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St. Paul's United Church of Canada  
Leadership Team Meeting  
Estevan, SK — June 7, 2023

**Attendance:** Astrid Friesen, Don Kindopp, Diane Wrubleski, Wendy Suchan, Greg Suchan, Lawrence Burnard, Gail Schlamp, Emily Gillies (guest), Susan Reed (Regional Representative)

**Regrets:** Cheryl Deren

### 1. Call to Order

- Chairperson Diane Wrubleski opened the meeting at 7:00 pm via Zoom software

### 2. Acknowledgement of Treaty 4 Territory

- Chairperson Diane Wrubleski acknowledged the Treaty 4 Territory

### 3. Devotion

- Susan Reed provided a devotion

### 4. Approval of Agenda

- **Motion:** *Lawrence Burnard / Wendy Suchan*
  - *That the agenda to be approved, with the ability to add items if needed. CARRIED.*
  - See Appendix A, Page 36

### 5. Approval of previous meeting minutes

- **Motion:** *Gail Schlamp / Lawrence Burnard*
  - *That the previous meeting minutes be approved as amended to clarify the Christian Education section include youth groups, young adults, and could include the Sunday School curriculum. CARRIED.*

### 6. Business arising from previous minutes

#### **Ecumenical Happenings**

- Messy Church and Men's Breakfast taking a break until Fall 2023
  - There might be another Men's Breakfast on June 4, 2023
- Next ecumenical service on July 30, 2023 at St. Paul's United at 10 am showing Rural Connect

#### **Fair Booth**

- Volunteer shifts are filling up

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- We do have to pay the gate admission, but we can request a refund from our booth
  - Gate admission is \$5 on Thursday and Sunday and \$15 on Friday and Saturday

### **Rural Connect**

- We got an email from St. Martin's
  - On the second Sunday in September, they will be having a picnic and are asking that we do not do Rural Connect on that Sunday
  - That should work for us as well, because that is traditionally the Sunday that North Portal reopens as well.
- When services resume in Fall, do we want 10 am or 10:30 am services? This would also depend on St. Martin's Official Board, as well.
- Can Estevan contribute special music?
  - Examples could include the last Sunday in July with the Cross Border Band, or the Andrists through the summer
  - Typically, St. Martin's does not have special music prepared on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month, so this could be our opportunity, but we would need a coordinator to organize 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday music.
- Could we request different colours be used on the screen for legibility of the responsive readings (like the Call to Worship)?

## **7. Reports**

### **Treasurer's Report**

- Emailed
- **Motion:** Don Kindopp / Wendy Suchan
  - *That the Treasurer's Report be adopted. CARRIED*
  - See Appendix B, Page 37

### **Ecumenical Shared Ministry**

- Jim Pratt is willing to join the Ecumenical Shared Ministry committee
- **Motion:** Wendy Suchan / Gail Schlamp
  - *That we accept Jim Pratt joining the Ecumenical Shared Ministry committee. CARRIED.*
- Cheryl Deren sent a report stating that the committee will be having another meeting in August where they will compile the results of the 3 question questionnaire from the 3 congregations.

## **8. Essential Ministries Updates**

### **Christian Education**

- No report

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**Mission / Outreach**

- No report

**House Groups – Wendy Suchan**

- Patty is willing to continue sending reminders to the House Group leaders of when their month is
- In summer, it is very casual, but the doors still need to be unlocked and someone needs to activate the Rural Connect technology.
  - We also need to teach more people how to activate the Rural Connect technology

**Property – Greg Suchan**

- We needed some more gravel to build up higher, which was donated by a local business. We need to give a thank you to the local business.

**Stewardship**

- No report

**Youth Group**

- No Report

**9. New Business**

**9.1 Report from Living Skies Regional Council Gathering**

- Emailed
- They participated in a Pow Wow
- There was a unanimous vote to make the Region an Affirming Region
- 3 Remits are coming up and the leadership of all charges need to vote. They will be about making First Nations Churches autonomous and able to make their decisions. There is information that is and will be made available.
- See Appendix C, page 39.

