The United Church of Canada

Mount Forest – Woodland Pastoral Charge

Leadership Team Meeting

January 20th 2026

In attendance: Laurie Aitken, Mary Allen, George Harris, Al Leach, Lene MacLean, Bob McFarlane, Ruth Mundy, Rev Lori, Rick Sinnamon
VIA ZOOM – Norm Eygenraam

Guests – Dan MacArthur (Property), Janice Bensen (Media)

Regrets –

Opening Prayer and Devotional Time – Rev Lori….

Around the Table Discussion – general discussion as to Christmas/New Years and the abundance of SNOW….

Adoption of the November 18th Meeting Minutes -

MOTION:

Moved: Bob McFARLANE

Seconded: Lene MACLEAN

CARRIED

Business Arising from the Minutes:

- **TECH/TELEVISION UPDATE -**
    - Rev Lori has reached out to some area Churches with Tech/Television additions to ascertain the details of their systems, and who they used for planning and installation
    - Shawn REDDEN may be of assistance as she has technical experience
    - Grants form the United Church of Canada are available for technological updates
    - Klaus is working on his Job Description
- **CHURCH HOUSE – UPDATE –**
    - Demolition Application – **ACTION** – Trustees will apply for the Demolition Permit. Garage is to be demolished, with a suitable replacement constructed
    - Negotiations with Bye Construction – **ACTION** – to be carried out with input from the Trustees and the Property Committee. There are a number of salvageable items. Those should be detailed in writing as to who benefits from the sale of those salvageable items

- There are a number of appliances to be removed – refrigerator, stove, freezer – **ACTION** – congregation is to be advised of what is available. Items remaining after that, McDonald Appliances will be contacted
- Utilities are still in place – **ACTION** – Property Committee to take appropriate action to have the rental hot water heater removed, then have the water and gas disconnected. When appropriate, the hydro should be disconnected
- ***"Decommissioning Service"* - ACTION** – referred to Worship Committee

- **Grand Piano Tuning –** completed

- **LAW Van and HEALTH Van - UPDATE**
  - Rev Lori has had discussions with the LAW Van, they are going to begin using the Church facilities on January 24th. No details as of yet on the HEALTH Van

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES -

Minister Report

- ✓ UPDATE on the congregation member with an Emotional Support Dog. This individual does have a letter from a Physician identifying this animal as an Emotional Support Animal, and that this individual requires such an animal. Accordingly, the individual and animal cannot be denied entry
- ✓ Rev Lori attended a seminar entitled – Toward 2035 which is looking at what the United Church of Canada could be by 2035
- ✓ There appears to be issues with people using the Catholic Church Parking Lot. Rev Lori is going to discuss this issue with the Catholic Priest
- ✓ A number of new members and transfers of members need to be accepted – Bob WIERSMA (Profession of Faith), Wayne & Sandra LYTLE, Bonnie AITKEN as transfers of membership
- ✓ **MOTION – Moved by Laurie AITKEN, seconded by Bob McFARLANE,** that Bob WIERSMA be accepted for Membership by Profession of Faith, and Wayne & Sandra LYTLE and Bonnie AITKEN be accepted as Transfers of Membership to the Mount Forest United Church. **CARRIED**

Financial

Financial Report to Leadership Team Meeting- January 20, 2026

YTD = year to date projection and ***December represents 100.0% of YTD***
% spent = % of total annual budget
Draft financial statements for December have been received.
General Operating Fund balance to **end of December** is approx. $33,600.
Operating income (*receiptable and non-receiptable*) is at 110.0% of projection.
Total Operating Expenses are below the **YTD** by approx. $22,300.
Excess Expenses/Income is at approx. ($50,200) vs YTD projection of ($93,935) or approx. $43,700 less than YTD.

