

Meridian Pastoral Charge

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Sanford United Church



Avonlea United Church



Starbuck United Church



Table of Contents

Mission Statement	2
Agenda	3
2023 Meridian Pastoral Charge Annual Meeting Minutes	4
Minister's Report	7
MPC Chairperson Report	8
Worship Report	8
M&P Report	10
InterChurch	10
Trustee Report	11
Avonlea Church Report	12
Sanford Church Report	13
Starbuck Church Report	14
Financial Report.....	15
Finance Notes	16
Finance Projection	17

MISSION STATEMENT

Through its faith in God and Jesus Christ, is committed to supporting its member churches:

- To worshipful
- To celebrate the church year;
- To be a loving presence in our community during crisis and joy;
- To nurture the Christian Faith to individuals of all ages.

Meridian Pastoral Charge (MPC)
Annual Meeting Agenda February 18th, 2025

Call to order
Opening prayer
Appointment of chairperson and recording secretary
Review of agenda
Last year's minutes MPC AGM - corrections /adoption
Business arising from the minutes

Reports:

Minister's Report
Chairperson's Report

Committee Reports: Worship
Ministry & Personal
Prairie to Pine Regional Council
Interchurch
Trustee

Church Reports: Avonlea
Sanford
Starbuck

Financial Report

Old Business:

Correspondence

MPC Budget for 2025

New Business:

Appointment of Auditor
Board for 2025
Confirm MPC meeting dates
Set date for next years AGM.

Adjournment

2023 Meridian Pastoral Charge Annual Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2024 at 7pm at Sanford United Church

Present: Rev James deBeer, Cathy Beavis, Georges Cormier, Diane Trudeau, Jane Manness, NancyLanglois, Margaret Porter, Stuart Manness, Jamie Scharf, Julie Ringash (arrived at 8:00)

Meeting chairperson: Jane Manness

Meeting secretary: Jamie Scharf

MOTION: Cathy Beavis/Georges Cormier : To adopt agenda as circulated. carried

Review of minutes from previous meeting:

omission of Julie Ringash as a member of the Worship committee

MOTION: Georges Cormier/Diane Trudeau – accept minutes as amended. Carried

Question about the M&P committee membership – is everyone ok with Avonlea having one more member than the other points? The consensus was yes.

Minister's Report

written report presented

Chairperson's Report

written report presented

Worship Committee Report

written report presented

M&P Committee Report

written report presented

It was noted that next year Sanford and Avonlea swap service times.

Regional Council Report

written report presented

Jane thanks Diane for her long commitment to representing our charge for so long. We hope that Onnolee Scharf will accept the position going forward.

Interchurch Committee Report

written report presented

MOTION: Nancy Langlois/Margaret Porter: To accept reports as presented. Carried

Church Reports

Avonlea United Church Report

written report presented

Sanford United Church Report

written report presented

Starbuck United Church Report

written report presented

Finance Report

written report presented

Isaac Ringash – audited the finances this year

MOTION: Georges Cormier/Cathy Beavis: To accept the finance report as presented. Carried
Reminder to all points to send Annual Reports to region

Budget 2024

MOTION: Georges Cormier/Diane Trudeau: To accept the budget as presented. Carried
Jane mentioned she has some preliminary information regarding new music licensing from the United Church called “Come Let Us Sing” licensing. We may have to consider this when preparing the 2025 budget?

Financial Projection

Georges presented an update on how many years our pastoral charge’s deficit budget will take to consume all our financial reserves.

Positions for 2024

Chairperson – Diane Trudeau

Vice-chair – Jamie Scharf

Secretary – Shelly Robson

Treasurer - Georges Cormier

Avonlea Treasurer – Cliff Harrison

Sanford Treasurer - Norm Dyck

Starbuck Treasurer – Michele Ammeter

Worship – Angie Cormier / Janice Harrison / Jane Manness, Julie Ringash, Barb Kirk, Diane Trudeau

