

Council Meeting #4
Mill Woods United Church
Tuesday, June 23rd, 2026
6:30 – 7:00 pm Gathering Time
7:00 pm Meeting begins 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
- Speaking loudly and clearly will be appreciated by those with hearing challenges

Present: John Mair (Chair), Rev. Dr. Dale Johnson (Minister), Carol Hickmann (Past Chair & Building Use), Randy Round (Finance), Carla Janzen (Congregational Care), Gary Boswell (Property), Anita Piebiak (Member-at-Large & NSRC rep), AJ Janewski (Member-at-Large), Bruce McCarron (Member-at-Large), Lindy Mair (Member-at-Large), Jennifer McPhee (Ministry & Personnel), Elfrieda Penner (Recorder & Worship)

1. Prelude

- 1.1 Welcome – Thanks to Elfrieda for snacks!
- 1.2 Prayer: Reverend Dr. Dale Johnson
- 1.3 The week that was
“Words Matter” : further to the article we discussed at the May 26, 2026 Council meeting
 - This article talked about churches dying, but we have had three people in our congregation die recently. Many people from MWUC have rallied and responded to help out at these funerals, so this has brought people together here to support each other in times of need.

2. Housekeeping and Follow-up

- 2.1 Additions to the agenda:
 - 5.1 Bryan LeGrow’s wedding
 - 5.2 This Is Us
- 2.2 Approval of minutes of May 26th, 2026 (Attachment #1)
Motion 26/27-14: That the minutes of the May 26, 2026 Council meeting be accepted as presented.
Moved: Carla Janzen
Seconded: Carol Hickmann
Carried

3. New Business

- 3.1 **Motion 26/27-15: That Council approve the supply and installation of a new “limited use” lift. The estimated cost will be approximately \$80,000.**

Moved: Carol Hickmann
Seconded: Bruce McCarron
Carried (9 in favour, 1 opposed)

Background: The current lift is now 30 years old. Over the past few years, we have spent several thousand dollars to keep the lift functional. There have been several times when the lift has malfunctioned leaving people stranded, and not able to transport heavy items from floor to floor. Occasionally this has been due to human error, other times due to mechanical failure. The lift has become an important piece of equipment that is used to support community events, fundraising events and most importantly to provide access to the entire building for people with mobility issues. The longer we wait to replace the lift, the more expensive it becomes. Our lift is running on “borrowed time.”

- Randy Round, Carol Hickmann and Gary Boswell got two separate estimates giving similar costs.
- This will be the same kind of lift, but with a higher weight limit.
- Discussion: warranties, servicing, and required inspections.

Motion 26/27-16: That Council move that the acquisition and installation of the new lift will follow the financing plan shown below:

- **Memorial Fund - \$5,000**
- **Capital Fund - \$10,000**
- **Appeal to Congregation - \$10,000**
- **Reserve Fund - \$55,000**
- **Continue to pursue third party loan and subsidy opportunities to offset Reserve Fund requirement**

Moved: Randy Round
Seconded: Lindy Mair
Carried (unanimous)

Background: There are several funds within the church that support major capital projects. Rather than draw on one fund, such as the Reserve Fund, we thought it best to draw on the supporting funds and leave some money in each fund moving forward.

Motion 26/27-17: That Council support pursuing a grant from the Community Facility Enhancement Program to potentially offset some of the costs of a new lift.

Moved: Carol Hickmann
Seconded: Carla Janzen
Carried (unanimous)

Background: The Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP) is supported by the Provincial Community Grants Office, Ministry of Arts, Culture and Status of Women. Financial assistance is available up to \$125,000 to upgrade, expand, purchase or build public-use community facilities. If successful, the grant would provide financial support for up to 50% of the cost of the project. Worship centres are not typically included in this grant program however, because MWUC has such a strong community presence we have been told that our application would be accepted. Applications are accepted until September 15 of this year. Successful bids will be notified six months later.

3.2 Greater Edmonton Alliance – Carla Janzen

(Attachment #2)

- GEA is planning a meeting to discuss the proposed Alberta Government referendum.
- AJ Janewski plans to attend; he will also put a notice about this meeting into What’s The Buzz.

3.3 Western Intercultural Ministry Network – John Mair

(Attachment #3)

- The attached letter from Chelsea Masterman of Grace United Church asks if MWUC would be interested in hosting this event on November 20, 2026.
- Concern was expressed having sufficient space for the number of people likely to come, and what the expectation would be in terms of providing food.
- The timing might be problematic as we have the MWUC celebration of our 50th anniversary on November 7 & 8 and then the Christmas Market on November 28, both of which will require many volunteers from our congregation, and from Heavenly Hospitality.
- John Mair will contact Chelsea Masterman for more information regarding the number of people expected, food requirements and if a videographer will be required to be present for use of the sound and video system.

