

**ST. MARK’S LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES - JUNE 28, 2023**

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Appended Reports

Pastor’s Report (May 2023)

Pastor’s Report (June 2023)

Reconciliation Task Force Report

Attendance Record

Date: June 28, 2023	Location: St. Mark's Church
Time Started: 19:10	Time Ended: 21:07

Invited	May 25	June 28										
Nathan Cook	P	P										
Signe Jewett (C)	P	P										
Lynda Joyal (T)	E	P										
Tom Lewis	P	E										
Inga Skundberg (S)	P	P										
Jodi Pappel-Reider	P	P										
Cole Parsons (VC)	P	P										
VACANT												
Kris Wegert	P	P										
Pastor Zsófi (exofficio)	P	P										
	Guests											
Brian Lorch	P											
Jennifer Moroz		P										

Meeting Minutes

- 1) Opening Devotions
- 2) Approval of Agenda
MSC CC-2023-36 That the Agenda be approved.
- 3) Approval of Minutes
MSC CC-2023-37 That the Minutes of Council Meeting dated May 25, 2023 be approved.
- 4) Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Presentation by Jennifer Moroz
It was advised that the plans to renovate the parsonage of the former St. John's Lutheran Church is on hold until the land transfer to Epiphany Indigenous Anglican is complete. As a result, the capacity building project and renovation fundraising by St. Mark's to accommodate a counseling program in the subject space is also on hold for the time-being. In addition, discussion occurred regarding the recent "Coffee on the lawn" regarding RAP and given the small gathering that occurred, consideration be given in the future to a sign-up opportunity for such matters.
(See Section 8d of Committee Reports)
- 5) Finance Committee - Reviewed
Discussion ensued regarding concern about the trajectory of the budget as donations continue to be less.
In addition, an appeal from the Synod will be included in the E-News to support the "Women in Leadership" Program in Cameroon for those pursuing further education in Canada at Martin Luther University College in Kitchener Waterloo.

MSC CC-2023-38 That the Audit Committee Report on the 2022 Financial Statements be accepted and the 2022 Financial Statements be approved.
Cole Parsons declared a conflict of interest and abstained from discussion and voting on the matter.
- 6) Continuing Business / ongoing construction in the church hall
(See Section 8e of Committee Reports)

- 7) Reports
 - a) Chair - Reviewed
MSC CC-2023-39 That both the “National Indigenous Peoples Day” on June 2, and the “National Day for Truth and Reconciliation” on September 30 be considered as an opportunity for staff directed learning and that Governance Committee undertake a review of such a process to observance, including compensation for said days in conjunction with St. Mark’s Personnel Policy, and any other policies and procedures if applicable, and report back to Council on any action/recommendations.
 - b) Pastor - Reviewed
- 8) Committee Reports
 - a) Congregational Care & Community Outreach (CCCO)
MSC CC-2023-40 That Wade Quehe and James Golas be appointed to the Social Subcommittee.
 - b) Youth - Reviewed
MSC CC-2023-41 That Wei An Lau’s contract as Youth Leader be extended to June 30, 2024.
 Nathan Cook declared a conflict of interest and abstained from discussion and voting on the matter.
 - c) Social Ministry - Reviewed
 - d) Reconciliation Task Force - Reviewed
 (See Section 4)
 - e) Property - Reviewed
 (See Section 6)
- 9) New Business
 - a) Signing Authority
MSC CC-2023-42 That Inga Skundberg be authorized to sign cheques on St. Mark’s bank accounts, and Tom Lewis be removed as signing authority.
 - b) Governance Committee
MSC CC-2023-43 That Signe Jewett be appointed to the Governance Committee.

- c) Scholarship Committee

MSC CC-2023-44 That Rhonda Lorch and Allen Harrington be appointed to the Scholarship Committee for 2023.

