

Council Meeting #2
Mill Woods United Church
Tuesday, April 22, 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
- Speaking loudly and clearly will be appreciated by those with hearing challenges

Present: John Mair (Chair), Carol Hickmann (Past Chair and Building Use), Rev. Dr. Dale Johnson (Minister), Carla Janzen (Congregational Care), Lane Borstad (Member-at-Large), Carol Reid (Member-at-Large), Randy Round (Finance), Gary Boswell (Property), Bill McGregor (Ministry & Personnel), Lindy Mair (Member-at-Large), Enid Oldham (Member-at-Large), Terry Staley (Member-at-Large), Elfrieda Penner (Worship and Recorder)

1. Prelude

- 1.1 Prayer: Dale Johnson
- 1.2 Welcome
- 1.3 “Who are We?”

John Mair read an article titled “A Lively Church”, which described many characteristics of MWUC.

2. Housekeeping and Follow-up

- 2.1 Changes to the agenda - none

- 2.2 Approval of minutes of **March 25, 2025** **(Attachment 1)**

- **Motion 25/26-07: That the minutes of the March 25, 2025 Council meeting be accepted as presented.**
 - **Moved by Carol Hickmann, seconded by Carol Reid**
 - **Carried**

3. New Business

3.1 Revised Alcohol Policy

(Attachment 2)

Background: We have not had an updated alcohol policy since 2015. As we explore new ways to gather as a congregation, occasionally alcohol is a part of such events. Now is a good time to consider an update.

Main points after discussion:

- Proof of having complied with AGLC requirements needs to be presented to the church office.
- The congregation will be asked to respond before this is brought to a Motion.
- Council agreed in principle to the proposed revised Alcohol Policy; this will be brought to a Motion at a future Council meeting.

4. Committee Reports

- **Motion 25/26-08: That the following Reports be received for Information:**

- **Moved Lane Borstad, seconded by Carol Reid**

- Finance – Randy Round
- Worship – Elfrieda Penner
- Ministry and Personnel – Bill McGregor
- Minister – Rev. Dr. Dale Johnson

- **Finance:** (Attachments 3 & 4: Financial Summary, Words for Council)

- Randy Round presented the financial update to April 19, 2025.

- **Worship:**

- The committee did not meet in April, and will meet again on May 6.
- Communion will be on May 4. Sherry Alstad and Tracy Tomkins have been making sure everything needed for each Communion is in place; a cupboard in the kitchen downstairs has been designated to store these supplies.
- Combining the Good Friday service with the Celebration of Life of Martina Schweitzer's mother was much appreciated by the Schweitzer family and friends, as well as by our congregation.
- Our Easter tradition of the congregation putting flowers into the cross is always well received.
- Our handbell choirs played on March 30 and on Easter Sunday.
- June 15: Blaine Gregg of Spirit of Hope will be our guest speaker, while Dale Johnson will be at Spirit of Hope.
- Worship leaders are needed when Dale Johnson is away on May 18, July 6, 13 and August 31.
 - Thanks to Ethel Ray for offering to do the service on July 13.
 - And thanks to John and Lindy Mair for offering to do the service on July 6.
 - Elfrieda Penner will do the service on May 18.
- Reminder re Welcome & Announcements: April 27 Lindy Mair; May 4 Carla Janzen; May 11 Carol Hickmann; May 18 Lane Borstad; May 25 John or Lindy Mair

- **Ministry & Personnel:**

- M&P is asking for funding to cover a part time replacement for Liliana Angel when she is on holiday. Liliana is entitled to 4 weeks of vacation, which she is taking 1 week at a time this

year. Dale Johnson is part time and the church is busy with calls and activities. Funds are needed to cover a part time person at 1.5 days per week, which is a maximum of 12 hours per week X 4 weeks = 48 hours; 48 X \$22 per hour = \$1056 maximum.

- Celia Conway may be available to fill in for some or all of this, but nothing is confirmed.
- **Motion 25/26-09: That Council approve an amount up to \$1200 per year to provide for short-term leave coverage for the office administrator position.**

- **Moved by Bill McGregor, seconded by Carol Reid**
- **Carried**
- A second item that was completed was an update of Liliana's contract to reflect the information from the updated United Church human resource policy manual. (updated January 2024)

- **Minister:**

- Follow Up on Alberta Bills 26, 27 and 29:
Overview of Bills:

Bill 26 calls for a ban on hormone therapy for transgender youth and restrictions on gender-affirming care. This is not only regressive but also contradicts the values of equality and freedom that the Alberta government claims to uphold. Albertan families will be unable to receive the medical care they know is necessary and, often, life-saving. By targeting vulnerable members of our society and undermining their rights, the government is perpetuating harm and division rather than fostering a sense of belonging and acceptance.

Bill 27 will effectively eradicate sexual health education. While it claims to introduce a parental opt-in system of sexual health education — instead of the current opt-out system — the requirements are so burdensome that the quality of sex education will inevitably erode significantly. In Alberta, the last two years of data show a 12.7% increase in reports of sexually transmitted illnesses (STIs). Bill 27 will increase these numbers by going against decades of research showing that age-appropriate, comprehensive sex education reduces teen pregnancy rates and STIs and supports the reduction of child sexual abuse.

Bill 29 will effectively prevent transgender girls and women from participating in competitive and recreational sports with cisgender girls and women, even in elementary school.

- Council members will send suggestions to Dale Johnson for what needs to be included in a letter on behalf of the congregation regarding these three bills. John Mair and Dale Johnson will review these suggestions and compose a letter. The letter would go to Honourable Christina Gray, MLA for Edmonton Mill Woods, and possibly to our Premier.
- Update on Truth and Reconciliation focus during worship: Moving away from a focus on the 150 Acts of Reconciliation to a focus based on learning about another culture that is similar to but different from our own. This would include Indigenous Spirituality. It reflects the recent decision within the United Church to create an autonomous Indigenous Church connected to and in relationship with the United Church of Canada.
- Follow up on change in Children's Programming: Mukta will now be off beginning the first Sunday in June and will return the Sunday after Labour Day.
- Dale will be away the week of May 12th and will be attending the Festival of Homiletics in Atlanta, GA, with the theme of "Preaching to Heal the Divide".

- An outdoor nativity scene has been donated to the church; it was built by a former member of MWUC. Next Christmas it will be put up at the front of the church facing 38 Avenue.
- After presentation of these reports, **Motion 25/26-08** was **Carried**.

5. Other Reports

- Mud-jacking of the concrete by the front entrance will happen in early May.
- The main floor bathroom door lock needs work; the possibility of an Occupied/Unoccupied sign attached to the lock was discussed.
- Social Media:
 - Lane Borstad reported that the wi-fi has been changed and there have been no related problems since then.
 - Lane Borstad is working with Liliana Angel on our social media; the multiple MWUC websites need to be cleaned up.

6. Adjournment 8:35 pm

- **Motion 25/26-10**: That the meeting be adjourned.
- **Moved by Enid Oldham**

Next Meeting: Tuesday May 27th, 2025 – 7:00 pm

Snacks for the next meeting provided by Terry Staley

John Mair (Chair)

Elfrieda Penner (Recorder)

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

1. Minutes of the March 25, 2025 Council meeting (already in binder)
2. Revised alcohol policy proposal
- 3 & 4. Financial update March 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