walls to get more
energy and/or partnerships.

Moved by Margaret McCulley, seconded by B. J. Maddaford:

"That a committee be struck to explore, over the next year, in

conjunction with Chinook Winds Region staff, the future possibilities for and direction of Westminster United Church.

Judy Cruickshank - to call the first meeting

Judy Taylor

Deb Hoefling

Dawn Knowles

Joel Den Haan, Chinook Winds Region representative

Carried ...

The committee is open for others interested to participate

8. Next Annual Congregational Meeting

Moved by Margaret McCulley, seconded by Pat Evans:

That the next Annual Congregational Meeting be held Sunday, February 25, 2024". Carried

9. Chairperson for 2023/24

Moved by Margaret McCulley, seconded by Pat Evans:

THAT Margaret Taylor be appointed as Congregational Chairperson for 2023/24." Carried.

10. Courtesies

Pat Evans extended thank you to all volunteers, staff and congregation for their work and support for our church community.

11. Adjournment -- 1:30 pm

Moved by Linda Kinvig, seconded by Judy Taylor:

That the meeting be adjourned." Carried

12. Closing Prayer - Reverend Bob Wallace

At the Close of a Meeting

Eternal God

you call us to ventures

of which we cannot see the ending,

by paths as yet untrodden,

through perils unknown.

Give us faith to go out with courage.

not knowing where we go,

but only that your hand is leading us,

and your love supporting us;

through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

Westminster United Church
Minutes for Congregational Meeting – August 16th, 2023

Chaired by Rev. Dr. Karen Medland, Pastoral Relations Regional Minister

Mission Statement: “We are a faith community building relationships with God, all people and our world”

Our Values: 1. Foster understanding of the divine through the ministry of Jesus Christ

2. Work for justice, peace, love and wholeness for all

3. Encourage ecologically sustainable lives

1. INTRODUCTIONS & MEETING CALLED TO ORDER (at 1:06 p.m.)

-introduced Joel DenHann, Community of Faith Support/Strategy Consultant

2. OPENING PRAYER

-the lighting of Christ candle to guide our thoughts, hearts, minds and conversation

3. QUORUM

-Karen declared there was a quorum for us to gather

4. FINANCIAL UPDATE, attached

5. TRUSTEES

-many listed on the titles have passed away

-is being updated

6. CREATING A MINISTRY PLAN

-first the membership list needs to be current (which is largely done)

-then artifacts need to be listed, precious items, families who donated them, etc.

-the next requirement from Chinook Winds is a Ministry plan

-it's figuring out what ministry we as a congregation are called to do

-Karen gave examples of what other congregations' plans were like

-Karen gave assurance of the Region's support to the congregation in doing this

7. CREATING A FINANCIAL PLAN

-Joel gave the history of Westminster's operating finances since 2014

-the long term deficit clearly indicates we are not financially sustainable

-the financial plan is how the congregation will fund their ministry plan

8. OPTIONS FOR SALE OF CHURCH PROPERTY

-we need to consider if selling is the best option

9. PROCESS FOR THE SALE OF CHURCH PROPERTY

-Chinook Winds needs to be part of the process

-because they have the expertise

-because we can use their guidance to make the best decisions

10. OPTIONS FOR THE CONTINUATION OF CONGREGATION

-it was clarified that the congregation is an entity separate from the property

- various examples were given where congregations had no property
- met at another location
- rented their property and only used it on Sunday's, etc.
- partnership with other congregations was another example (share staff or resources)
- partnership is better than amalgamation
- the later means there is a clear mandate very driven by both parties
- the amalgamation process takes up to 10 years, have a new name
- in a partnership, each maintains their own identity
- in a partnership you have a common mission and share resources

11. OTHER BUSINESS (after a 5-minute break)

MOTION: moved by Pat Evans, seconded by Marg Taylor that the congregation of Westminster

United Church direct its Board to request Chinook Winds Region lead a ministry and financial plan development process beginning in September, 2023 to address People, Precious Artifacts, Plans and Property with a progress report to the Congregation by November 15th, 2023. Carried.

WORKSHOP TO CREATE A MINISTRY PLAN

- on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 12th and 13th, 2023
- all congregation members are urged to attend and be an active participants
- it is deciding what the WUC ministry is (it's a three-year plan)
- Karen Medland and Joel DenHaan will be the facilitators
- on Tuesday:
 - we meet at 1:00 in Memorial Hall at Westminster Church (in a circle)
 - we have supper together, with supper brought in
 - we meet again after supper
- on Wednesday:
 - we meet again in the morning or afternoon to polish and refine our Ministry plan