- d) Facility Rental Renewals - Finance has recommended an increase in rental rates for the Archimedes Math and Village Green Dancers. The last increase was 2021. Rates for occasional use will be reviewed by Finance in the upcoming months with a recommendation in the fall. The dancers rate would increase by 5% and rounded up. The Math group would increase 3.6% to \$57 as it was also adjusted last year to reflect the use of space in the hall.

MSC CC-2023-45 That the 2023-24 rental rate for The Village Green Dancers be \$72 for 4 hours and \$100 for 8 hours, the flat fee of \$20 for kitchen use will remain same; and, that Archimedes Math School be \$57 per session.

- e) In Camera

- f) Executive Committee action for the summer

MSC CC-2023-46 That the Executive Committee be authorized to act on behalf of Council during the period of June 29 - September 6, 2023 for the purpose of:

- i) Appointments to Committees
- ii) Review Terms of Reference of the Mutual Ministry Committee.

- g) Other

MSC CC-2023-47 That an expenditure of up to \$3500 for Human Resource consultation and costs be authorized.

Adjournment

Finance Committee Meeting Notes

Tuesday, June 13, 2023

Present: Cole Parsons, Lynda Joyal, Brian Lorch

1. 2022 Year End Financial Statements

Discussion around the issue of instituting a mark-to-market approach to reporting the value for mutual fund investments on the balance sheet. The Audit Committee has recommended adoption of mark-to-market. Research by Lynda indicates that this is not a requirement of non-profit organizations (Accounting Standards for Private Enterprises – ASPE).

It was agreed that we continue our current practice of recording book value. A note is to be added to the statements indicating this policy. As well, we can indicate the current market value in the notes in the interest of being transparent to the congregation.

Lynda will prepare a final copy of the 2022 statements for presentation to the council and for submission to CRA.

2. May 2023 financial statements and bank reconciliation.

Highlights noted as:

- General offerings for May were \$21,419, down from \$26,772 in 2022.
- Year to Date offerings are \$763 higher than for same period last year.
- Year to Date operating loss stands at \$25,629. Of note is that we are \$5,000 behind in our remittances to the Synod.
- Local Programming expenses year to date are 32% of budgeted amount.
- Salary expenses year to date are just under what has been budgeted to end of May. Having Lori work an extra day to replace Jen's hours increased payroll costs due differential in compensation rates. This was offset mostly by the custodian working fewer hours than what that position was budgeted for.
- Utility costs (gas, water, hydro) are coming in much more than we anticipated. Year to date, we have spent 65% of what we budgeted for.

Agreed that a remittance to the MNO Synod for \$7,500 will be made in June to bring us back in line with the budgeted amount for the first six months of 2023. No further remittances are to be made prior to review of year-to-date financial position at the end of August.

Noted that 2023 budget projected a 3% increase in general offerings, the something has yet to materialize.

Lynda to review May bank reconciliation and report any discrepancies to the bookkeeper.

3. Restating T4 slips

Agree that the error discovered on employee T4 tax slips should be further investigated. Amended T4s have been issued for 2022. Lynda to ask Lori to go back a further four years and, if necessary, re-issue those T4s as well. The error pertains to the reporting of pension related items in Box 20 and Box 52. No financial implications for the congregation.

BL to inform Pastor Sauer.

4. Bookkeeping Clarifications

Replacement of counter tops in bathrooms and the cost of applying weed treatment to the church lawn has been covered by a donation from a member. Countertop replacement will be booked under Capital Works fund. Gift to cover lawn treatment will be recorded on the P&L statement.

5. Charitable Return for 2022

BL to begin preparing the return through CRA online portal. To be reviewed by LJ before the return is submitted.

6. MNO Synod Appeal re seminary student from the Cameroon

LJ to bring the matter of promoting the appeal in the e-news to the next council meeting.

7. Appointment of Committee Chair

Agreed that BL to continue as chair of the committee for 2023-24.

8. Other Business

Online account with CRA has been updated to show Brian Lorch as the CRA Representative. Carolyn Mann has been removed as a representative.

