

REPORTS – CLUSTERS and NETWORKS

T'BJIGGN

From a group of four Communities of Faith that got together in 2016 to discuss joint summer services, we have grown to meeting with representatives from seven Communities of Faith in our cluster group that includes: Transcona Memorial United, Birds Hill United, John Black Memorial United, Immanuel United, Gordon-King Memorial United, Grey Street United, and North Kildonan United churches.

The first meeting of 2020 was held, in person, at Grey Street, with plans to have a joint Maundy Thursday service at Immanuel United, but, as time and the pandemic progressed, all get-togethers were cancelled.

The group did agree to keep in touch via Zoom and two additional meetings were held in April and October. The Zoom meetings were a check-in to see how we were all managing through the lockdown in regard to worship, staying connected with our respective congregations, and sharing ideas with each other.

Outreach was shared with lunches and cookies for the West Broadway and St. Matthews-Maryland community ministries and adult clothes and shoes were gathered for Spirit Care at St. Boniface hospital.

Besides meetings, we seek assistance, advice, or share special events by sending questions or invitations to our cluster group at any time.

*Respectfully submitted by
Luane Campbell
Grey Street United Church*

AFFIRM CLUSTER of SOUTHWESTERN MANITOBA

“Signs, Signs Everywhere a Sign” – Greetings from the Affirm Cluster of Southwestern Manitoba.

As a result of meetings held after the dissolution of Assiniboine Presbytery Justice Committee, some enthusiastic people started to discuss the possibility of forming an “Affirm Cluster”. Initial members were David Howell, Julie Hutton, Laura Crookshanks and Liz Carter-Morgan. Known as the “Affirm Cluster of Southwestern Manitoba” we identified our goal as one to promote opportunities to come together for support and encouragement as more communities of faith explore how they might strengthen their commitment to diversity and inclusivity.

Our first venture was to hold a workshop in October 2019 for churches to get together to share stories of their affirming journey and to encourage others who were just starting or curious to learn more. We considered it to be quite successful, with 21 people from 8 congregations attending from this area and as far away as Steinbach.

Our Cluster had planned a PIE Celebration event for March 2020 for all churches in the area to celebrate PIE. Unfortunately, it had to be cancelled because of the pandemic.

We have maintained an email directory of those interested in sharing information.

We are looking forward to being able to meet in person to continue the journey and we also congratulate Prairie to Pine Region on becoming an affirming region. We will be with you to celebrate ‘Our Place in the Rainbow’ on May 30th.

**WINNIPEG
INTERFAITH/ECUMENICAL
CLUSTER**

The Winnipeg Interfaith/Ecumenical Cluster currently numbers three: Lynda Trono, Noel Suministrado and Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd. We spoke with the Regional Council a couple of times over this past year, encouraging them to officially appoint people in various communities across the region who can represent their area at ecumenical and interfaith gatherings, and take initiative in planning interfaith/ecumenical events. Council decided that the co-chairs would take this on. Noel and Loraine virtually attended the Winnipeg ecumenical service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and Loraine and Lynda helped to plan and participate in two interfaith prayer vigils in Winnipeg in support of Guaranteed Livable Income.
