

# Place of Hope Indigenous Presbyterian Church

251 Bannerman Ave Winnipeg Mb R2W 0T8

204-298-9890

**HOPE MEETS HERE**



## **SPRING NEWSLETTER 2025**

### **CHURCH NEWS**

- Easter Sunday was April 20<sup>th</sup> this year. Reverend Margaret baptized 3 youth and 1 adult. Four others re-affirmed their baptism and joined the church.



- In March we attempted our 1<sup>st</sup> Church Annual Meeting. Session had agreed that one long meeting full of reports would not benefit anyone. Attention spans are short; children are loud and impatient. So, we divided up the necessary reports into 3 Sundays and took 15-20 minutes before the meal to read, then discuss. It went over very well and everyone agreed that it was easier to digest in shorter bites.

- Session has voted to take the month of July off as holidays again this year.
- General Assembly 2025 takes place in Hamilton June 1-5 and Rev Margaret is a Presbytery delegate this year. Chandler Ginter is our Young Adult Representative. Please pray for both of them.
- Vacation Bible School will take place August 11-14 this year! The theme is God's Love and Westwood & the Korean Presbyterian Youth groups will be running it again with extra supervision by some of our church members. We are planning a special outing for the last day (Thursday) so if you would like to donate to help with our fundraising efforts just specify your donation as VBS.
- On May 19, 2025 Trina and Donald Meekis will officially become Mr and Mrs!! The wedding will take place at Place of Hope Indigenous Church where they are both members. Trina has attended our church since she was about 4 years old. She has attended Canada Youth Conference twice as a participant and last year as a leader and she teaches the Youth Sunday School class. We wish them many years of happiness.

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### MONTY MOUSE



- Monty, the Mouse, is making his debut in the next Presbyterian Connection! There are pictures too, of the birthday cards everyone made for Monty's birthday on April 27 and one of Seath with Monty.
- Seath was a delayed talker & started talking after becoming friends with Monty.



### Examples of Monty's effect on our church family:

- Brother & sister riding in the car with their auntie sing "Monty's song" at the top of their lungs.
- Before church starts a 3 year old girl sits on our Indigenous carpet, looks at me, points to my chair and says "Monty?"
- Brothers are walking in their school with Grandma when they stop and point to the wall - "Look KooKoo, it's Monty's friends!" The pictures on the wall were of the Seven Sacred Teachings.
- One of the adults asked when Monty's birthday was because we sing to everyone the Sunday before their birthday. "We don't want Monty to feel left out." I agreed to find out so Monty's birthday is now April 27th.

### Can You Help Us Financially?

- Weekly Honorariums are set at \$25 each for 8 required helpers on Sunday who are basically committing their time on a regular basis every week and volunteering most of that time. \$200 per week
- Sunday meals for 60+ children and adults each week is costing us around \$100 per week. Two personally owned vehicles and one church owned van all require gas for Sunday transportation. We use \$35 per week just for gas.







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- Regular monthly gifts are helpful for us. As little as \$10 a month soon adds up to \$120 a year and then it has paid for a fellowship meal for better than 60 people on one Sunday. If 52 people did that much it would cover our entire meal budget of \$5,200 plus for the year.



## **Regarding Our Finances**

- We wish to thank our regular and one-time donors for their wonderful generosity. Words cannot express our appreciation that there are people, church groups, and congregations out there in Presbyterian Land supporting us and providing finances to help sustain a congregation who cannot financially sustain itself. This is healing and reconciliation in action! You provide the means, the staff and volunteers provide the program required to keep faith and hope alive.
- Our Sunday gathering, worship, and fellowship time are essential to providing the hope, encouragement, and prayer support needed to help our members and adherents manage daily life in unsafe neighbourhoods with inadequate financial and human resources needed to survive, let alone thrive. Our congregation members are all living in what the Winnipeg Social Council describes as deep poverty which has been a generational problem for many Indigenous people in Canada which was and is still caused by Colonization and the lack of opportunity for Indigenous people.
- Our Sunday collection fluctuates between \$20-\$40 a week. The PCC provided around \$65,000 in our yearly grant last year for ministry staffing while the staffing stipends, honorariums, and benefits paid out were \$82,000 in 2024. We were successful in obtaining grants from congregation foundations to cover the costs of our part time parish Social worker, and to cover the Sunday honorariums for all the helpers needed to set up and clean up the space we use in St John's Presbyterian Church Hall.



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### What Our Sunday Looks Like

- There is a lot of work required for us to worship each week at Place of Hope Indigenous Presbyterian Church. There are people, who must be recruited, trained and supervised, that are required to purchase the supplies, prepare a meal, serve the meal, and clean up after the church meal each week. Others are needed to drive the church and staff vehicles that are providing transportation to and from church, and to set up, operate, and dismantle again for safe storage, our sound system, and to set up, supervise, and clean up in the nursery, and to help our Sunday School teachers with several special needs children.
- For the leadership team Sunday is a 5-hour day at the church hall where we work steady from 1-6 p.m. Worship is at 3 p.m. It is tiring to set up and dismantle everything again each week. That process generates its own chaos with 8-10 people helping make it happen, but watching the Holy Spirit move in the chaos, watching the church family gathering, supporting each other and helping the leadership team however they can, experiencing the hugs, and tears, and joys, and listening to the stories of their week, watching the babies being born and baptized, seeing the children grow up into confident, faithful, indigenous teens who are graduating grade 12, is worth every moment of the

work, every anxiety about sustainability, and every worry about lack of financial and human resources to do a good job.

### HOW TO DONATE

PCC link:

<https://presbyterian.ca/donate/donate-to-ministries-with-indigenous-peoples/>

1. At "Gift Designation", click the drop down menu and choose "Place of Hope"
2. Enter your donation amount/information
3. At "Additional Information", copy and paste this into the text box: "POH Indigenous PC, Winnipeg MB"

**E-TRANSFER:** pohipc@gmail.com

**Tithely:** Scan this QR code with your cell phone camera to donate to Tithely.