Outgoing E-transfer function on TD online banking appears to now be blocked.

Shaw billing has been set up for auto-deduction from the TD chequing account.

Chair Report June 28, 2023

- Since the last meeting construction has been full on for insulation/ asbestos removal. Currently the kitchen remains closed as the ceiling is down but the latest update looks like it may open to some capacity shortly. Great appreciation given to Kurt and team for juggling the contractors and being on site for consultations during this activity.
- The church office was closed for June 21 on National Indigenous Peoples Day and staff were compensated for the day. We have received some feedback regarding the office closure and concern of policy protocol.

Inasmuch as it is not a statutory holiday and is not included as one of the paid holidays in St. Mark's Personnel Policy, Council failed in oversight of this action as it has no authority to pay employees in observance of this day.

Accordingly, the matter will be directed to the Governance Committee to undertake a review of this process to observance, the Personnel Policy, and any other policies and procedures if applicable, for report back to Council on any action/recommendations.

- Well done Finance Committee, (Brian, Lynda and Cole) and Audit Committee (Andy, Dave and Cole) with the Audit finally coming to completion and submitted to CRA. That was quite the process with the discussion of how to address the book value recording. Council appreciates the dedication to "getting it right". We will be looking for a replacement for Cole's seat on the audit team.

ACTIONS TAKEN:

Meeting June 9 with Kurt and Builder Contractor for update

Meeting June 16 with Pastor Zsofi

Meeting June 23 with Pastor Zsofi

Meeting June 21 with Cole

St. Mark's Youth Committee Report for June 2023

Membership:

Jen Polet (Chair), Wei-An Lau (Youth Leader), Nathan Cook, Rachel Martens, Sean Kohli, Ming-Ka Chan

Our last meeting was held on May 29, 2023 at 8PM.

EVENTS:

June Pride parade: June 4

June 25 Year end picnic/outreach event after church – this event is for all members of youth group plus we have invited younger children in the age group that would be upcoming members of youth group (Grades 6-8). No RSVP response from this age category was received as of June 21.

June 30 – visit to Human Rights Museum

CLAY:

Youth received a \$800 grant from ELFEC at the end of May awarded from the Pym Legacy Fund to be used towards CLAY expenses.

All payments for flights, registration fees and bus trip fees have been made by the youth. All disbursements of fees have been made to MNO etc..

Youth are working on making branded t-shirts for CLAY.

No other fundraisers have been planned from now until August.

11 youth are still planning on attending CLAY.

We currently have approximately \$6400 available to us for reimbursement of CLAY expenses (after paying for all fees and flights for 2 youth leaders) - this includes the \$5000 contribution from the church. We are looking into one more grant that may help offset the costs of 2 youth members from the Anglican Foundation which would cover registration fees and possibly flights.

Respectfully submitted,

Jen Polet, Chair

St Mark's Social Ministry Committee

Report to Congregational Council, June 2023

Our final meeting before the summer was held June 13/23 with Pastor Zsofi, Stephen Sauer and Rhonda Lorch attending.

SOGI Workshop

Stephen reported he is working on confirming a facilitator from the University of Manitoba to conduct a Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity workshop. In the event that a U of M facilitator is unavailable, he will seek recommendations of possible facilitators from other sources, possibly Red River College. We are aiming for the weekend of November 18, 2023. More details to come.

RAP (Reconciliation Action Plan) Task Force

On June 25, the RAP Task Force has invited congregational members to join us on the lawn after the service for an open discussion on all things reconciliation. We have heard mumblings from members asking why we need to repeat the land acknowledgment every week in the centering for worship. We will address this topic and any other questions about the RAP while we stand directly on the land that we acknowledge in the centering.

