

**Mill Woods United Church
Congregational Meeting
Sunday, February 1, 2026
11:45 a.m.**

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

Welcome: Tim Janewski (Congregational Chair)

Opening Prayer: Rev. Dr. Dale Johnson

MOTION C25/26-15: To extend voting privileges to friends and adherents of Mill Woods United Church

**Moved by David Borynec
Seconded by Jeannette Borstad
Carried**

MOTION C25/26-16: That the Mill Woods United Church Pastoral Charge approve the call of William Brook as our minister as of August 1, 2026 as outlined in the terms of the Record of Call. William Brook will work on a .75 FTE contract.

**Moved by Carol Hickmann
Seconded by Mary-Anne Janewski**

Introduction of Search Team: John Mair

- Neil Alstad
- Dave Borynec
- Kathy Crawford
- A.J. Janewski
- Lindsay Langstone
- Kay Miller
- Mark Schweitzer
- John Mair

Presentation of the Search Committee: Report and Recommendation: John Mair **(added below)**

- John Mair gave the report and recommendation of the Search Committee, followed by comments by each of the members of the committee.

Responses to questions and discussion: John Mair and Team members.

- Ordination will be in Lethbridge in May 2026

- William Brook talked about planning for 5 – 10 years at MWUC.
- A moving allowance will be included.
- Travel allowance for pastoral care visits, etc. is also part of the package.
- Salary is according to a grid, but we have added 20%; this is well within our budget, as we had to budget for the possibility of a full-time, experienced minister.
- Leadership of the congregation is important, but leadership of the staff and lay leaders is also needed; William has been chair of the Council and was chair of their search committee at his past church. He asked to meet the MWUC staff, the Worship chair and the Ministry & Personnel representative to get a feeling for who he would be working with here.
- Pastoral care: this was a top category for questions in the interview.
- Passionate about any specific ministries: William led a Wednesday evening gathering to cook and eat supper, and then meditate together; he reached out to the community to join them for supper.
- MAID (Medical Assistance In Dying): in the interview they talked about his feelings toward a request for MAID. He said his approach is especially to support and listen to all concerned. Committee members observed that he appears to be very open-minded.
- Musical? William feels music is the base of what the service needs to be, but he does not consider himself to be particularly musical.
- Possible to meet him before August? John Mair plans to ask William about meeting in small groups, perhaps having some times for interested people of the congregation to sign up for.

After the discussion **Motion C25/26-16** was
unanimously Carried

John Mair thanked the Search Team. He especially thanked Rev.Dr. Dale Johnson for his years of work here as our beloved minister, which was followed by a standing ovation.

Tim Janewski thanked everyone for participating at this meeting. He also thanked the Search Team for their work and their presentation.

MOTION C25/26-17: That the Congregational Meeting be adjourned at 12:20 p.m.
Moved by Wendy McNutt

Tim Janewski (Congregational Chair)
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Elfrieda Penner (Congregational Recorder)

Recommendation to hire William Brook: by John Mair

First of all, I would like to say good morning and on behalf of the search committee, to say how excited we are to be here with you to share our thoughts on our potential new minister, William Brook.

Introduce the search committee: Neil Alstad, Dave Borynec, Kathy Crawford, AJ Janewski, Lindsay Langstone, Kay Miller, Mark Schweitzer, and myself, John Mair.

- It has been a pleasure to work with this fine group.
- They have been committed from day one, open minded and focussed on one thing, to get the best person to fill this call.
- We had many interesting conversations but at the end of the day, we came to the same conclusion: William Brook was our clear choice to be our new minister.

I'd like to take a few moments to give you some background on William. After that I will ask that each committee member to take a minute or two to share with you why they feel William is the right choice.

The search committee began our work in September. Shortly after our group began meeting, I got a call from a member of the Northern Spirit Pastoral Relations Committee - his name is Rob McPhee – some of you may have heard of him. Rob told me that he had just had a meeting with a gentleman by the name of William Brook. He said that William was just finishing his student ministry program and would be looking for a church in the new year. He thought it might be worth giving him a call. I was only too happy to do so.

We had a nice chat over the phone and agreed that it would be great to get together for an informal visit to discuss possibilities. On November 8, Kathy Crawford and I met with William for about 90 minutes. It was a great meeting. We found out the following:

- He was finishing his student ministry program in January and hoped to be ordained in May.
- He has been at Living Spirit United Church, a campus of Hillhurst United Church in Calgary, for the past five years
- Prior to pursuing his dream of becoming an ordained minister he was a university professor: for over 30 years at the U of A, U of Calgary and Heidelberg University in Germany.
- His degree is in Genetics where he has a PhD.
- He has family in Edmonton and is currently building a new house in south Edmonton.
- He had done a fair amount of research on MWUC and was very impressed with our programming and our theology and was excited about the possibility of being at MWUC.
- He would be very happy to work .75 FTE

Kathy and I left the meeting very excited about this candidate. We shared with the rest of our search committee what we had learned and agreed that we needed to arrange a formal interview, which we set for January 10th. In the meantime, we had an on-line applicant, and we also reached out to another individual that had posted that they were available to be called. Overall, we interviewed three candidates. Each interview was quite fascinating as we covered a

wide range of talking points and heard many different perspectives on church ministry. After a relatively short conversation, the group decided that William was clearly our best choice.

The search committee reached out to three referees that William had presented and two others that we specifically asked to speak to, including the church administrator at Hillhurst United Church. Everyone we talked to said essentially the same thing:

- William is a very strong candidate.
- He is mature, experienced and is already an exceptional leader.
- He weaves mystery with theology and is very committed to the people he works with.
- He is compassionate, trustworthy and works well with young and old.
- Each person would have no hesitation to hire William if they were in our position.

I reached out to William the next day and offered him the position. After a day of reflection and contemplation he “joyfully and enthusiastically” accepted our offer.

I asked William to answer a few personal questions so that we could allow the congregation to get to know him a little better:

1. Born in Montreal
2. He went to school in Kingston, ON and Edmonton.
3. His wife’s name is Darolyn and they have a blended family with three adult children, their partners and three grandchildren. All of them live in Edmonton.
4. In his free time, he likes to cook, read and walk in nature.
5. What does he like about living in Edmonton? He and Darolyn love the river valley, the long summer evenings, the festival season and the community mindedness of the people who live here.

His closing comments were that he and Darolyn both went to school in Edmonton and their kids have all lived here for the past 10+ years so they have visited a lot. Moving to Edmonton feels like coming home and they can’t wait!

Time for the rest of the search committee to share their observations.

If I could add one more thing to what has just been said. It was clear early on that we were very impressed with William and excited about having him come to Mill Woods. As excited as we were about this potential partnership, it became clear to all of us that William was equally as excited to be coming to Mill Woods. He knew about our outreach programs, had researched our mission statement on-line and had watched a few of our live-streams. He couldn’t say enough good things about our mission and our hopes of making a difference in our community and in the greater world.

We’ll be happy to entertain any questions or comments you may have (see above).

Time for the vote.

Before we close our meeting, this would be a very logical time to say a big thanks to Rev. Dr. Dale Johnson. Although I know there will be many opportunities to formally thank Dale for the important work he has done here at MWUC in the months ahead, I would just like to say: Dale, it has been such a pleasure to have you as our spiritual leader for the past few years. You stepped in at a time when we had some difficult challenges, some uncertainty as to where we were going and how we might get there. But thanks to your leadership, your ability to see the big picture and your wonderful ability to see our strengths, through your encouragement and wisdom, we are truly in a better place! Thank you!!