12. ADJOURNMENT at 3:23 p.m.

MEMORIALS 2023



May Marr 1932-2023

Wow!! What a Lady

May Marr peacefully passed away on Tuesday, August 15, 2023, at the age of 91. Mom was a lady of love, integrity and dignity. She was born during the Great Depression, a young woman, wife and mother in the '50's. Followed by many years at TAS, various sales positions, and most enjoyably, a partner with Peggy in Zany Zebra Creations. Mom was pre-deceased by her husband of 56 years, Glenn Marr; brother, Bill Armstrong; sister, Gladys Mohr; brother-in-law, Vaughn Hullock and daughter-in-law, Dani. She was also pre-deceased by her dear friends, Marilyn, Stella, Yvonne, Florence, Peggy and Rose. Mom is survived by her twin sister, Mary Armstrong; five children: Linda (Werner), Perry (Gail), Dave (Roxy), Brenda (Bob) and Larry; 13 grandchildren: Susan, James, Paul, Mike, Danielle, Wade, Keith, Brandy, Kristy, Heather, Ryan, Amanda and Candace; 28 great-grandchildren; two in-laws, Lorne Mohr and Shirley Armstrong as well as her life long friend, Jacquie Stiff. Thank to all the caring people at Meadowlands. Life was good with Mary and Jacquie at her side. A celebration of Mom's life will be held at Link Church, 1714 Saamis Dr. N.W., Medicine Hat on Saturday, August 26, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.



Ila Dillabough
1934-2023

Ila Jean Dillabough of Medicine Hat, beloved wife of the late Ted Dillabough, passed away peacefully on Sunday, November 5, 2023, at the age of 93 years, enveloped in the love of her family. She leaves to cherish her memory her son Bruce (Rosalind) of Acadia Valley, daughter, Terry Scheuerman of Medicine Hat, son, Brian (Rita) of Cochrane; her grandchildren and great grandchildren, Aaron (Deena) (Kaitlyn, Jordanna and Avery), Chad (Deanna) (Jada and Warner), Bryce (April) (Branlin and Evalin), Walker (Holly) (Emara and Wrenly), Jenn (Brad), Kendra (Dean) (Presily and Juls), Tracie (Jason) (Sydney, Crosby, Addy, Lauren and Ally), Curtis (Lesley), (Mannix), Marla (Lyndon) (Sanna), Breanne (Jeremy) (Chloe, Mason and Vonn), Garret (Larissa) (West and Clay); and one brother Bill Anderson (Lynn) (MacKenzie) of Spruce Grove. Ila and Ted married on November 11, 1948, in Bethune, Saskatchewan moving to Acadia Valley in 1953. Upon their retirement in 1986 they moved off the farm to live in Kelowna and one final move to Medicine Hat in 1990 to spend their remaining retirement years.

Mom moved to Chinook Village in 2013. We can not say enough about the the sense of community and caring she felt while living there as a result of all her neighbors and friends she was in the company of. She was very engaged with, and attached to the staff there which she was very fond of, some of whom have kept closely in contact with her up until her passing. The positive atmosphere they created and the mix of friendliness, kindness, and humor they brought with them in their daily interactions with her will not be forgotten.

She also very much appreciated the excellent care the many staff members at St. Josephs and River Ridge provided her over the past 16 months.



Edna McKelvie
1942 – 2023

Edna Eloise McKelvie of Park Meadows Medicine Hat, passed away at the Medicine Hat Regional Hospital, due to lung cancer, on Monday, December 4th, 2023 at the age of 81 years. She was born January 18, 1942 to Howard and Eloise (Willock) Ireland of Oyen, Alberta. Edna attended school in Oyen and received her teaching certificate from the University of Calgary. Edna married Dean McKelvie on December 22, 1962 and they began their married life together, farming in the Benton area for 23 years. Edna and Dean wintered in Arizona for many years where hiking the Superstition Mountains became a passion for her. Edna became a very active member of the Volkssport Club of Medicine Hat, travelling many paths all over Alberta. She was a competitive player in many sports and was always up for a game of cards. Gardening and stain glass were favorite hobbies. Edna had many friendly and giving qualities, creating many lifelong bonds. She contributed to Plan International Canada, supporting orphans in many developing countries. Edna will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Edna is survived by her husband, Dean McKelvie; brothers, Ken (Kate) Ireland of High River and Roger (Jackie) Ireland of Wetaskiwin; as well as numerous nieces and nephews. Edna was predeceased by

her parents, Howard and Eloise Ireland; brother-in-law, Grant Wood; sister, Yvonne Wood; brother, Bob Ireland; niece, Melanie Wood and nephew, Jake Wood.



Ken Empey
1935-2023

Ken Empey of Medicine Hat passed away peacefully on Sunday, December 10, 2023, at the age of 88 years. Along with Bev, his beloved wife of over 70 years, Ken leaves to cherish his memory: son, Randy (Lori); daughter-in-law, Helen; grandchildren, Jolaine (James), Matthew (Aimee), Danielle (Garrett), Kurt, Ashley (Mark); great-grandchildren, Noah, Ellie and Lauren; siblings, Doug and Gloria as well as Bev's family: sister, Donna and her children, Tracy and Jay. Ken was predeceased by his parents, Ingrid and Leonard; brother, Walter and sister, Mildred as well as two sons, Wayne and Terry. Ken's life will be honoured and his memory cherished without the proceedings of a formal funeral. Please take the time to remember the Ken you knew in your own special way.