October 1 has been confirmed as the day to commemorate Orange Shirt Day (which actually happens on September 30) at St Mark's. Thank you to the Worship Committee for collaborating with us to make this happen. We are hoping to confirm an Indigenous speaker for that day to share a story that could address possible themes such as teaching of Indigenous children, recapture of traditional languages, the seven sacred teachings, the four directions of the medicine wheel or the meaning of ribbons skirts.

Pastor Zsofi confirmed at our meeting that St Mark's will annually recognize/commemorate 3 days of importance to Indigenous reconciliation: **May 5** (Red Dress Day for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG)), **June 21** (National Indigenous Peoples Day) and **September 30** (Orange Shirt Day – Canada's National Day of Truth and Reconciliation honouring children who did not return from residential schools and the survivors and communities affected by the ongoing trauma of the residential school program). The RAP Task Force gratefully acknowledges the support of the Pastor in raising up these days as part of the commitment to reconciliation and racial equity.

Jennifer Moroz will be attending this Council meeting to further update the Council on other planned activities of the task force.

Community Gardens

Raymond Ngarboui and gardeners from the Rainbow Community Gardens group have cleaned up the gardens and planted their crops. We can already see what is coming up! It was agreed with Raymond that rehabilitation of the boxes will happen early next spring before planting season. There is money for this work in the Community Garden fund on the balance sheet.

LUM 'Going the Distance'

LUM will be hosting the 2023 Going the Distance fundraiser on the morning of September 16 (rain date will be September 30). The kick-off is at Abundant Life Lutheran, East St. Paul and the event will include biking to Birds Hill Park and a walk on the paved walking trail across from Abundant Life. This will be followed by a hot dog BBQ afterwards at Abundant Life. This is a family friendly event.

Social Ministry will be entering a team into the event and we would like to invite all members to join us. Watch for the details in the e-news.

Committee Structure

The Social Ministry Committee was happy to consider the change in committees that would see our small group being the overseers of social ministry without necessarily doing all of the work. To that end, we are happy to put together task oriented groups who will manage such initiatives as the Christmas hamper program, Christmas gift donations for the kids at LUM and of course, the Reconciliation Action Planning group which is well underway.

Our committee's plan is that if volunteers are not forthcoming, that would say to us that the initiative doesn't necessarily resonate with the congregation and it may not happen. We will make a good attempt to engage St Mark's around social ministry issues and initiatives, and we serve fair warning that we are a very small committee and can't commit to doing everything. We would prefer to do a small number of things well and let some things go if necessary.

A good example of this is the Christmas hamper program. Last year, we had more money than needed but shoppers/deliverers were scarce. In 2023, we will divide the task up a bit: one side will be families identified by the Christmas Cheer Board, the other side, those in our own community who could use a little Christmas cheer. We will canvas for volunteers to shop and deliver for the first group and the number of volunteers we can secure will be the number of CCB hampers that will be assembled. Those in our own community will receive gift cards from the store of their choice (last year, 4 of the 5 recipients from our community chose gift cards rather than a physical hamper). If we only get 2 volunteers to shop and deliver, we will request 2 families from CCB. If we get more volunteers, we can serve more families. Any money we collect over and above what is needed to fulfill those obligations will be donated to the Christmas Cheer Board. We are hopeful that the Council will agree with this strategy.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Lorch
Social Ministry Committee Chair

Property Report June 2023

June 10,23

Construction Activities

- The electrician should be out Monday or Tuesday to begin removing and relocating all data, communications, and related equipment from the east wall in the electrical room. There may be some disruption to these services for a brief period of time during the transition. Wifi should remain accessible (I hope). No disruption is expected to actual electrical services.
- Asbestos abatement on the east side of the Parish Hall attic will commence on Monday. This should be finished by Friday June 16 if all goes well.
- Decommissioning of portions of the kitchen ceiling (and possibly east wall) will begin Monday or Tuesday of next week. I expect bathrooms, boiler room, electrical room and back entrance to proceed sometime next week as well (depending on how things go).
- The ceiling in the east closet will be removed to access the attic space.