M&P – Michele Ammeter, Julie Ringash, Stuart Manness, Judy Cormier

Regional Council Rep - TBD

Interchurch - Cathy Beavis

Avonlea Chair – Jane Manness

Sanford – Jamie Scharf

Starbuck – Margaret Porter

Members at large - Cathy Beavis, Nancy Langlois, Starbuck - TBD

Trustee - Ron Manness, Michele Ammeter, Nancy Langlois, Rev. James deBeer

MOTION: Nancy Langlois/Cathy Beavis: To accept the nominations and TBA positions to be sent to Shelly ASAP. Carried

Other business

Remit update: MPC vote has been sent on as instructed

Interchurch news (from March 12 committee meeting)

- March 16 in Winnipeg, Gaza ceasefire pilgrimage
- Baseball tourney on June 5th – honouring Cynthia
- scholarship max 2 (at \$500) have to be at tourney to accept

New Self Assessment process

- taking the place of the pastoral charge oversight meetings
- Diane explained the process and mentioned MPC members who contributed to the self assessment
- Diane took it Starbuck already we'll put it on the website and ask Avonlea and Sanford to announce it to their congregations

MOTION: Diane Trudeau/Stuart Manness: To accept self assessment as circulated. carried

UC is 100 this year – if you want information out of archives people are encouraged to get requests in early

Worship Leader schedule will be distributed by M&P in June for the next season

2025 Auditor – Isaac Ringash

Union Point Service on June 23 at 10am

Meeting dates:

May 31 deadline for an email vote on M&P worship leader schedule

Sept 10 7pm in Sanford

Nov 12 7pm in Avonlea

Feb 18 7pm in Avonlea

reports due to Jamie by Jan 27th

.

MOTION: Diane Trudeau – To adjourn the meeting. Carried
submitted by Jamie Scharf

Minister's Report

I know all of us have friends and family who are what we might call 'Un-Churched.' People who not only don't attend a church regularly, but people who have never attended church except for the odd wedding or funeral. Daryl is one such person. He was baptized in the United Church but his family weren't religious and never attended services nor went to Sunday School. I, on the other hand, have been going to church since I was born. For my family going to church on Sunday morning was like going to school or going grocery shopping: you just did it and didn't really think twice about it. So this makes for very interesting conversations from time to time. And it allows me to see from a different perspective, things about church that I often take for granted.

A few times throughout 2024, I mentioned to Daryl that from time to time a parishioner who had a connection years ago with one of our three congregations will reach out to us. Perhaps in a time of crisis: a sick family member or death of a loved one. Perhaps they reached out because they were feeling nostalgic. Perhaps they decided to come to a service for Easter or Christmas. In any case, we don't really miss a beat. We welcome, we console, we provide pastoral care, we laugh with them, we cry with them. It's as if they knew, no matter what, they could count on us to provide a safe space for whatever needs they have, spiritual or otherwise.

Daryl is absolutely amazed by this. To have a community where you can go and know you will be welcomed even if it's been years since you've been in contact he thinks is comforting. And I just think 'well, of course! That's what a church is and does!' But he made me realize how much, perhaps, I take it for granted; that that's an essential part of who we are as faith communities. Yes we gather for worship, we have rituals and meetings, but the essence of who we are is a community. A community gathering in the name and spirit of Jesus, the One whom we look to for meaning; the One who shows us who God is, who we are, and who we are called to be.

I wanted to mention this and celebrate this because it's so very true and so very beautiful. I hope we all know and feel how much we are communities who love and care for each other, and will love and care for whoever knocks at the door. In this post-pandemic, increasingly secular world, sometimes we can wonder who we are and what we should do. I think we're doing what we need to do and we are doing it well. There are so many people out there looking for connection and we provide a safe and welcoming place for them.

Respectfully submitted
Rev. James deBeer

Meridian Pastoral Charge Chairperson Report

2024 was a quieter year compared to the demands of the last three years with remits, covenants, governance and self evaluation.

The Meridian Pastoral Charge (MPC) 2023 Annual Meeting was held at Sanford United Church on March 12, 2024. The September 10th meeting was also held at Sanford United Church but the November 12 meeting was held via Zoom due to weather conditions.

This year, the MPC Worship Committee started to prepare for the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada in June 2025. A celebratory worship service will be held on June 8th at Sanford United Church with invited special guests followed by a luncheon, games and fellowship. A committee will be struck to plan this momentous occasion.