COMMITTEE EXPENDITURE PICTURE at ***end of December - or as of 100.0% of the year.***
M&P is approx. $24k below YTD projection **(88.0*% of spent)***
Worship Service- $4,100 below YTD projection (***43.0% spent)***
Choral – *below target* ***(67.0% spent)***
Pastoral Care –*minimal expenditures to date (**7.6% spent)***
CE – *approx. 44% expenditure to date* ***(43.6% spent)***
M&S – *below target* ***(40.0% spent)***
Benevolent- *minimal expenditures to date (**8.0% spent)***
M&F- *below target* (**56.5*% spent)***
Media –*ahead of YTD (**128.0% spent**)*
Church Property – *expenditure is approx. $1,600* ahead of YTD (***106.0% spent*).**
Church House- expenses ahead of YTD by approx. $2,000 (***125.0% spent*)**
Grounds –*expenditures ahead of YTD target by approx. $200 (**102.0.0% spent**)*
Admin – slightly ahead of YTD by *$800* ***(110.0% spent*)**
WOW –exceeds YTD target by approx. $5,300 (***156.0% spent)***
Fundraising – *no expenditures shown to date.*

The Annual Budget projects at an excess of expenses over income of **$93,935**. At year (draft) excess expenses sit at approx. $50,200 or 53% of YTD projection and as such, 53% of annual projected budget. The General Fund balance sits at $33,600 and in addition, there a $25,000 GIC registered with BMO, which matures on January 17, 2026, which can help offset any shortfall.
We are projecting at least a balanced budget as of year end with the use of funds in the General Fund account and the maturing GIC. This would leave a small amount in the General Fund to start 2026.
2026 will be a financially challenging year for the Church with non-receiptable revenue projected to be lower (less a $25k bequest received in 2025) and projected expenses higher for Grounds, Office Admin and denominational assessment which is projected at almost twice that budgeted for 2025.

The Annual Budget process is complete. 2026 has a DEFICIT of $100,000. Norm is willing to work with Al to ascertain if the current WOW denominational assessment is correct.

Mission and Outreach

- Proceeds from 2025 Community Dinners were donated back to worthy Community Food Programs
- UPCOMING DATES: March ??? – next Community Dinner

Worship

- Planning another AGAPE type service for February 15th
- Motion coming to the Annual meeting, that the Church CLOSE for the month of July 2026 due to difficulties in arranging Supply Ministers

W.O.W.

Trustees

Membership & Fellowship

- Continue to work on a print version of an updated Church Directory

Property

- Committee has toured the Church and has come up with a list of Capital Projects
- Awaiting one final quote for installation of an intercom/video system. It appears this project could be in the $3000 range
- Clean-up required of a few remaining items from the move and the "shut down" of the Church House.
- **ACTION –** Laurie AITKEN and Lene MacLEAN to decide on a FINAL date for the "clean-up". Rick SINNAMON will have a garbage bin rented for this date

Use of Building

- PLEASE ensure that the Church Office is consulted prior to using the Church facilities. Have to ensure that the facility is NOT already booked

Ministry and Personnel

UCW

- February 17th will be Pancake Supper

Pastoral Care

- Pastoral Care freezer will be moved to the basement of the Narthex. The Property Committee is removing some shelving and adding some wiring for this move

Woodland

Christian Ed

- Some of the older children will be assisting with the Pancake Supper

Media

MOTION: to receive the reports received and reported upon

Moved: George HARRISON

Seconded: Mary ALLEN **CARRIED**

NEW BUSINESS

- FUNERAL POLICY
    - ✓ Rev Lori to follow-up with other Churches as to a Funeral Policy example

- NOMINATION COMMITTEE
    - ✓ Committees and Leadership Group List has been compiled. Annual Meeting should clear up any Committee vacancies
    - ✓ A Leadership Group Chair will be required
- ANNUALL MEETING – February 8th
- CURRENT STATE OF SANCTUARY
    - ✓ Letter received (attached) FROM Patty Sinnamon as to the state of the Sanctuary.
    - ✓ **ACTION** – Sanctuary Revisioning Committee to be resurrected at the Annual Meeting. There is money in the RESTORATION ACCOUNT
- SAFE & RESPECTFUL ENVIRONMENT
    - ✓ Leadership Group Secretary will develop a Safe & Respectful Environment Statement
    - ✓ Here is the link for the Leadership Group to study
        - ✓ Creating Safe and Respectful Environments Policy

UPCOMING DATES: 08 February – Annual Meeting

17 February – Pancake Supper

ITEMS TO PONDER:

- ✓ Funeral Policy
- ✓ Demolition of Church House
- ✓ What's the Church going to look like in 5 years, in 10 years??

Next Meeting – **Tuesday February 10th 2026 at 7:00pm in the upstairs Boardroom**

Closing Prayer: Rev Lori

Motion to Adjourn: Mary ALLEN at 9:15pm