Administrative Matters

- Once all decommissioning and asbestos abatement work is completed, Winnipeg Building (in cooperation with the church) will prepare a "scope of work" document for reconstruction activities. This is where our input will be important as to what work is to be completed, including any "betterments".
- Our insurer is apparently considering the tendering of reconstruction activities (based on the scope of work document). This has the potential to delay the schedule by a number of weeks as the tendering documents are prepared, bids are collected, and contracts are awarded. My preference would be to negotiate with Winnipeg Building as to costs of the reconstruction work. Unfortunately this is not our call but I do intend to discuss the matter with the insurer.

Church Activity Implications

- During the asbestos abatement (June 12-16) the Parish Hall will be "walled off" from roughly the boiler room to the back entrance. There will be no access to the mail slots, closet area, boiler room, electrical room, or east entrance. The kitchen may also be isolated during the asbestos abatement process (depending how they proceed).
- To allow for possible time requirements for kitchen attic asbestos abatement, and decommissioning activities, I am suggesting we plan to close the kitchen access to members or third parties for at least two weeks (commencing June 12 through to June 26). Please note that

during the week of June 12-16 we should plan on no access to the kitchen (assuming asbestos removal proceeds as planned). Once asbestos removal is completed, access will be available but due to the possible nature of decommissioning activities, access may be awkward given possible decommissioning work.

- If the contractor has to remove parts of the east wall, the contractor will remove all dishes etc, as well as any appliances (stoves).
- Offices are currently available as of June 9.
- Washrooms will be available. Decommissioning activities in the washroom should be very brief. Washroom use will be accommodated.

Other matters

- The activities and timeframes are our best guess right now. Winnipeg Building has advised that actual time frames to decommission may be longer or shorter depending on the extent of damage. This will only be known once the decommissioning process has started.

June 27,23

The abatement program is taking longer due to the heat and cramped space.

We should bank on the kitchen being closed for this coming Sunday.

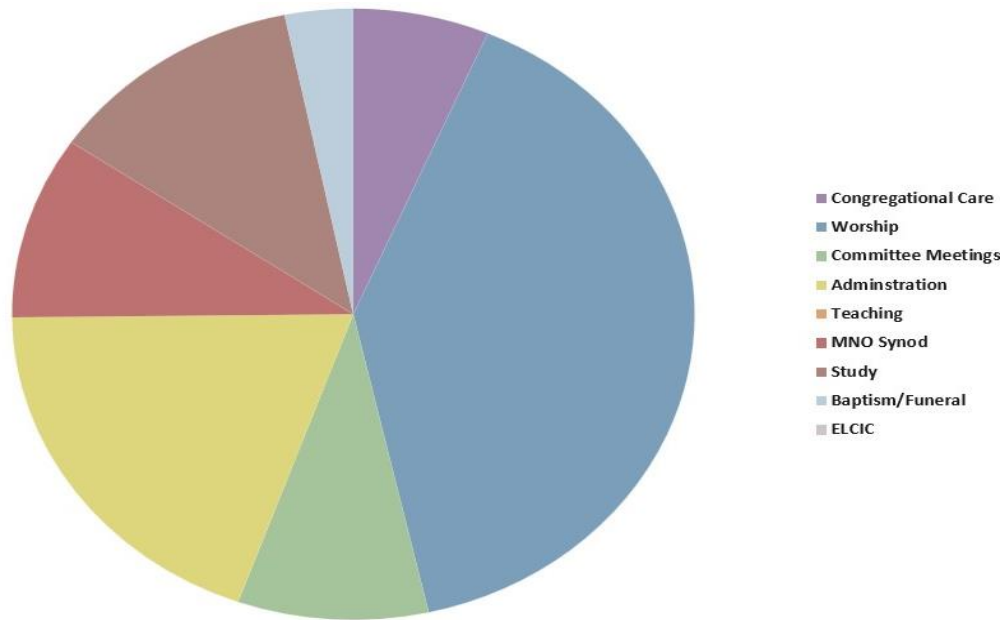
Air test should be completed tomorrow.