**10. Correspondence**

**10.1 Facebook Page**

- Currently our Facebook page still has a picture of Jason Richards on it. Maybe we should change it to a more current photo or something without people in it.

**11. Leadership team report to congregation**

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- Don Kindopp will send the newsletter

**12. Next Meeting**

- Leadership Team Meeting – Wednesday, July 12, 2023 at 7 pm over Zoom.  
The Suchans will be unavailable for this meeting

**13. Adjournment**

- **Motion:** *Gail Schlamp / Lawrence Burnard*
  - *That the meeting be adjourned. CARRIED*

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Diane Wrubleski, Chair

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Astrid Friesen, Recording Secretary

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**Appendix A – Agenda**

1. Call to order
2. Traditional Land Recognition
3. Devotion
4. Approval of agenda
5. Approval of previous meeting minutes
6. Business arising from previous minutes
  - 6.1 Ecumenical happenings – messy church, men's breakfast,
  - 6.2 Fair Booth
  - 6.3 Rural connect
7. Reports
  - 7.1 Treasurer's report
  - 7.2 Ecumenical Shared Ministry
8. Essential Ministry updates
  - 8.1 Christian Education
  - 8.2 Mission/outreach
  - 8.3 House groups
  - 8.4 Property
  - 8.5 Stewardship
9. New business
  - 9.1 Report from Living Skies Regional Council Gathering
10. Correspondence
11. Leadership team report to congregation -
12. Next meeting July 12
13. Adjournment

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**Appendix B – Treasurer's Report (*Un-Reconciled*)**  
**January 1, 2023 – May 31, 2023**

a) **Financial Report**

General Fund

Income:

		<u>2023 Yearly Budget</u>
Receipted Givings	42,385.49	126,300
Benevolent T/F	500.00	
Elliott Investment Interest	122.00	
Other Income	<u>9,474.77</u> <sup>1, 2</sup>	24,962
	52,482.26	151,262

Expenses:

Administration	2,202.11	5,700
Children & Youth	201.35	1,650
Congregation Life	439.11	2,700
M&P	28,046.23	96,638
Outreach	6,666.69	18,250
Property	12,250.64	29,250
Pastoral Charge	5,228.10	14,866
Trustee (Insurance)	6,577.72	8,378
Benevolent T/F	500.00	
Elliott T/F (Transfer)	122.00	
Memorial T/F (Transfer)	155.00	
Refugee T/F (Transfer)	100.00	
	<u>62,488.95</u>	<u>177,433</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	(10,006.69)	(26,171)

General Fund Reconciliation:

January 1, 2022	37,802.84
Surplus (Deficit)	(10,006.69)
Bank Balance	27,796.15

Balance Sheet

Assets:

Elliott Investments	15,311.25
Trust Funds	168,785.14
General Fund	27,796.15
<u>Prepaid: PastCharge (91.71)</u>	<u>2,211.82</u>
Total Assets	214,104.36

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<sup>1</sup> Rental - \$5,701.00

<sup>2</sup> Auditorium Sale - \$2,980.40

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Liabilities:

CEBA Loan	<u>40,000.00</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>40,000.00</u>

