

Council Meeting #9
Mill Woods United Church
Tuesday February 25, 2025
7:00 PM in the Church Lounge

We are a spiritual community where you can explore your purpose and place

Working Together: Holy Manners

- Honesty, forthrightness, not holding back in our interactions
- Listening with respect and sensitivity, even if we disagree
- Respecting confidentiality
- Giving everyone a chance to contribute
- Remain open-minded
- Be open to debates and different perspectives
- Once a decision as a group is made, it is vital we all support that decision
- Remember we are speaking for people who appreciate diverse styles of ministry and have different faith perspectives
- Support the growth and development of leadership within our group
- We each bring our own perspective to Council and represent some portion of our church community

Present: Carol Hickmann (Chair and Building Use), Rev. Dr. Dale Johnson (Minister), Rob McPhee (Past Chair), Carla Janzen (Congregational Care), Lane Borstad (Member-at-Large), Carol Reid (Member-at-Large), Randy Round (Finance), Gary Boswell (Property), Bill McGregor (Ministry & Personnel), Elfrieda Penner (Worship and Recording Steward)

Regrets: Enid Oldham (Member-at-Large), John Mair (Chair Elect), Lindy Mair (Member-at-Large), Terry Staley (Member-at-large)

1 Gathering time

1.1 Welcome and Holy Manners: Carol Hickmann

- The above Holy Manners were briefly reviewed; we were reminded of the importance of being aware of these.

1.2 Prayer: Dale Johnson

2 Housekeeping and Follow-up

2.1 Changes to the agenda:

- Ministry & Personnel update by Bill McGregor was added under 3.9.

2.2 Approval of minutes of January 28, 2025

- **Motion 24/25-44: That the minutes of January 28, 2025 be accepted as presented.**

(Attachment 1)

○ **Moved by Carol Reid, seconded by Randy Round**

○ **Carried**

3 New Business

3.1 **Living our Purpose:** *We are a spiritual community where you can explore your purpose and place*

- Reflecting on our year together as a Church Council – discussion
 - Highlights for you
 - Greatest Accomplishments
 - What have we done well?
 - Suggestions as we move into the 2025-26 Council year
 - Thank you to Rob McPhee for his many years on Council

- Pleased with our work on the Autonomous Indigenous church structure remit discussions at Council and with the congregation
- Faithful Footprints progress
- The new Banners
- Increased attendance, some new people
- Spring Soiree fundraiser
- Good relationship with Northern Spirit Regional Council
- Coffee social time organized by Lane and Jeannette Borstad; another one planned soon
- Lent presentations, Tech Talks, Wanda Egilsson’s talk on Finances
- Handbell choirs and children’s involvement
- Appreciation for our strong minister and strong Council
- Suggestions for 2025-2026:
 - Address some of the Future Topics listed at the end of the minutes
 - Address verbal abuse issues
 - Less use of paper copies
 - Possible session by Kevin of 4Point Taekwondo on self-defence points
 - Expand on the connection with the Woodvale Community League

3.2 **Nominations and Confirmations for 2025-26:** Carol Hickmann **(Attachment 2)**

- Two positions still need to be filled:
 - Chair elect
 - Stewardship chair

3.3 **Motion 2024/25-45: That the agenda for the Annual General Meeting on Sunday March 3, 2025, be approved.** **(Attachment 3)**

- **Moved by Carol Reid, seconded by Bill McGregor**
- **Carried**

Background: Luncheon will be provided by Heavenly Hospitality, and childcare is confirmed to be in place if needed.

Rob McPhee will chair the AGM, as Tim Janewski cannot attend.

- 3.4 **Motion 2024/25-46: That the following dates be approved for Council Meetings, Annual Financial Meeting and Annual General Meeting**
- **Council Meetings:**
 - 2025 - March 25, April 22, May 27, June 17, September 23, October 28, November 18, December 9
 - 2026 – January 27, February 24
 - **Annual Financial Meeting:** Sunday November 23, 2025
 - **Annual General Meeting:** Sunday March 1, 2026
 - **Moved by Lane Borstad, seconded by Carla Janzen**
 - **Carried**

Background: Each year at the final meeting of the outgoing Council, the meeting dates for the following year are approved so they can be included in the revised Leadership Manual and booked in the church building

- 3.5 **Motion 2024/25-47: That Council approve the 2024 [Annual Report](#) to be presented at the Annual General Meeting.**
- **Moved by Randy Round, seconded by Bill McGregor**
 - **Carried**

Background: Each year at our Annual General Meeting (AGM) we have a Motion to approve the Annual Report. An overview of financial reports and our narrative story takes place immediately after this motion is made and is voted upon following the presentations. The report should be approved by Council prior to this overview.

- 3.6 **Christian Education – Rev. Dale Johnson**
- We are continuing to look at improving our Children’s Programming.
 - Dale Johnson will bring an update to the next Council meeting.

- 3.7 **THIS IS US!: Truth and Reconciliation added to roster – Carol Hickmann**
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|--------------------------|----------|
| March 9 – Carol Hickmann | May 4 - |
| April 13 - | June 1 - |

- 3.8 **Audio Video Survey: Update – Lane Borstad (Attachment 4)**
- Almost everyone filled in the audio/video survey form.
 - An AV committee needs to be established to get policies and practices set for consistency and clarity; Lane Borstad will set up and chair this committee.

