

LEADERSHIP TEAM NEWS IN BRIEF

Meeting: Dec 3, 2025

WE DISCUSSED:

- The United Church of Canada (UCC) advertising campaign that aims to spark curiosity and spiritual reflection during the Christmas season through digital billboards in high-traffic areas near United Church communities, including Spirit of Hope. Called “A Place at the Table”, it depicts our faith community as one committed to welcoming people of all backgrounds, identities and experiences. We discussed practical ways we can help newcomers feel comfortable, expected and valued.
- Special congregational meeting to be held on Sunday, Jan 18 to approve new members who have agreed to serve on the Ministry and Personnel Committee and the Board of Trustees.
- Planning for the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, March 15: Nominating Committee’s work to address vacancies on the Leadership Team, Annual Report compilation (submissions due by Jan 16), Narrative Budget presentation on March 8.
- Deep appreciation for all those who participated in the Nov 22 Christmas Bake Sale and Artisan Market that raised more than \$3,000. More than 150 people attended, with more than 100 from the community.
- Financial reporting: Income (giving) is a bit behind what was planned for, but by year’s end we anticipate being on track to cover operating expenses. Investments have done well this year. Insurance premiums remain the same for 2026.
- From Northern Spirit Region: Kevin Guenther Trautwein has been hired as First-Third Ministry Animator to create opportunities for children, youth and families to experience excellence in programs and events that engage faith and justice conversations, build safer, welcoming community and respond to the longings of young people in this current time.

LOOKING FORWARD TO:

- Anticipation and reflection during our Advent and Christmas journey, enjoying the light and darkness of the season and knowing that we are not alone; God is our constant companion.
- Joyfully and authentically gathering in community in many ways, including the family funfest (Dec 6); three Sunday Advent services; handbells music (Dec 14), caroling and treats (Dec 16); lessons and carols, S.E.E.D.S. Christmas dinner and shortest day service (all on Dec 21) and Christmas Eve services at 4:30 and 7:30 pm.
- Looking ahead to 2026: Leadership Team retreat on future planning on Jan 24: narrative budget on Mar 8 – followed by the ACM on Mar 15.
- Community events such as movies, open mic, funfests and concerts.
- Continuing to welcome new people into Spirit of Hope, with warmth, openness and hospitality.
- Guided and inspired by the life and teachings of Jesus and other sources of great wisdom, continuing to journey; learning, changing, and growing together.

Next meeting: Wed, Jan 7, 2026

LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBERS

- Chair: Jim Lewis
- Past Chair: Carol Loewen
- Secretary: Phyllis Verhaar
- Treasurer: Kevin Gue
- Ministry and Personnel: Eva Cooper
- Trustees: Sandra Hawes
- Property, Finance and Stewardship: Cathy Martin
- Worship Faith in Action Team (FIAT): Roslyn Thomson and Vici Wynn
- Learning and Growth FIAT: Heather Green and Chris Meintzer
- Just and Caring Community FIAT: Judy Meintzer and Sara van Halderen
- Communications: Susan Bamm
- Minister: Reverend Blaine Gregg