**b) Trust Fund Balances:**

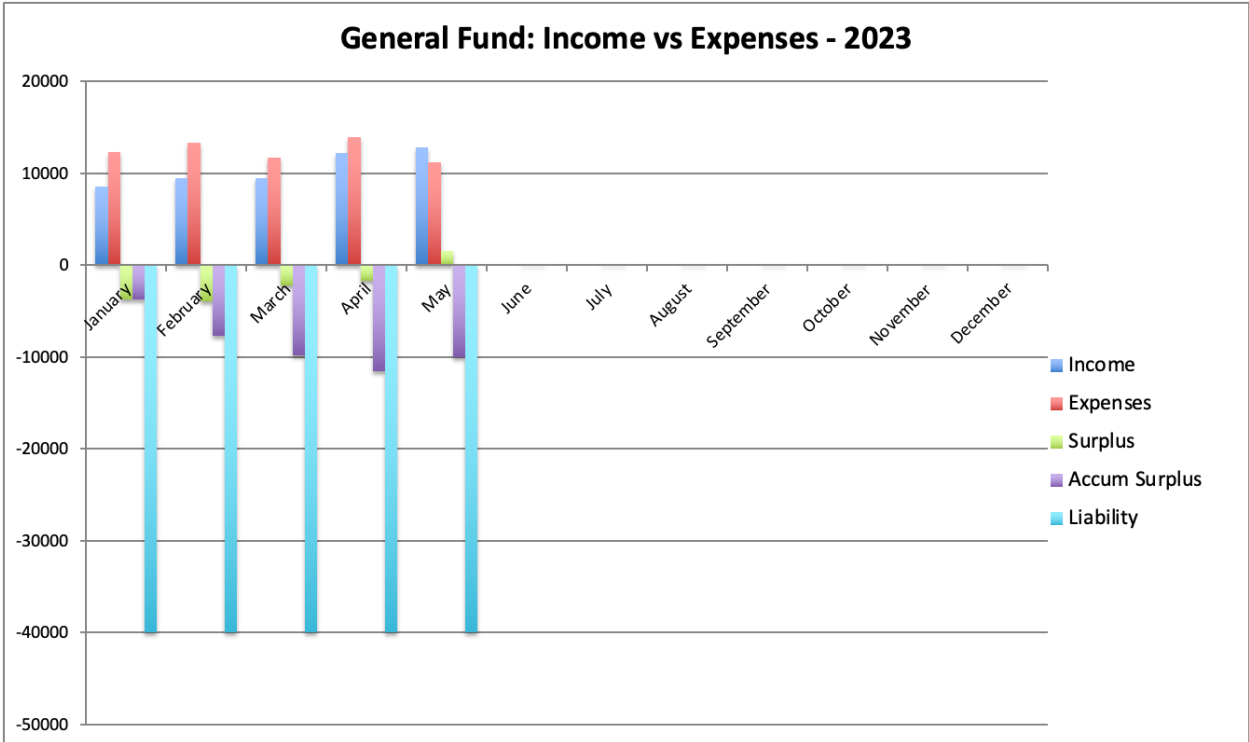
Un-restricted Trusts:

Bequest .....	108,141.71	
Interest .....	1,532.41	
Memorial.....	16,690.30	126,364.42

Restricted Trusts:

Benevolent* .....	5,478.32	
Capital* .....	11,076.82	
Elliott* .....	12,757.90	
Refugee* .....	7,722.16	
Senior Choir* .....	288.08	
Youth* .....	5,097.44	<u>42,420.72</u>
Total		168,785.14

**c) 2023 Income vs Expenses by month (General Fund):**



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**Appendix C – Report from Living Skies Regional Council Gathering**

Living Skies Regional Council (LSRC) Gathering

May 25 — May 28, 2024

Prince Albert, Saskatchewan

***“Discerning a Good Path Together”***

The 2023 LSRC Gathering was held in Prince Albert from May 25 to May 28. Calvary United Church was our host.

The gathering was filled with uplifting music and very meaningful worship opportunities. The most moving worship was the Memorial Worship service where we acknowledged the passing of individuals within LSRC and those who retired from ministry.

**DAY 1**

The first day presented two Listen and Discuss sessions:

1. Intro to Remit re Autonomous Indigenous Organization within The United Church;
2. A proposal to becoming an Affirming Regional Council

**DAY 2**

The second day provided the United Church delegates an opportunity to participate in a “The Heart of the Youth” Pow Wow. This was my first ever Pow Wow and I thoroughly enjoyed the colourful regalia and dances performed. The Pow Wow began with “The Grand Entry” of flag bearers and invited dancers accompanied with drum circles. A delicious lunch of beef stew, bannock and sweets were available. Over 3,500 area school children were in attendance.

In the afternoon we had the privilege of having Cadmus Delorme, former chief of Cowessess First Nation as our guest speaker. A highly educated and articulate young man, he led us through the history of Indigenous peoples and their relationship to the “Western” peoples. Chief Cadmus invited us all to put down our shields so we can learn. So many of our conflicts are rooted in not understanding what is underneath the emotions and positions we each hold. We need to center our relationship and try to understand one another and listen deeply to each other in order to work through these conflicts. Our biggest barrier to overcome is ignorance. An inspiring leader, Chief Cadmus, left us with hope, love and joy and the reminder that hard work and having hard, honest conversations will lead to reconciliation.

