Council Meeting #6
Mill Woods United Church
Tuesday, October 27th, 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. William Brook (Minister), Carol Hickmann (Past Chair & Building Use), Randy Round (Finance), Bruce McCarron (Member-at-Large), Carla Janzen (Congregational Care), Gary Boswell (Property), AJ Janewski (Member-at-Large), Jennifer McPhee (Ministry & Personnel), Elfrieda Penner (Recorder & Worship)

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

1. Prelude

1.1 Prayer: Reverend Dr. William Brook

1.2 Welcome

- Let's get personal …..

- John Mair encouraged us to participate in William Brook's Morning Meditation, which is held at 7 am online via Zoom every morning except Wednesdays and Sundays. The link is in What's The Buzz every week. About 60 different people from many different places have been participating, with 20 – 30 every day.
- We shared the origin of our first names.

2. Housekeeping and Follow-up

2.1 Changes to the agenda - none

2.2 Approval of minutes from September 22nd meeting as presented (**Attachment 1**)

<u>Motion 26/27-25:</u> The minutes of the September 22nd meeting be accepted as presented.

- **Moved: Randy Round**
- **Seconded: Carla Janzen**
- **Carried**

3. New Business

3.1 Updates from the September 22, 2026 Council meeting ……

- Lane Borstad, William Brook and Carol Hickmann tidied up the job description for the Social Media position, but it is on hold awaiting M & P input. M & P is looking for a person to be the liaison with the Social Media person.
- Jeannette Borstad will be the M & P liaison for the Sunday School person.

3.2 Christmas Market leadership – John Mair

- People are needed to take over the leadership of the Christmas Market from Rob McPhee.
- Two people have expressed interest, but more people are needed to manage this large labour-intensive event.
- Could another group like Woodvale Community League share the Market?
- A professional organizer could be hired.
- This could be downsized; it is less work to organize a one-floor market than a market on two or three levels. A vendor may be interested in organizing this before the day of the market; they would be busy on the day of the Market with their own sales.
- The community aspect of this event is important.
- At the next Council meeting we will revisit this topic, as well as the concept of stewardship, as this is our biggest fundraiser, bringing in $7200 last year. Discontinuing the Christmas Market would have a significant impact on the church budget.

3.3 Fundscrip Update – Lindy Mair (Attachment 2)

- Fundscrip does not give us a large financial gain, but this is not a labour-intensive fundraiser.
- Many people responded to Lindy's offer to purchase Fundscrip cards for them, but this did not work out as planned.
- It does not seem worthwhile to continue promoting Fundscrip.

3.4 T.I.U., 50th Anniversary – Lindy Mair (Attachment 3)

November 1	Carol Hickmann, 50th Anniversary
November 8	Rob McPhee, 50th Anniversary
November 15	Carol Hickmann, Christmas Market
November 22	Mark Schweitzer, Stewardship
November 29	Jennifer McPhee, Mission and Service

3.5 Social Event in December: music for Seniors – Carla Janzen

- For many years a Christmas caroling event with refreshments has been held about a week before Christmas. The organizers are taking a break this year.
- Instead of a separate event, on Sunday December 27 the service will include a pancake breakfast and then focus on singing carols.
- Christmas cookie tins for seniors are being planned again by Congregational Care.

4. Committee Reports

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

- **Moved: Carol Hickmann**
- **Seconded: Carla Janzen**
- **Carried**
  - Finance – Randy Round
  - Worship – Elfrieda Penner
  - Ministry and Personnel – Jennifer McPhee
  - Congregational Care – Carla Janzen
  - Minister's Report – Rev. Dr. William Brook

- **Finance:** **(Attachments 4, 5, 6,7)**
  - Randy Round reviewed the financial update with expectations of a balanced budget.
  - If there is no Christmas Market in 2027, an increase in local offerings of 9% is needed to balance the budget. If more people do not come forward to lead the Christmas Market, this would be the last one.
  - Do we need to rely more on traditional sources of finance, as the congregation seems to be experiencing volunteer fatigue?
  - Future fundraisers may need to be less labour-intensive.
  - The consensus was to proceed with presenting a budget at the Annual Financial Meeting on November 22, 2026 that assumes the Christmas Market will not happen in 2027.
  - Randy suggested that sometime next year we need to re-examine and develop a new plan for how we support the Bread Run financially.

- **Worship:**
  - Welcome to be done at the start of each service:

Nov. 1	Carla Janzen
Nov. 8	Carol Hickmann
Nov.15	Jennifer McPhee
Nov.22	John Mair
Nov.29	Lindy Mair
Dec. 6	Carla Janzen
Dec.13	Carol Hickmann
Dec.20	John Mair
Dec.27	Elfrieda Penner
and Jan.3	Bruce McCarron

  - Church decorating for Christmas will happen on Nov.16 at 11:00 a.m.
  - Dec.27 service: William Brook will be off, as per his contract.
    - Sherry and Neil Alstad are willing to make pancakes again, like they did last year at the service after Christmas.

- **Ministry and Personnel:**
  - The cost-of-living increase as set by the United Church of Canada is 2.6% for all staff, pending yearly evaluations.
  - A team-building exercise for staff is being planned.

- **Congregational Care:**
  - Cards and comfort foods are being sent out as needed.
  - Newcomers' lunch will be held when there are a few more new people.
  - More cards with information for newcomers have been ordered.
  - Action Teams are asked to put the forms requesting new name tags etc. into the Congregational Care mailbox; after noting these newcomers' names, the forms will be put into the Administrator's mailbox.

- **Minister's report:** **(Attachment 8)**
  - Jeannette Borstad is working with William Brook on establishing a Christian Education committee.
  - Planning this week for Diane Nash's funeral has shown a need for a more solid plan for how to provide all the services we offer for funerals, especially concerning knowledge of the technology needed for livestreaming, PowerPoint and slide shows with or without sound.

6. Adjournment at 9:03 pm

<u>Motion 26/27-27:</u> That the meeting be adjourned.

- **Moved: Carol Hickmann**

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 18th
Snacks volunteer for the next meeting- none

Upcoming meetings:
- December - to be decided if this is needed
- January – moved from January 26 to January 19, 2027

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John Mair (Chair)	Elfrieda Penner (Recorder)

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

1. Minutes of the Sept.22, 2026 Council meeting (already in binder)
2. Fundscrip update
3. This Is Us, 50th Anniversary invitation
4. Three-Year Budget as of Oct.20, 2026
5. Budget Summary
6. Finance update to Sept.30, 2026
7. Bread Run Support
8. Minister's report