Decommissioning of ceilings and walls in the boiler room, bathrooms, electrical room and back entrance could start this week.

If all goes well we should have limited access to kitchen early next week.

Someone also broke into our new shed. At first glance nothing stolen but it will require parts and repair.

Kurt



Where've we been

Pentecost and Season After Pentecost – Melissa, the Worship Committee, and I have laid out worship plans for the summer and begun to look at Season of Creation materials with input and requests from the Social Ministry Committee.

AGM – I felt that the AGM was well attended, and I am pleased with all the information that was shared. This was the first AGM I attended where there weren't specific questions raised for the Pastor to answer! I am hopeful that those who do have questions will seek out council members or me to ask them.

Staff Check-ins – all check-ins completed and review of goals done. I had a pastoral visit with Lori, which resulted in Lori requesting a leave of absence prior to some previously booked holidays. She will be away for three weeks total, returning on June 6th.

Where we are

Study Leave – I will be on Study Leave, inclusive of the Clergy Study Conference, June 5-11. The service on the 11th will be a lay-led Service of the Word, with a sermon from the ELCIC's Summer Series.

Office Management – Deconstruction has begun in the roof. This has impacted the functionality of the office, and I have made the decision to close the office to in-person staffing, effective May 24th, for at least two weeks. Staff will "work from home," and access to the office is to be during evening and weekend hours if necessary.

Year End Events and Worship – To say that the Summer is the low time for a congregation is a bit of a lie. Having met with some committees this month, I can tell that there is at least one special thing that is being highlighted each worship service.

Where we're going

Staff Retreat – I am planning a bible study with conversation about leadership and ministry teams, an update to staff job descriptions, workshopping some ideas for the coming program year, and an opportunity for fellowship.

Member Visits – I have begun to call members on the week of their birthday. This is resulting in some fun and happy conversations (and a few awkward ones too). I have also begun to connect with our members who cannot travel well to arrange a visit.

Goals for the coming month

1. A couple of member visits each week, focusing on those labelled "shut in".
2. Organize and set up worship materials for the summer months.
3. Choose an Indigenous book for study in June and an organization to support financially.

Congregation Statistics

SYNOD GUIDELINES		CURRENT PERIOD (Guidelines)	YEAR TO DATE (Guidelines)
Days of the Year	365	31	151
Workdays (5-day work week)	260	20 (22)	98 (107)
Days Off	94	08 (08)	32 (39)
Statutory Holidays	011	01 (01)	04 (05)
Vacation Days (includes days off)	028	00	11
Study Days (includes days off)	014	00	00
Sick Leave	023	02	06

Baptism – n/a

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Confirmation/Affirmation – 01

BROWNWELL, Theresa [May 28, 2023]

Death – 02

BERG, Mel [May 4, 2023]
WOOD, Jim [May 12, 2023]