**DAY 3**

The third day dealt with the reports of Executive Minister; Chair of LSRC; General Council; Finance; Pastoral relations Justice & Communication.

It also dealt with the following remit:

**Category 3 Remit**

**Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization**



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As authorized by the 44th General Council, in 2022: Between March 15, 2023 and March 31, 2024, every regional council and each pastoral charge's governing body will be asked to approve an amendment to the Basis of Union of The Manual establishing an autonomous Indigenous Church structure. An amendment to the Basis of Union requires a category 3 remit.

**THE QUESTION:**

Does the regional council/pastoral charge agree to amend the Basis of Union to reflect:

- a. That The United Church of Canada will be organized as follows: (1) a three-council structure, consisting of communities of faith, regional councils and a Denominational Council; and (2) an autonomous National Indigenous Organization; and
- b. That once the new autonomous National Indigenous Organization is established within The United Church of Canada, it will have its own mechanisms to make any future changes to its structure and processes, and, therefore will not be subject to the remit process under section 7.4.1 of the Basis of Union; and
- c. The changes required for the establishment of the autonomous National Indigenous Organization.

This remit was passed by the LSRC Gathering. This remit will need to be dealt with by the leadership of each Community of Faith within LSRC. The deadline for this is March 31, 2024. More information can be found at this [link](https://generalcouncil44.ca/council/remit-1-establishing-autonomous-national-indigenous-organization):

<https://generalcouncil44.ca/council/remit-1-establishing-autonomous-national-indigenous-organization>.

Another proposal was dealt with:

**Becoming an Affirming Regional Council**

PROPOSAL 1

The Living Skies Regional Council (LSRC) Affirming Task Group moves that the Living Skies Regional Council applies to become an Affirming Region; endorses the Regional Affirming Statement; directs the Executive Council of Living Skies Regional Council and the Executive Minister to complete the process of accreditation with Affirm United / S'Affirmer Ensemble (AUSE); and plans a public, intentional, and explicit (PIE) celebration for the 2024 Annual Gathering of LSRC.

PROPOSAL 2

The Living Skies Regional Council Affirming Task Group moves that the Living Skies Regional Council disbands the Task Group and creates an ongoing Affirming Committee to carry out the continuing journey of living into being an Affirming Region.

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Both proposals were passed unanimously.

LIVING SKIES REGIONAL COUNCIL  
AFFIRMING STATEMENT  
May, 2023

*Living Skies Regional Council recognizes the diversity of God's creation and encourages the full and equitable participation of all people in our ministries.*

*We value the complete spectrum of human diversity which includes (but is not limited to) sexual orientation, gender identity, age, ethnic, racial, and cultural backgrounds, mental and physical ability, spiritual beliefs, and all definitions of family.*

*We make a public, intentional, and explicit commitment to sharing our faith, gifts, and resources to live out God's call for love, compassion, and justice.*

*As an Affirming Ministry, we will support ongoing, engaging, educational processes for Communities of Faith and other ministries to understand what it means to become affirming, as well as offering encouragement and inspiration to existing Affirming Ministries.*

*We honour those who walked this path before us and celebrate the opportunity to journey further.*

A banquet honoring the retirees and Ordinands was held Saturday evening.

**DAY 4**

The last day of the LSRC Gathering was the Service of Praise held at Calvary United Church. Two ordinands, Sarah Giles and Minhyuk Hwang were ordained. The Service of Praise was boisterous, uplifting and well attended.

The Docket of the 2023 LSRC Gathering can be found on the LSRC [website](https://livingskiesrc.ca/governance-admin/regional-gathering/) at <https://livingskiesrc.ca/governance-admin/regional-gathering/>.

The chairperson of the Executive Council of LSRC is Darrell Reine.

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Prepared by Don Kindopp, Representative  
St. Paul's International Pastoral Charge