

Council Meeting
Mill Woods United Church
Tuesday, March 24, 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), Carol Hickmann (Past Chair & Building Use), Rev.Dr. Dale Johnson (Minister), Randy Round (Finance), Jennifer McPhee (Ministry & Personnel), Carla Janzen (Congregational Care), Gary Boswell (Property), Elfrieda Penner (Recorder & Worship), Lindy Mair (Member-at-Large), AJ Janewski (Member-at-Large), Bruce McCarron (Member-at-Large),

Regrets: Anita Piebiak (Member-at-Large & NSRC rep)

Guest: Don Grabinski (Bread Run)

1. Prelude

- 1.1 Welcome: John Mair welcomed Council members to the new church year, especially the new members, and reminded us to read through the agenda and attachments sent out before each meeting to save time at the meetings.
- 1.2 Prayer: Reverend Dr. Dale Johnson
- 1.3 Church Council – “Who are We?”
We were asked to choose a word, or short phrase, or an object that represents our leadership and/or faith style and share these with Council.
 - **Faith:** questioning, grateful, giving, light, positive, hopeful, open, evolving
 - **Leadership:** steadfast but remote, informal, easy to be part of our community, encouraging, collaborative, teamwork, reduce the complex to something understandable, sheepdog: go-between the shepherd and sheep, evolving

2. Housekeeping and Follow-up

- 2.1 Changes to the agenda:
 - add Building Use Update under 5. Other Reports
 - add This Is Us at 2.3

- 2.2 Approval of minutes of February 24th, 2026 accepted as presented (Attachment 1)
Motion 26/27-01: that the minutes of the February 24, 2026 meeting be accepted as presented.
Moved: Carla Janzen
Seconded: Carol Hickmann
Carried

- 2.3 This Is Us: Lindy Mair
- Thanks to the people who did a This Is Us in March
 - In April or May, Carol Hickmann will talk about Fundraising and Social Events and in May, AJ will talk about his new position.

3. New Business

- 3.1 Living our Purpose: *We are a spiritual community where you can explore your purpose and place*
- **What do you think Council's goals should be for the next year?**
 - Celebrate MWUC's 50th anniversary
 - Ensure balancing our fundraising with volunteer time
 - Decide priorities on how we use our money, especially when we have a surplus
 - Use the Trustees more to help Council as per the duties listed in the United Church of Canada Board of Trustees Handbook
 - Provide leadership for endings and beginnings
 - Be sensitive to grieving around Dale's leaving, but enjoy the time left with Dale
 - Think about what needs to be in place before Rev. William Brook arrives and what needs to wait for his input, such as our vision for the future
 - **What ideas would you like your committee to pursue this year?**
 - Property: focus on preventative maintenance
 - Building Use: review rates for short-term rentals in comparison to other churches
 - Congregational Care: looking for younger members for CC; work with Rev. William Brook to participate more in pastoral care needs
 - Worship: learn to work with and support Rev. William Brook
 - Ministry & Personnel: settle in with Rev. William Brook
- 3.2 Alcohol Policy parameters – Carol Hickmann
Motion 26/27-02: That Council approve the Alcohol Policy parameters which support the serving of alcohol at private events held at Mill Woods United Church.
Moved: Lindy Mair
Seconded: Jennifer McPhee
Carried

Parameters for alcohol usage for private functions (like birthdays, wedding receptions) held on church property are as follows:

1. The request must be made by a church member or adherent who is willing to take responsibility for the group.
2. The church member or adherent must be present for the entirety of the event.
3. A Private Special Event License from the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission is required.
4. Proof of the Private Special Event License must be provided to the church at least one week prior to the event.
5. The event organizer(s) must provide proof of insurance for a one-time event to the church at least one week prior to the event.
6. Council approval is required for all requests where private events plan to serve alcohol.
7. Council will review this policy from time to time to ensure suitability.

Background: Currently, the use of alcohol may be permitted for sacramental purposes (communion) at the discretion of the Worship Committee and Minister. In addition, MWUC Council approves the use of alcohol on church property at occasional Church-sponsored events (eg. Dinner Theatre). After discussion at the February 24, 2026 Council meeting, it was approved through Motion that alcohol could also be permitted for private functions (eg. wedding receptions, birthdays) held on church property. Parameters for alcohol usage for these types of events needed to be developed.

Other:

Information to be provided to the event organizer by the church Administrator is as follows:

- It is the responsibility of the group requesting the use of alcohol to be sure they comply with the requirements of the AGLC and pay any fees associated with the license.
- The license must be applied for online at least 14 days in advance
- The license is issued via email which must be printed and posted at the event
- All information is available on the AGLC website: <https://aglc.ca/event-licence/>
- In addition, the organizer is responsible for obtaining insurance for one-time events held at the church. The United Church of Canada insurance company HUB advises it can be done as a rider to the Mill Woods United Church current insurance if desired. The link is: <https://ucc-protect-united.instantriskcoverage.com/login>
 - A quote will be provided once an account is set up and the event organizer can decide if they want to go ahead with the application or not. If the organizer decides not to proceed through HUB, insurance issued by another insurance provider is still required.
- Mill Woods United Church Council approval is required for all requests.
- If the AGLC Special Event License and proof of insurance are not provided to the church at least one week before the event date, the event cannot take place.

Carol Hickmann will ensure Liliana has this information.