Pastoral Acts

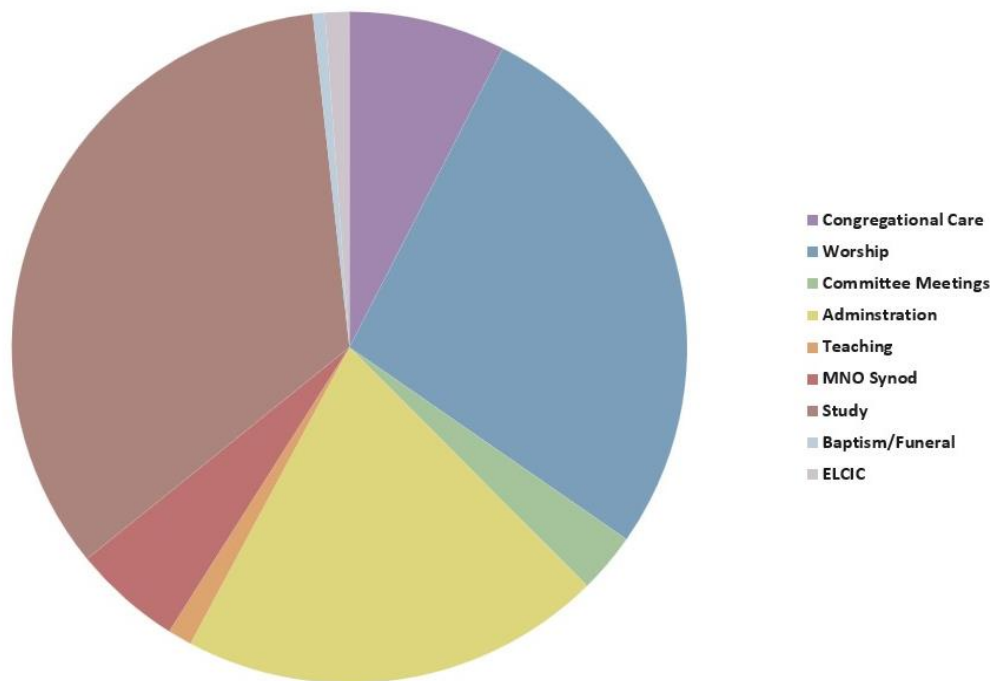
Baptisms	00	Confirmations	01
Weddings	00	Funerals	01

Congregation Activities (Year to date)

Worship Services	05 (28)	Communion Services	04 (21)
Baptismal Counselling	-- (02)	Wedding Counselling	-- (02)
Visitation/Family Prayer	02 (20)	Council Meetings	-- (04)
Meetings	-- (17)	"Home" Communion	-- (03)
Confirmation Classes	-- (08)	Other Events	-- (13)
Hospital Visits	02 (04)	Staff Meetings	-- (05)

Wider Church Responsibilities (year to date)

MNO Meetings/Events	-- (07)	Mentorship & Collegiality	-- (14)
Other Meetings/Events	-- (00)	MNO Synod Leadership Conference	



Where've we been

Office Management – Everyone returned to office hours after abatement on the office side of the hall on June 13th, and Lori began to work summer hours. I would like to express my thanks to Rhonda, Brian, and Sarah for their help in covering the office responsibilities in Lori's absence.

Staff Retreat – The retreat and planning workshop happened on the 21st. It was attended by Haiden, Lori, Melissa, Wei-An, and I. We had a really good look at how we embody our ministry and faith practices. We established some hopes and goals for the coming program year, and set out a tentative calendar of known dates. I reviewed approved job descriptions with staff members and made notes of some changes and questions for council.

Where we are

Member Visits – I have begun to connect with members via phone call and making appointments to see those members who cannot easily leave home. I began a process of calling members on their birthdays as a touchstone from the congregation and me. This has already resulted in a couple of callbacks and plans to meet in person.

Clergy Retreat & Further Learning – Attendance at the Clergy Study Conference in Gimli was a blessing and an opportunity for growth. I appreciated the presenter's words and questions as well as the time to spend with colleagues away from congregation responsibilities. Further to my own goals of growth in understanding and allyship, I committed to reading a book about Metis history and to dedicate my wages from June 21st to the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre in honour of National Indigenous Peoples' Day. I encouraged staff to use the day as a learning day and opportunity for modeling St Mark's allyship and commitment to Reconciliation, as this is also important work for ministry leaders/staff to engage in.

Where we're going

Summer Months – While it is easy to consider the summer months as a "low season" for the church, I do find that I relish the opportunity to really dig deeply into some things that I would otherwise not. The summer months are a time of renewal for me spiritually – I tend to do more reading, praying, and reflecting. I am also planning for the coming year and building a centre-point of communication for staff.