- 3.9 **Committee Reports**
- Motion 24/25-48: That the following Reports be received for Information:**
- Property – Gary Boswell
 - Building Use – Carol Hickmann
 - Worship – Elfrieda Penner
 - Minister – Rev. Dr. Dale Johnson
 - Finance – Randy Round
 - **Moved by Rob McPhee, seconded by Randy Round**

- Property: Gary Boswell
 - The concrete by the front door is sinking; Gary Boswell will get someone to look at this and get a cost estimate for lifting the pad.
 - The photocell outside needs to be replaced.
 - Fire alarms are up to date.
 - Piano repair was done under warranty by a very knowledgeable Yamaha representative.
 - A policy and education are needed for the use of AV equipment by renters.

- Building Use: Carol Hickmann
 - A new renter, Seventh Day Adventists from the Philippines started on February 15.
 - The 5:30 Sunday group is stopping this rental at the end of February; even at the discount offered, they are no longer able to pay the rent.

- Worship: Elfrieda Penner
 - Dale's series on spirituals during Black History Month has been well received.
 - Communion March 2 and April 6.
 - Handbells are playing on March 2.
 - Dale has various things planned for Lent: Labyrinth on Wednesdays and Holy Week, Pastoral Care lecture series on Thursdays from March 20 to April 10.
 - Every month, *This is Us* will usually include: one Minute for Mission, one Report on Council Matters after each Council meeting, one Truth & Reconciliation Act.
 - The Welcome & Announcements will still include recognition of the land, but no Act of Reconciliation.

- Minister: Rev. Dr. Dale Johnson
 - United Church of Canada centennial celebration:
 - Committee: Carol Hickmann, Rob McPhee, Lindy Mair, Bruce McLaren, Elfrieda Penner
 - Projects:
 - Rob McPhee and Lindy Mair are working on History of MWUC year by year based on Annual Reports; this will continue toward the MWUC 50th anniversary in 2026.
 - UCC in History begins March 2 for 12 Sundays, titled This Was Us.
 - Hymn Sing Sunday: singing hymns from the beginning in 1925 including new hymns just coming out; Wendy Edey, Jennifer McPhee and Jeannette Borstad are planning this.
 - Grant application: to receive grant money from the UCC to help fund the cost of our projects; Carol Hickmann and Dale Johnson are working on this.
 - June 8, 2025 Pentecost Sunday and 100th Anniversary of United Church of Canada.
 - A celebration will be held in the afternoon at Fort Edmonton Park, with a discounted entrance fee for UC people.
 - UCC National Service will be livestreamed in a big tent at 3:00 pm.
 - Pastoral Care Seminar series:
 - Thursdays on March 20, 27, April 3 and 10.
 - Other churches in the Northern Spirit Region will be invited.
 - M & P consulted with Liliana Angel and Dale Johnson on February 24.
 - New sermon series for Lent:
 - March 9 to April 6 7 – 8:30 pm
 - Topic: Cost of Discipleship, inspired by the book of the same name by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

- Finance: Randy Round **(Attachment 5)**
 - Randy Round presented the financial update to February 22, 2025.
 - Randy Round thanked:
 - Carol for her leadership as Council Chair this past year.
 - Rob McPhee for all of his input and thoughtful comments and questions over many years, as well as for his dedication to MWUC.

- Ministry & Personnel: Bill McGregor
 - A sign is needed to declare that abusive behaviour toward the church staff will not be tolerated. This could include a version of our Holy Manners.
 - Carol Hickmann has asked Dale Johnson to draft a policy regarding expectations for all people of Mill Woods United Church.

After presentation of these reports, Motion 24/25-48 was **Carried**.

3.10 **Other Reports**

- 2025 Fundraising schedule and ideas– Lane Borstad and Carol Hickmann **(Attachment 6)**
 - Fundraising is important for raising funds, but also for community building.

- News from **Spring Craft Market Coordinator**
 - Cathy Bayly, who has organized this market for many years, has decided to retire from this position, but is willing to mentor a new coordinator.
 - Sincere thanks were expressed to Cathy for this work.

- Faithful Footprints – Carla Janzen
 - United Church of Canada has a grant program in place to improve our energy efficiency.
 - In November 2024, an energy evaluation was done; the completed report was received in January 2025.
 - Energy-monitoring smart plugs will be purchased for the freezer.
 - The priority will be to get quotes for solar panels for the roof of the church.

3.11 **In Camera** – Rob McPhee

- Rob McPhee gave an update on our ministerial situation, which will be presented at the AGM on March 2.

3.12 **Adjournment at 10:15 pm**

- **Motion 24/25-49: That the meeting be adjourned.**
Moved by Gary Boswell

Next Meeting: Tuesday March 25, 2025 – 7:00 pm

Carol Hickmann (Chair)

Elfrieda Penner (Recorder)

Attachments are filed with a paper copy of these minutes in the church office:

1. Minutes of the January 28, 2025 Council meeting (already in binder)
2. Nominating Report for 2025-26
3. Agenda for AGM March 2, 2025
4. AV recommendations to Council, Survey
5. Financial update to Feb.22, 2025
6. MWUC Fundraising for 2025

Future Topics:

- Congregational Drama production
- Woodvale Community League Connection
- Social media: What next?
- Making a specific gift vs to local fund – a review of gift-giving, payments, and special funds
- Council review of alcohol use related to outside groups