

LEADERSHIP TEAM NEWS IN BRIEF

Meeting: Jan 7, 2026

WE DECIDED:

- That permission be given to The Stroll of Poets to rent the Sanctuary and the Lower Hall for a Friday night date in April 2026, yet to be determined.

WE DISCUSSED:

- The ways that Spirit of Hope feeds the spirit, mind and soul of people of many ages; what is missing, what could we let go of and what we offer to spark interest – and what would be needed.
- Next steps and proposed timelines for using the one-time \$10,000 grant Spirit of Hope received for 2026 from The Promotion Project Fund at The United Church of Canada Foundation. We will use the funds during 2026 to support and improve our strategies to increase engagement and participation of youth, young adults and families with young children in worship and other Spirit of Hope activities.
- Updates on Nomination Committee's search to fill Leadership Team vacancies, Annual Report compilation.
- Feedback and ideas from the busy Advent and Christmas time – and thanks to all who assisted with the services and special events.
- Looking ahead for members to participate in leading worship services when Reverend Gregg is on holiday during the summer. Leadership Team members and others are invited to participate.
- The multitude of knitted items sent to Bissell and ICPM by many anonymous volunteers who helped others keep warm this winter. Also, the donations for the SEEDS luncheon and for No Room in the Inn donations given at Christmas Eve services.
- Looking ahead to how Edmonton United Church congregations might participate together at the August Pride Parade.
- Clarification about the process and notification of church closures.

LOOKING FORWARD TO:

- Special congregational meeting on Sunday, Jan 18 to approve new members who have agreed to serve on the Ministry and Personnel Committee and the Board of Trustees.
- Leadership Team retreat on future planning on Jan 24.
- Celebration and promotions project kickoff planned for Sunday, Jan 25 to inform and engage the congregation. This once-in-a-lifetime gift provides an opportunity for us to work together as a community of faith in ways we haven't before – towards tangible and practical purposes.
- Our annual narrative budget discussion on Mar 8 – followed by the Annual Congregational Meeting on Mar 15.
- Community events: movies and open mic, funfests and concerts.
- Planning for Lent, Easter and the Spring!
- 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, Feb 4, 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 Bramm
- Minister: Reverend Blaine Gregg