Goals for the coming month

1. A couple of member visits each week, focusing on those labelled "shut in".
2. Finalizing the liturgy and prayers for the summer and Season of Creation, focusing on the Sundays that I will be away in August.
3. Creating a comprehensive Calendar of Ministry for September through May for the coming year.

Congregation Statistics

SYNOD GUIDELINES		CURRENT PERIOD (Guidelines)	YEAR TO DATE (Guidelines)
Days of the Year	365	30	181
Workdays (5-day work week)	260	17 (22)	115 (129)
Days Off	94	06 (08)	38 (47)
Statutory Holidays	011	-- (00)	04 (05)
Vacation Days (includes days off)	028	00	11
Study Days (includes days off)	014	07	07
Sick Leave	023	00	06

Baptism – n/a

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Confirmation/Affirmation – n/a

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Death – n/a

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Pastoral Acts

Baptisms	00	Confirmations	01
Weddings	00	Funerals	01

Congregation Activities (Year to date)

Worship Services	03 (31)	Communion Services	03 (24)
Baptismal Counselling	-- (02)	Wedding Counselling	-- (02)
Visitation/Family Prayer	05 (25)	Council Meetings	01 (05)
Meetings	02 (19)	"Home" Communion	01 (04)
Confirmation Classes	-- (08)	Other Events	02 (14)
Hospital Visits	-- (04)	Staff Meetings	01 (06)

Wider Church Responsibilities (year to date)

MNO Meetings/Events	01 (08)	Mentorship & Collegiality	04 (18)
Other Meetings/Events	-- (00)	MNO Synod Leadership Conference	😊

Books Read, Year to date: 09

Reconciliation Task Force Report to Council June 2023

I. Background

In February of 2023 St. Mark's Church Council approved Social Ministry Committee's proposed Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). The RAP has three components over a two-year term:

- Building Education and Engagement
- Building Relationships
- Building Capacity.

A Reconciliation task force has been formed to implement the plan: Jennifer Moroz, Rhonda Lorch, Judy Grossman and Aelea Semenowich.

II. Progress

A. Building Capacity

Background research conducted several months ago on a capacity-building initiative indicated the possibility of St. Mark's partnering with the MNO Synod to support the counselling program administered by Urban Indigenous Ministry Development (an Anglican initiative) and Epiphany Indigenous Anglican Church, led by Rev. Vince Solomon. There are plans to renovate the parsonage of the former St. John's Lutheran Church (which is proposed to be transferred to Epiphany from the Synod) so that the building can be used for a counselling centre. Assistance from St. Mark's could involve fundraising, helping the Synod look for grants, volunteer labour etc. However, recent communications from Bishop Zinko indicate that the Synod's plan to renovate the parsonage has been delayed as the transfer of land from St. John's to the Synod is not yet complete. This puts our proposed Capacity-building project, that was intended to start in the fall, on hold for the time-being. We are currently considering other options, such as a general reconciliation project fund for the time-being or partnering with other churches.

B. Building Education/Engagement

1. Coffee on the Lawn on June 25 is intended to open up the lines of conversation about reconciliation within our congregation and air out concerns, questions, and potential disagreements. This may help us gauge the support for the RAP and possible areas for education projects.

2. St. Mark's Orange Shirt Sunday on October 1 (as mentioned in the Social Ministry Report) is intended to be part of a Season of Creation that highlights Indigenous themes aimed at fostering understanding of Indigenous spirituality and its commonalities with Christianity. Our original plan was also to kick off the fundraising campaign for the counselling program at this time through the sale of Orange Shirts from an authentic supplier. While we still intend to sell Orange Shirts in September, given the circumstances described above, the fundraising component may need to be reconsidered.

C. Building Relationships

During the fall/winter of 2023 we intend to arrange small groups of interested parishioners attending some Sharing Circles at the Urban with a member of the Reconciliation ask Force.

Respectfully submitted,

K. Jennifer Moroz