4. Committee Reports

Motion 26/27-18: That the following Reports be received for Information:

- Finance – Randy Round
- Worship – Elfrieda Penner
- Congregational Care – Carla Janzen
- Minister – Rev. Dr. Dale Johnson - Final Words

Moved: Carla Janzen

Seconded: Anita Piebiak

Carried

• Finance

(Attachments 4,5,6)

- Randy Round presented the financial update to May 31, 2026, including the financial update on our Community Outreach.

• Worship

- Welcome & Announcements in June and September:
 - June 28 John or Lindy Mair
 - September 6 Carol Hickmann
 - September 13 Anita Piebiak
 - September 20 Carla Janzen
 - September 27 John or Lindy Mair

In summer, Welcome & Announcements will be done by the service leaders.

- July service leaders:
 - July 5: John & Lindy Mair (Jennifer McPhee piano)
 - July 12: Anita Piebiak (Natalka Dreichel piano)
 - July 19: Bruce McCarron (Laverne Boswell piano)
 - July 26: Elfrieda Penner (Natalka Dreichel piano)

Thanks to all of these worship leaders!

- Brian Wynder's son will look after any children on Sunday mornings whenever he is available; he will be paid \$20 for each Sunday he is here, whether or not there are children present.
- August 2: the congregation will meet at Kathy Poechman's cabin

• Congregational Care

- The committee met on June 8, 2026.
- Some cards and some meals have been given out as needed, and some home visits have been made.
- Quite a few more people have been trained to make coffee on Sunday mornings, including the Action Teams who will be doing this in the summer.

- Snacks in summer: snacks will be available only if someone chooses to bring something to share. Thanks to Nancy Ehrman who continues to provide coffee supplies. People are encouraged to bring their own mugs for coffee.
- Several new people have attended services here in the last months.
- The committee will meet with William Brook at the end of July.

- **Minister**

- The past three weeks have been difficult, emotionally and physically, with numerous hospital visits, three funerals to prepare for and officiate, and with saying goodbye at MWUC.
- Dale Johnson has been able to offer support and mentorship to Rev. William Brook as he prepares to start as the MWUC minister on August 1, 2026.
- Dale Johnson has appreciated that Council acts responsibly when facing and dealing with challenges. He has felt supported by Council and by the congregation. The team-work has been great and encourages us to keep that up with our new minister.
- Council members offered special memories of Dale Johnson's time with us and appreciation for his many skills and his many contributions to our congregation over his four years as our minister.

5. Other Reports

5.1 Bryan LeGrow's wedding in August: John Mair will acknowledge this on Sunday, June 28, 2026 as this is Bryan's last day before he is off for the summer. The choir will celebrate with him when choir resumes in the fall.

5.2 This Is Us: Instead of giving the usual full report after the Council meeting on Sunday, June 28, John Mair will only announce the update on the new lift and then ask people to refer to What's The Buzz for the rest of the highlights of this Council meeting.

NOTE: Should emergent issues arise over the next two months, Carol Hickmann and John Mair will address them, or if needed, reach out to Council via email to make decisions.

6. Adjournment at 8:35 pm

Motion 26/27-19: That the meeting be adjourned.

Moved: Randy Round

Next Meeting: September 22, 2026

John Mair (Chair)

Elfrieda Penner (Recorder)

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

1. Minutes of the May 26, 2026 Council meeting (already in binder)
2. GEA letter
3. WIMN (Western Intercultural Ministry Network) letter
4. Financial update as of May 31, 2026 - Summary
5. Financial update as of May 31, 2026 – in numbers
6. Financial update as of May 31, 2026 - Community Outreach

Follow-up to 3.3 Western Intercultural Ministry Network

From: Chelsea Masterman <chelsea.grace@shaw.ca>

Subject: Re: WIMN

Date: June 30, 2026 at 3:50:34 PM MDT

To: John Mair <john.mair14@gmail.com>

Cc: deborah richards <deborah_richards@telus.net>, "Yamashita, Kathy" <dryam@telus.net>

Hello John (with WIMN co-chairs Deborah and Kathy cc'd for information),

Thank you for following up! I had started writing a reply last week but I obviously never finished it.

The WIMN executive met on Thursday and I shared your reply with them. We were struck by the generosity of Mill Woods United Church in being willing to help us out even in the midst of what sounds like it will be a remarkably full month - and we also got to thinking that it will likely be simpler and easier for all involved if we hold the Friday evening public event at Providence Renewal Centre (which is where our other meals and programming will occur from Thursday-Saturday).

Holding the Friday night public event at Providence was a possibility that hadn't previously occurred to us, as we have been in the habit of holding the public event at a local church - but change can be good, especially if it means it will lighten the volunteer load and simplify the logistics for the organizers and participants (and hosts!).

I hope this is not too disappointing (and perhaps may even be a welcome respite?). If anyone who was interested in the event would like to join us for it at Providence, we would love to see them there! Please stay tuned to the Regional newsletter for more details in autumn.

Thank you again for communicating our initial request to the Board at Mill Woods UC, and much gratitude to all for their willingness to support this event if needed. We welcome your ongoing prayers and offer ours as well. Blessings to the congregation in your own event planning and celebrations!

*Peace,
Chelsea*