Meridian Pastoral Charge hosted Interchurch's Advent Service December 1 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Starbuck. All three Churches provided the delicious dainties, assorted beverages and served over 100 guests for the fellowship gathering. \$1200 was collected for the local Christmas Cheer Board.

I would like to thank the volunteers who update the Meridian Pastoral Charge website as it keeps our congregants informed.

Also, I would like to thank all the dedicated volunteers who are MPC board members – your competency makes the Charge run smoothly. Your time and commitment are really appreciated. We are still looking for a volunteer to be our representative to the Prairie to Pine Regional Council.

Lastly, and most importantly, I would like to thank Reverend James deBeer, our minister. With a sincere and caring manner he looks after his congregants and we look forward each week to his interesting and illuminating Reflections. James, you are a Blessing to all of us. During our long search for a minister, we were told that a minister would be eventually provided to us. Boy, were they right. We hit the jackpot. Thank you James for all your love and dedication to us.

Submitted by
Diane Trudeau

Meridian Worship Committee Report

The Worship Committee is a somewhat unique committee, in that we meet in August for our once a year Meridian meeting with Rev. James. At this meeting we review the September to following June minister rotation and special events of the Church Year. Many final decisions are made within individual churches.

The Committee met on August 27th at Sanford Church. Rev. James and all churches were represented.

2024/2025 reps: Sanford: Barb Kirk, Julie Ringash
Starbuck: Margaret Porter, Diane Trudeau
Avonlea(Chair): Angie Cormier, Jane Manness

2024/2025 Worship schedule compiled by Michele Ammeter(M&P Chair)

Avonlea: Rev.James every Sunday 9:30AM

Sanford: 9:30 AM streaming

11:00AM 2nd Sunday of the month - Rev. James in person

Starbuck: Rev. James every other Sunday at 11:30AM.

Lay-leader alternate Sundays.

Joint services with Trinity Lutheran 2nd Sunday of the month .

Lectionary Year: September Year B / Advent 1 Year C

6 Communion dates to be determined by each church:

WWCommunion/Thanksgiving, Advent 1, Epiphany, Lent 1, Easter, Pentecost

Recovenanting Service: Rev. James included in the September 29th service.

November 11th - services at Sanford UC & Domain Legion

Season of Advent:

Hanging of the Greens: date and activity, each church

Advent Readings: Rev. James provides

White Gift, Advent activities and Collections: individual decisions

Blue Christmas Service: Virtual - December 21st

Rev James & Rev. Deborah (Trinity Lutheran)

Christmas Eve: Starbuck - 5:00PM

Sanford - 7:00PM

Avonlea - 7:00PM (Connie Arran & Angie Cormier)

Season of Lent: Lent Readings: Rev. James provides

March 9, 2025 - Lent 1/Communion/ Liturgy of Ashes

April 13,2025 - Palm/Passion Sunday

April 18,2025 - Good Friday - 10:00AM Avonlea

April 20, 2025 - Easter - Rev. James at Avonlea / Starbuck

May 11,2025 - Mother's Day

June 8,2025 - MPC "United' Service - 10:00AM service at Sanford to celebrate 100th Anniversary Year of United Church of Canada (June 10, 1925)

Rain or shine - Worship / Picnic / Games

June 15, 2025 - Father's Day

Next Worship Meeting - August 26, 2025 - Sanford 7:00PM

Respectfully submitted: Angie Cormier, Jane Manness

M&P Report

Ministry & Personnel committee Chair is Michele Ammeter (Starbuck) until the 2026 Meridian annual meeting, at which time the chair position rotates to Sanford.

Other committee members are

Judy Cormier, Stuart Manness and Julie Ringash.

The church leadership schedule September to June 2025 was distributed in April for input from each congregation. While Avonlea held services in late August worship at all 3 congregations started September 8, with James in Avonlea each week at 9:30am and Sanford & Starbuck alternating Sundays at 11:00 or 11:30am respectively.

In 2025/2026 it would be anticipated that James will be in Starbuck every week at 11:30am and alternate between Avonlea & Sanford at 9:30am. The schedule will be available in the spring.

