

Prairie

Presbyterian Church



Annual Report

2023

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Ministers Report - 2023

As I reflect on 2023 at Prairie, I am deeply thankful for our congregation. By far the most significant development within the congregation was the continuation of the New Beginnings process, work that continues.

At the beginning of 2023, the congregation received the main report of the process and an implementation team was formed. That team got hard at work in the areas of building relationships within the congregation, and took some steps in working toward how to best build relationships with Place of Hope Indigenous Church, Winnipeg Inner City Missions, and our local Southwest Winnipeg neighbourhood. Again, all of this work is ongoing, but the introduction of Big Deal Sundays, a few BBQ meals, occasional special days (e.g. Advent Coffeehouse), and the continuation of small groups all contributed to growing relationships within the congregation.

Much research, community interviews, and many conversations were had by the team around the area of developing relationships within our neighbourhood, and much of the work in this area is still ahead.

So many people have participated in leading and helping in the various activities (leading a small group, helping with special meals, coffeehouse, setting up for worship, etc.) It is really too many to list easily. So - thank you to all! This year, I have really seen a renewed sense of community building within the congregation.

Our Sunday worship time is truly the heart of our community. Music director, Ashley Boychuk, is truly wonderful to work with and is so gifted! Wes Keeley provides steady oversight and creative approaches to all things Audio/Visual/Tech. Erin Whittaker volunteers as regular liturgist and prayer leader. We've been blessed with a number of volunteers in the areas of A/V, music, worship leadership, and have welcomed a number of guest preachers throughout the year. We were pleased to have a joint Good Friday service with Converge Community Church.

I took an intermission in the summer, essentially a ten-week sabbatical, with an additional three weeks of holiday after. This provided a much needed rest for me and a time to refocus, which was particularly needed after the challenges of the Pandemic. I have provided reflections on my intermission to the congregation before so will not repeat them here.

We hired Jon Klassen, a final year student at Providence College, to preach for twelve of the thirteen Sundays that I was away. From all reports, Jon did an excellent job and came to love his time with Prairie. Thanks to all for welcoming him.

We are thankful that there has been regular Sunday School. Thank you to Bonnie Zimmer for organizing and to all the volunteers who have worked to provide the children with a place of learning and fun on Sunday mornings.

I also want to give thanks for the session (Conrad Schellenberg, Erin Whittaker, Bonnie Zimmer, Bruce Weibe, Janet Simpson). As a group and individually they have provided excellent oversight and care.

In Christ's service,
Matt Brough
Minister of Word and Sacraments
Prairie Presbyterian Church

Prairie Presbyterian Church 2022 AGM Minutes

Date: March 26, 2023

Time: 11:20AM

In Attendance: Anderson, Janice; Anderson, Sheila; Boychuk, Ashley; Brabston, Mary; Brough, Cheryl; Bruneau, Terry; Cox, Liz; Dean, Rob; Dean, Melissa; Dewit, Kella; Gauthier, Ken; Keeley, Wesley; Kpekena, Cynthia; Mante, Afua; McLaren, Heather; Michael, David; Ramsey, Dave; Ramsey, Helen; Simpson, Janet; Whittaker, Erin; Wiebe, Bruce; Zimmer, Bonnie; Zimmer, Ed.

Prairie Presbyterian Church gathers and worships on Treaty One Territory, first entrusted to Creator God by the Anishinabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Ojibwe, Dakota and Dene People. The Homeland of the Red River Metis.

Opening Prayer: Matthew opened the meeting in prayer at 11:23

Appointment of Meeting Secretary:

Motion: That Erin Whittaker be appointed as meeting secretary M.Brabston/H. McLaren carried

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: To approve the minutes of the congregational meetings held on April 10 and May 29, 2022.
J.Simpson/K. Gauthier carried

Minister's Report: Matthew took time to share some pieces of his report with those gathered. The congregation took time to pray for all those who have left this community throughout the past three years.

Approval of Reports:

Motion: That the written reports (with the exception of the treasurers report) be approved as submitted
M.Brabston/L. Cox carried

Church Officers:

Motion: That Terry Bruneau be affirmed as treasurer H.McLaren/H. Ramsey carried

Motion: That Terry Bruneau, Mary Brabston and Janet Simpson be reappointed as trustees
H.McLaren/H.Ramsey carried

Motion: That Liz Cox and Bruce Wiebe be appointed as auditors for 2022 and 2023.
T.Bruneau/J. Simpson carried

Financial Statements: The financial statements have not yet been audited and as such are received as information. A short meeting will take place to approve the financial statements after audit. The treasurer walked through the financial statements with those present.

