



## WEYBURN FREE METHODIST CHURCH

133 - 14<sup>th</sup> Street NE, Weyburn, SK S4H 1L5; (306) 842-3441  
info@weyburnfmc.com -- www.weyburnfmc.com

Pastor Jody Pfeifer

Pastor Ian Isaak

Pastor Brian Hopfe

## Mid Year Update - July 2022

To the WFMCT Church Family,

The board and lead pastors would like to share with you a mid-year update letter. Our goal for this letter is to help promote transparency, communication, and vision by updating you all on the tasks of the board, our short-term goals, and upcoming meetings/projects.

### **We Are Excited:**

There has been much conversation around the board table about the excitement we are feeling as we exit out of the pandemic/lockdown measures and begin developing 'new normal'. We have all noticed a buzz as people return to in-person gatherings, new ministry initiatives are started, old ministries return, and community building deepens. We are excited to welcome new people into our church family, and to re-connect with those who are making their way back. We recognize that we are not fully back to 'normal' yet and that it may still be a long while until everyone is able to fully engage in all the in-person activities of the church, but we see God at work in leading, guiding, and equipping his church as we continue taking the next steps.

### **Financial Update:**

As of the end of May 2022, we are seeing about 13% less giving than in 2021. The board is keeping a close eye on the financial income vs expenses and have delayed some budgeted projects to ensure we don't overspend.

We also have some good news regarding the FMCiC Pension Levy. Due to the increase in the global stocks in 2020/2021 and the subsequent sale of the Defined Benefit Pension Fund, the denomination was able to save significant money and did not need to use a large amount of the Pension Levy it had been collecting from the churches. Head Office has since issued WFMCT a refund of \$16,200 which the board has deposited into the general operating fund to help offset the current income vs expenses deficit. This money will be reflected in the June income statements.

### **Progress Updates:**

We would like to update the congregation on a few in-progress projects:

- **Lower Level Elevator** - We currently have raised \$23,000 for the building fund which will be used to install an elevator for access to the lower level. Once we have raised ~ \$45,000 we can begin this project.

- **Zoom Room** – Pastor Ian has recently installed the Zoom Room System in the Serving Room. The system is fully functional and we anticipate the final installation to be completed in the next few weeks. If you would like to book this communication tool, please contact Laurel and Pastor Ian.
- **Governance Manual** – The board is pleased to share that we have restarted the process of updating/editing our Governance Manual. The goal is to help make the document more accessible, clear, and understandable so that it serves as a good foundation for our Governance Board. Once final revisions have been approved by the board, they will be made public for everyone to review.
- **Strategic Outcomes** – The board has done significant work on developing Strategic Outcomes that will guide the vision and activities of the church for the next 2-5 years. We have attached this document to the end of this letter for your information.

### **Lead Pastor Job Descriptions:**

At the June board retreat, we spent considerable time reviewing and revising Pastor Ian and Pastor Jody's job descriptions. The board received consultation on how to revise the documents to be more clear, easy to understand, and more helpful with the 360-performance appraisal process. The board is in the final stages of refining the job descriptions and we will share them publicly once a final draft has been made.

### **What's Next?**

The board would like to highlight a few key areas of focus that we will be working on in the second half of 2022. These include:

- **Missions Meeting:** The board recognizes that the area of Missions in our church needs fresh leadership and conversation. Many of the key contributors to the Missions Team have stepped back, and so we need to decide as a church how we want to proceed with these ministries. *Please keep an eye out for an upcoming fall meeting where everyone will be invited to come and contribute to the vision and future of this vital ministry of our church.*
- **Generosity Team:** The board has been thinking and discerning if God would have our church engage in the Generosity Team giving money to our community again. We plan to have a final proposal ready for the end of September which will come before the society for final discussion and approval.

It has been awesome to see our in-person attendance climbing as well as our children and teen ministries grow and bear fruit! The sound of our congregation engaging in worship brings us joy as well!

We know there are some who may not be able to attend yet. We understand and will continue to stream worship services and will make every effort to engage with you where you are. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact your pastors or one of the board members.

May God bless you in this summer season!

***The Board of Weyburn Free Methodist Church***

# WFMC Strategic Goals

**CONNECTING POINTS** – We need to look down the path and create connecting points for the “80%”

- We need to be intentional in ensure we have good ‘next steps’ or ‘on-ramps’ for all of our events.
- We need to ensure we spend our time, talents, and money more in this area.
- We may need to make sacrifices or adjust preferences for the sake of the 80%
- We need to remind ourselves often that our vision “That everyone would know Jesus personally” requires us to go after the “80%”

**PRAYER** - Being a church of prayer and where prayer flows through every aspect of what we do.

- Prayer is the power of the church.
- Prayer is something our society seems very open to (they say yes to ‘Can I pray for you?’)
- Prayer is a great connecting point for the “80%”
- Prayer is the glue that helps keep God’s people together.

**INCLUSIVE** – We need to be a church that has a focus on being inclusive and ensure everyone has the opportunity to experience ‘God’s best for them’. Areas of inclusivity we discussed specifically:

- The LGBTQ+ Community
  - We need to care for families of people who have come out
  - We need to be able to provide supports for people who come out
  - We need to be open and welcoming to the Trans-community
- Ethnic diversity
  - As a church we need to be sensitive to the cultural differences in our congregations
  - We need to ensure we are not excluding certain people groups from community
  - We need provide opportunities for expressions of diversity within our church
- Multi congregation
  - We need to acknowledge and take ownership of the fact that we have multiple ‘congregations’ meeting as part of the WFMC family
  - We need to include as many congregations as we can in our events.
  - We need to remember that all of our congregations will need to make compromises for the others (and vice versa) from time to time.

**MENTAL HEALTH** – This was raised in our LifePlan as a deep need in our community and WFMC should be part of helping in any way we can. We discussed specifically the areas of:

- Family health (single parents, divorces, general parenting, teens, etc)
- Depression & Anxiety (many areas of Weyburn are affected by this. Specifically teens and those in our oil patch). Also noted that this ties back to our LGBTQ+ conversation.
- Promoting overall mental health – we want to be a church that promotes mental health to all people in all stages of life.

**YOUNG FAMILIES** – Our church needs to have a special focus on the next generation of the church in Weyburn

- We believe that our young families are the future of our church and we need to care for them.
- We want to see these children grow to become the next leaders in our churches.
- We believe these young families are becoming the new ‘stakeholders’ of the church in the years to come.
- We want to care for not just the WFMC young families, but all young families in Weyburn.