3.3 Discussion: Bread Run and its position within MWUC structure – Carol Hickmann (Attachment #2)

Motion 26/27-03: that Council deems the Bread Run to be an essential (core) program of our church community, funded through the church budget by increasing the current allocated amount from \$2,500 to \$10,000 for 2026.

Moved: Carol Hickmann

Seconded: Carla Janzen

Carried

Background:

- When the Bread Run was started 21 years ago, the program required little funding by the church. In the last few years, we have been receiving less food donations, while Food Security in our community has become a crisis.
- We want to welcome everyone who needs food support without putting pressure on the clients.
- By funding the Bread Run through the church budget, the program can grow to meet the needs of the local community.
- The Bread Run budget will be reviewed at the end of 2026.

Bread Run leadership structure:

- Currently Francisco Rico and Don Grabinsky organize the Bread Run, including scheduling the 44 volunteers; Celia Conway buys the extra food.
- The focus is on getting food to people who need it.
- More leaders are needed to support the Bread Run program, preferably ones who have experience with the workings of the Bread Run.

- Celia needs help with food shopping especially now that Council has budgeted more money for the Bread Run.
- Francisco and Don encourage anyone who has ideas to find new food suppliers, to research possible grants and community resources, or to offer coffee again for a sense of community, to follow through and make these things happen.
- John Mair will reach out to Bread Run leaders to meet and discuss a viable leadership model.

3.4 **50th Anniversary Celebrations:** Planning for November 2026

- Lindy Mair will organize a committee in the next month to work on this.

3.5 **Donations to MWUC:**

- These have become plentiful and at times the church has become a repository for people's unwanted goods.
- Reference *Leadership Manual* p. 15:
 - **Policy Concerning Equipment and Church Property:**
 1. **Acquisition of New Equipment**
 - (a) By Purchase: All congregational requests for additional equipment must be made through the Property and Building Use Committees initially. These committees then may decide to approve the purchase, or refer requests of major items with their recommendations to the church council.
 - (b) By Donation of Actual Equipment: All donations of equipment of any kind must be made through the Property and Building Use Committees. They will decide whether the items are useful or should be rejected. All donated items accepted become church property.
- John Mair will make an announcement on Sunday to inform people about this policy.

4. **Committee Reports**

Motion 26/27-04: That the following Reports be received for Information:

- Finance – Randy Round
- Property – Gary Boswell: Elevator
- Fundraising /Social event update – Carol Hickmann
 - Fundraising and Social events
 - Spring Craft Fair update
 - Christmas Market
- Minister – Rev. Dr. Dale Johnson

Moved: Randy Round

Seconded: Lindy Mair

Carried

- **Finance:** **(Attachment 3)**
 - Randy Round presented the financial update to February 28, 2026.
- **Property:** **(Attachment 4,5)**
 - The parking lot drainage needs maintenance work.
 - Elevator: we have 3 options:
 1. to replace the elevator – approximately \$75,000
 2. to fix the elevator in increments
 3. to fix only what is broken while saving toward replacement
 - An assessment needs to be done by a professional before Council makes a decision, perhaps by our elevator repair person, with a committed cost estimate.
 - Other factors need to be considered, such as the disruption caused for our programs and renters.
 - Gary Boswell and Randy Round will bring a proposal on how to proceed to the next Council meeting.

- **Fundraising/Social:** some events on the calendar are:
 - April 23 Retired Ministers' Lunch
 - May 9 Spring Craft Market
 - August 2 Church at Poechman's cabin
 - November 28 Christmas Market; still looking for people to work with the current organizers with the intent of taking over in 2027. A request will be made to the congregation in May.
 - December 4 Wine-tasting event
- **Minister:**
 - The Bell Choir at Sherwood Park United Church has offered to play two numbers during our service on May 3. They are playing music that they will also play at Sherwood Park United during their Affirming Service on April 12.
 - Welcome and Announcements for April and May:
 - April 5 – Jennifer McPhee
 - April 12 – Carol Hickmann
 - April 19 – AJ Janewski
 - April 26 – Mairs
 - May 3 – Carol Hickmann
 - May 10 – Bruce McCarron
 - May 17 – Mairs
 - May 24 – Mairs
 - May 31 – Carla Janzen
 - I will be away the week of April 6 and return Monday, April 13th. The focus is to plan the worship services through the end of June.
 - I will be participating in the celebration of life for Gary Boswell's brother, Richard, on April 11; as well as the service for Paul Poechman on June 13 at the lake; and the service for David Baker on Friday, June 19, at 3 – 5 pm here at the church.
 - Social media hits: on the Labyrinth – 1191 hits; for last Sunday's service – 650 hits; thanks to AJ Janewski for his work on our social media.

5. Other Reports

- Building Use: New Renter (returning) Jesus Healing Ministry, on Sundays from 2:30 – 5:30, starting on April 1, 2026.

6. Adjournment at 9:15 pm

Motion 26/27-05: That the meeting be adjourned.

Moved: AJ Janewski

John Mair (Chair)

Elfrieda Penner (Recorder)

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

1. Minutes of the February 24, 2026 Council meeting (already in binder)
2. Bread Run
3. Financial Update to February 28, 2026
4. Lift Review
5. Elevator Report

Next meeting: April 28, 2026

Snacks volunteer for next meeting: Carla Janzen