Motion: That the treasurers report be approved as submitted T.Bruneau/K.Gauthier carried

Budget: The treasurer presented the proposed 2023 budget

MOTION: That the 2023 budget be approved as amended T. Bruneau/L.Cox carried

MOTION: That the minister's study leave and book leave allowance be increased by 10%
EWhittaker/M.Brabston carried

Other Business:

1. The property on McGillivray is sold by the national church (who retains the money from the sale)
2. The congregation took time to thank those who have impacted the church over the past year. This included Wesley, The Elders, The Sunday School Leaders and Helpers, The Small Group Leaders, Giving's Officer, Treasurer, those who have prepared food.

End of Meeting: The meeting was adjourned at 12:40PM following a motion by E.Whittaker

Minutes of the Congregational Meeting held November 21, 2023

Prairie Presbyterian Church gathers on Treaty One Land, first entrusted by Creator God to the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples, the homeland of the Red River Métis.

1. Meeting began at 11:27am at 590 University Crescent. The purpose of the meeting was to review the proposed budget for 2024, allow questions and clarifications on the budget, make motions to amend the budget, and if so desired by the congregation, approve the budget.
2. Erin opened in prayer.
3. Treasurer Terry Bruneau presented the details of the 2024 budget. He allowed for questions at any time. Details of the budget are available in a separate document.
4. Motion: To reduce proposed salary increases from 6% to 4%.
Helen Ramsay/Erin Whittaker Defeated.

For further clarity, this implies the budgeted salary increase remains at 6%.

5. Motion: To approve the 2024 Budget.
Terry Bruneau/Derrick DeWit. Carried.
6. The meeting was adjourned following a motion by E. Whittaker.

2023 Session Report

The session of Prairie Presbyterian Church gathers on Treaty One territory first entrusted by Creator God to the Anishinabe, Cree, Oji-Cree and Dakota peoples, the birth place of the Red River Metis.

1. Elders: Bonnie Zimmer, Bruce Wiebe (Clerk), Conrad Schellenberg, Erin Whittaker, Janet Simpson.

2. Highlights for 2023:

Intermission: To accommodate Matt's 2023 Intermission, Prairie hired Jon Klassen as a summer preacher. Jon preached a total of twelve Sundays during the summer months. Both Matt's Intermission and Jon's summer preaching was a success.

New Beginnings: The New Beginnings Visioning process continued to be a focus in 2023 with Kella taking on role of chair. That effort is expected to continue, and finish into 2024. Goals include a more focussed presence in the local area along with other initiatives.

Property: The property on McGillvray has been sold by the Presbyterian Church of Canada. Prairie will continue to consider best choice options for physical space for worship. Currently, Prairie is committed to 590 University Crescent.

Piano and Organ: Prairie found new homes for the piano and organ which has resulted in welcome additional space on stage during service.

Meetings: The session met at least monthly, often twice monthly, with the exception of the summer months.

Elder Changes: No changes to Elders in 2023. Elections for new Elders anticipated in 2024.

3. Congregational Meetings: The Annual General Meeting was held on March 26, 2023, and a Budget Meeting was held on November 26, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Wiebe

Clerk of Session

New Beginnings Report

In February 2023 The New Beginnings committee was created and started to meet on a monthly basis.

The initial meetings were discussing how to move forward and what our key pieces would be.

We set out and started connecting with our congregation, our neighbors and have a goal to continually do our part in strengthening a relationship with both WICM and Place of Hope Presbyterian Church. See following chart for further information.

	Fostering Relationships within the congregation	Getting to know our Neighbours	Strengthen Relationship with WICM & POHIPC
2023	Preparing and serving lunch to POHIPC Outdoor Summer Service, with ice cream Spring Clean-up with a BBQ Two summer BBQs *Created Big Deal Sundays - First Sunday of the Month (fellowship time, birthdays, etc.) *Continued and strengthened Small Group Ministry	*Started researching neighbourhood	Served lunch to POHIPC Attended Reconciliation Day at WICM Gathering items for hampers for POHIPC Collecting donations for renovation of a suite at WICM

The feedback so far has been positive and there are some anecdotal reports from the committee about strengthened relationships within our congregation, and lots of hope through the discernment stage as we continue to determine the best ways to connect with our neighborhood around 590 University Cres.