In 2024, James took a week holiday in mid February. Each CoF provides their own lay leader for that service. He also had holidays in July followed by study leave until August 18, 2024.

Respectfully submitted: Michèle Ammeter

Interchurch Council Report

Our mission as the Meridian Inter-Church Council is to be a visible sign of unity of the body of Christ to our church communities through scripture, prayer, worship and service. Nine churches in southern Manitoba make up this council. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:30 at the churches in a rotational schedule. We don't have meetings in December or during the summer months. At each meeting we share what is happening in each of our churches. As a committee we focus on Christian unity regardless of differences that separate the churches.

Our committee begins with a psalm reading and we discuss the reading and how it is relevant to our churches. We have had nine meetings since the last annual meeting. Some of the highlights have been:

No one applied for the MICC Grade 12 Scholarship. The funds (\$1000) will be held in our account until next year with further discussion how we will distribute the

money.

We had our annual MICC baseball tournament/barbecue at St. Paul's Church in Brunkild on Wednesday, June 5th at 6 pm. A special recognition of appreciation for Cynthia Bisson was held. A tree was purchased and planted beside the church in her honour and a certificate of appreciation was presented to her son.

We had a good crowd and the event was enjoyed by all. Rhonda organized the event.

Father Gabriel is still working on the poster to promote our MICC churches.

The Advent Service was held on Sunday, December 1st, 2024 at the Starbuck Lutheran Church with our three Meridian churches hosting the service. It was a beautiful service with special music which entertained a large audience. The offering collected went to the local cheer board.

Our committee will support the event where Matt Falk, Christian comedian, will perform on March 21st

„ 2025 at the La Salle Fellowship Church. We are expecting to sell 200 tickets at a cost of \$10 a ticket and giving Matt Falk an honorarium of

\$2000. Robbie will communicate the information with Matt Falk and coordinate the event.

It is my intent to remain on the committee for another year.

Respectfully submitted December 13, 2024 by Cathy Beavis

MPC Trustees Board

Meridian Pastoral Charge Trustee Board members are:

Reverend James de Beer

Michèle Ammeter (Starbuck United),

Ron Manness (Avonlea United)

Jamie Scharf (Sanford United)

The pastoral charge is responsible for deciding on the number of its trustees. There must be a minimum of three and a maximum of 15. Meridian Pastoral Charge has appointed 1 Trustee from each congregation plus the required member (Rev James), for 4 members.

The Trustees did not meet in 2024 because there was no outstanding business, but all trustees are expected to continue in their positions.

Respectfully submitted:

Michèle Ammeter

Avonlea United Church 2024 Report

Since August 11th, the invitation to “come and worship” has been 9:30AM. In the Meridian Pastoral Charge(MPC) rotation, this is the year we especially look forward to - Rev. James every Sunday. Thank you Rev. James for guiding MPC and Avonlea through another year. Your messages encourage us to live our faith, be sensitive to the needs of our neighbours and aware of the many challenges that face our world.

Avonlea board has met 4 times this year - in person and Zoom. There were no Sunday cancellations due to bad weather. We were closed in the summer for 5weeks, all July and August 4th, resuming August 11th. During the year we held Communion on 6 Sundays, celebrating the changing liturgical sessions of the church year.

Thanksgiving Sunday, we welcomed Madison Paige Lampertz, daughter of Catherine and Laird into our family of faith through infant baptism.

A meaningful Christmas Eve worship was lead by Connie Arran, Angie Cormier and our S.S. young people.

Our ice candles once again expressed a “Glow of Love”outside the church during Advent and Epiphany.

As Chair of the Board, I am most thankful for everyone who willingly participates in order to make our worship time meaningful. For the goodies and laughter that enhance the friendship we all feel at our after church fellowship. For the financial resources and labour that is required to maintain our church and cemetery.

In 2025, the United Church of Canada is celebrating its 100th Anniversary(June 10th,1925). We look forward to a “united” service in Sanford on Sunday, June 8th. 10:00AM.

What is our calling? to love God and love our neighbours as ourselves.