In 2023 we started with a new coach, Rev. Doug Kendall, he is from Ontario and is attending the new beginnings meetings. Our original coach, Ian Fraser had to step down due to medical reasons, please keep him and his family in your prayers

We are very thankful for the committee members for their ideas, energy and commitment to attending and helping with the process: Janice Anderson, Janet Simpson, Mary Brabston, Ashley Boychuk, Ernest Twum, Kella Dewit

*Respectfully submitted,
Kella DeWit*

Music Director Report

Ashley Boychuk

Prairie Presbyterian Church's music ministry continues to play a vital role in our worship services. We express gratitude to the congregation for their enthusiastic singing and to Wes Keely for enhancing our musical experience. The band, comprising 3-6 members each week, maintains a steady presence with vocals, guitar, piano, and percussion. Utilizing the Planning Centre online tool has facilitated efficient scheduling and music access within our limited rehearsal timeframe before Sunday services.

We have a tremendous wealth of talented musicians, and we are deeply grateful for their consistent contributions through music, whether at a regularly scheduled service or at community events throughout the year. Members review music ahead of time online, arrive at church to rehearsal at 9am on Sunday morning, followed the by service, and help to take down upon the service's conclusion.

During this busy season, the seasonal choir adopted a new rehearsal schedule, commencing with a vocal workshop led by Ashley. This provided a cherished opportunity for communal singing leading up to Christmas.

The second annual coffeehouse on December 8, attended by 30-35 people, mirrored the success of the previous year. We appreciate the efforts of our dedicated volunteers and the introduction of new musical acts and attendees.

Looking forward, plans are in motion for the Community Coffeehouse starting in February. This event aims to extend a warm welcome, showcase our musical talents, and provide opportunities for community connection. We are excited about the prospect of bringing people together through the joy of music in the coming months.

Children's Ministry Report

Thanks to less Covid, and more vaccinations, Sunday School classes went uninterrupted during the past year. In the Spring of 2023, themes focussed on New Testament stories – Jesus' teachings, miracles and parables, and of course, his death and resurrection. After a summer break, classes resumed in September with a focus on the Old Testament story of Joseph and how God was with him through all his difficulties. We learned about baby Moses as well, then switched to Advent and Christmas themes. Most of the time, we have continued our pattern of three Sundays of Sunday School, followed by one intergenerational service.

Before classes began in September, we had a generous offer from Janet Simpson, a retired Speech-Language Pathologist. She volunteered to start each class with a brief puppet program designed to help young children with their verbal skills. This is about 10 minutes in length, not Biblically based, but a welcoming, fun way to start each Sunday school session, and our preschoolers especially look forward to this time each week. Following this interactive activity, we have a Bible story (presented via stick puppets, hand puppets, or dramatized in some way) and then usually take time for some games and drama activities. Our goal in the Sunday school is to help provide a sense of God's love for all of us.

A big thank you to Janet, and our faithful adult helpers--- Cynthia Kpekpena, David Samuvel Michael and Charles Musonda, as well as to the teens/preteens who participate and assist as well --- Juliet Brough, and Nathanael and Ana Dean.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Zimmer

Prairie Presbyterian Church Bursary Fund

This was another interesting year for the Bursary Fund Committee. Our applicants were varied and all came with a few details that needed to be followed up on.

The committee finally chose to make two awards this year – one to Charles Musonda from the Prairie congregation and one to Barbara Nkansah from the Calvin congregation. Each award was \$1000. This leaves us with a small carry over to be used next year.

Charles is finishing his last course (mathematics) to complete his Geography degree. Barbara is finishing her degree in Social Work and Psychology. Her supervisor spoke highly of her current work with young people and told us she will be an excellent addition to the profession.

The committee this year has been composed of Mary Brabston, Janet Simpson and I. With the completion of this year's activities, I am now resigning from the role of chair and the committee itself. I wish to thank Session for the opportunity to serve the congregation in this way. It has indeed been an educational, joyous, and rewarding experience.

Respectfully submitted

Sheila Anderson