Respectfully submitted: Jane Manness

Sanford United Church for 2024

Official Board for 2024

Chair – Jamie Scharf

Secretary - Nancy Langlois

Treasurer-Norm Dyck

Minister - Rev. James deBeer

Member at Large - Tammy Klippenstein,

Worship Representative - Barb Kirk

Property & Maintenance Representative -Norm Dyck

Board of Trustees - Nancy Langlois, Carolyn Johnson, Rev. James deBeer

Board meeting was held on August 15, 2024.

No Weddings

Baptisms

- Hunter Woroniuk, son of Allison and Nicholas Woroniuk Sept. 22, 2024

No Funerals

Our church again was quite active in 2024 with several community events like Bingo and Craft Nights. The building has been busy as usual with other activities not planned by the church. Our relationship with MacDonald Headingley Recreation District (MHRD) and local piano teachers remain healthy..

Sunday worship continues to be meaningful both in person and live streamed on YouTube. Thanks to Rev. James for leading that and to Kelly Epler for her musical leadership. New this year is the alternating service times as this is our first year in the cycle of minister sharing arrangements without pulpit supply where this has been necessary. 2023 was Avonlea United's first experience with it and starting September 2024 it was ours. Half of services are at 9:30 when Rev. James is live streaming from Avonlea and the other half is 11:00 with Rev. James in person. It has required increased communication among our attendees but currently we feel that it has not affected service attendance.

Let's keep it going Sanford!

Respectfully submitted

Jamie Scharf

Starbuck Report for 2024

We are fortunate to have achieved another year of worship and fellowship guided by our Minister who's value cannot be overstated. We are grateful also to our council members and the volunteers who keep us functioning.

This year we have had our usual successes. The pancake supper and the Horticulture night were both much enjoyed by many. Again, thanks to all involved.

We were privileged to house the Inter Church Advent service which was hosted by the Meridian Pastoral Charge and which proved to be a wonderful service with great music and diverse contributions by all churches involved.

The joint Lutheran/ United cantata also was much enjoyed and it was made special by having both Rev. James and Pastor Deb present. The choir, as usual, was stunning. Thanks to all involved for a very meaningful service.

We look forward to another year of helping those in need and providing fellowship and worship for all.

Margaret Porter
Chair

MPC Financial report for the 12months ending December 31/24

REVENUE	ACTUAL	PROJECTED 2024	DIFFERENCE	NOTES
ALLOCATIONS	\$88200.00	\$88200.00	\$0.00	
INTEREST	\$3690.08	\$1200.00	\$2490.08	
M&S/WD	\$7242.00	\$6900.00	\$342.00	
S/H DIVIDEND	\$13.44	\$25.32	\$25.32	
OTHER	<u>\$225.00</u>	<u>\$225.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>Min gift reimburse</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$99370.52	\$96550.32	\$2820.20	
DISBURSEMENT				
PAYROLL JAMES	\$98087.88	\$98209.56	-\$121.68	
PAYROLL OTHER	\$247.00	\$741.00	-\$494.00	247x3
UCC ASSESS	\$4588.00	\$4588.00	\$0.00	
M&S/WD	\$7242.00	\$6900.00	\$342.00	
SERVICE SUPPLY	\$0.00	\$300.00	-\$300.00	i.e. Palms, etc
MILE EXP JAMES	\$4936.25	\$5020.00	-\$83.75	
TRAVEL OTHER		\$300.00	-\$300.00	Travel Min. and meetings
MISC	\$450.00	\$500.00	-\$50.00	Min Appr, etc
OFFICE SUPPLY	\$694.62	\$550.00	\$144.62	
WEB DOMAIN	\$136.50	\$136.50	\$0.00	
MEETINGS		\$500.00	-\$500.00	PtoP, etc
CAPITAL		\$500.00	-\$500.00	
BANKING FEES	\$17.00	\$30.00	-\$13.00	
<u>SUNDAY SCH</u>		<u>\$300.00</u>	<u>-\$300.00</u>	
TOT DISB	\$116399.25	\$118575.06	-\$2175.81	
REC/DISB	-\$17028.73	-\$22024.74	\$4996.01	
Jan 1 Bank Bal	\$26832.46	\$26832.46		T/D \$80,000
Receipts	\$104370.52	\$101550.32	Add \$5000 fr T/D	-5000
Expenditured	<u>\$116399.25</u>	\$118575.06		
Book bal 31/12/24	\$14803.73	\$9807.72		\$75000.00

Meridian Financial Report notes for December 31, 2024

Revenues are consistent and self explanatory.

Only expenses that require some clarification will be noted below.

Payroll Other - This is used for pulpit supply. Avonlea had Ray Klassen in April for pulpit supply.

Misc (\$450.00) - Minister's gift (\$350.00), and our annual dues to Meridian Interchurch (\$100.00)

Office Supplies (\$694.62)- Includes ink and paper for James (\$260.00), Microsoft Gathering Magazine (\$193.00) and Zoom Subscription to Jamie Scharf (240.69)

Notes for the 2025 Meridian Pastoral Charge Projections

REVENUE

The allocation per church per month is the same as in the past, \$2,450.00.

M/S &WD is an in and out transaction. In reality they do not affect our budget.

EXPENSES

Payroll James, the base salary is \$77,466 which is a 3% increase from 2024. Add to that continuing education, telephone, employer portion of pension, health plan, short term disability, employee indemnity, CCP and EI and you get \$100,868.

Payroll other is actually pulpit supply. Allocate one Sunday per church at the current rate or \$254.00.

UCC assessment, bases on the 2023 givings amount for all three churches.

Service Supplies, a catch all to do with services such as palms of children gifts, etc.

Mileage is reimbursed at \$.55 per kilometre.

Misc has Minister appreciation gift, etc.

Office Supplies, usually for James to purchase ink, paper, etc.

The projected disbursements in excess of revenue is \$23,163.05. We4 will transfer \$20,000 into the cheque account from the term deposit.

The term deposit balance will be \$55,000.

The projected December 31 bank balance will be \$5797.66

MPC 2025 Financial Projection

REVENUE	ACTUAL 2024	PROJECTED 2025	DIFFERENCE	NOTES
ALLOCATIONS	\$88200.00	\$88200.00	\$0.00	
INTEREST	\$3690.08	\$3000.00	\$690.08	
M&S/WD	\$7242.00	\$7000.00	\$242.00	
S/H DIVIDEND	\$13.44	\$13.44	\$25.32	
OTHER	\$225.00	\$225.00	\$0.00	Min gift reimburse
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$99370.52	\$98438.44	\$932.08	
DISBURSEMENT				
PAYROLL JAMES	\$98087.88	\$100868.00	-\$2780.12	
PAYROLL OTHER	\$247.00	\$762.00	-\$515.00	254x3
UCC ASSESS	\$4588.00	\$4715.00	-\$127.00	
M&S/WD	\$7242.00	\$7000.00	\$242.00	
SERVICE SUPPLY	\$0.00	\$300.00	-\$300.00	i.e. Palms, etc
MILE EXP JAMES	\$4936.25	\$5000.00	-\$63.75	
TRAVEL OTHER		\$300.00	-\$300.00	Travel Min.& meetings
MISC	\$450.00	\$500.00	-\$50.00	Min Appr, etc
OFFICE SUPPLY	\$694.62	\$700.00	-\$5.38	
WEB DOMAIN	\$136.50	\$136.50	\$0.00	
MEETINGS		\$500.00	-\$500.00	PtoP, etc
CAPITAL		\$500.00	-\$500.00	
BANKING FEES	\$17.00	\$20.00	-\$3.00	
<u>SUNDAY SCH</u>		<u>\$300.00</u>	<u>-\$300.00</u>	
TOT DISB	\$116399.25	\$121601.50	-\$5202.25	
REC/DISB	-\$17028.73	-\$23163.06	\$6134.33	
Jan 1 Bank Bal	\$26832.46	\$8960.72	8960.72	T/D \$75,000
Receipts	\$104370.52	\$98438.44	118438.44	Trf to chq \$20,000
Expenditured	<u>\$116399.25</u>	\$121601.50	\$121601.50	
Book bal Dec 31, 2025	\$14803.73	-\$14202.34	\$5797.66	Bal \$55,000