

Council Meeting
Mill Woods United Church
Tuesday, April 28 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), 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: Carol Hickmann (Past Chair & Building Use), Anita Piebiak (Member-at-Large & NSRC rep)

Guest: Juan Vargas Alba (GEA)

1. Prelude

1.1 Welcome – Thanks to Carla for snacks!

1.2 Prayer: Reverend Dr. Dale Johnson

1.3 Guest: **Juan Vargas Alba**, Lead Organizer - Greater Edmonton Alliance for the Common Good

- GEA is currently in the process of rebuilding this organization. The plan is to give it three years to see if GEA can keep going.
- There are seven member organizations, including churches, unions.
- Focusing on leadership development, then these leaders would meet with communities to determine what issues people are dealing with, and then act on these issues.
- Council will discuss if we want to renew our membership to GEA. The base cost would be \$1200 per year, which is \$100 per month.

2. Housekeeping and Follow-up

2.1 Changes to the agenda – add Ministry & Personnel under 4. Committee Reports

2.2 Approval of minutes of March 24, 2026

(Attachment #1)

Motion 26/27-06: That the minutes of the March 24, 2026 meeting be accepted as presented.

Moved: Randy Round

Seconded: Lindy Mair

Carried

3. New Business

3.1 Stewardship Request

(Attachment #2)

Motion 26/27-07: That Council grants permission to the Stewardship Team to contact ministry leads and team leads to gather information pertaining to the number of volunteer hours donated by church members.

Moved: Carla Janzen

Seconded: AJ Janewski

Carried

Background: In 2022 the Stewardship Team, which focuses on “time, talent and treasure”, gathered information from our various church groups to be able to report how many hours were contributed by our volunteers in one year.

- John Mair will ask the Stewardship Team to send a copy of this information from 2022, for these church groups to use when they are calculating current volunteer hours.

3.2 Bread Run Update

(Attachment #3)

- At the March Council meeting, a budget of \$8000 (for food purchases) + \$2000 (for Saturday morning coffee, a breakfast, lunch etc.) to support the Bread Run was approved.
- John Mair met with Don Grabinsky re what support is needed re structure and organization.
- Celia Conway confirmed that she would continue to lead with the food purchasing and selection, along with Carla Janzen and Jeannette Borstad. Carla has agreed to pursue other food sources as well.
- There are opportunities to volunteer with Bread Run, e.g. to serve coffee on Saturday mornings again; this could be encouraged in a This Is Us.

3.3 50th Anniversary Celebrations: Planning for November 2026 – Lindy Mair

- The date of November 8, 2026 was confirmed for this celebration, to be held during and after the service.
- AJ Janewski will help with the social media.
- The committee of AJ Janewski, Rob McPhee, Ken Miller, Kay Miller, Carla Janzen, Bruce McCarron, Ethel Ray, and Jennine Jensen will meet on May 4 and discuss the details, possibly including catering, slide show, bells, whom to invite.
- Funds are available to support this event.

3.4 This is Us – Lindy Mair

- Lindy asked for suggestions of topics to be covered.

Motion 26/27-08: That A.J. Janewski be recognized as the Social Media Coordinator for MWUC under the same conditions that were established for the probationary contract.

Moved: Lindy Mair

Seconded: Bruce McCarron

Carried

- Discussion: regarding what limitations need to be considered for posting on social media, e.g. political, privacy
- Lane Borstad has been working with AJ; AJ consults with Lane, Dale Johnson and others if unsure about posting.

3.6 Elevator Update – John Mair and Randy Round

- The meeting with our elevator expert has been postponed, possibly until next week.

3.7 Recognition of Rob McPhee for his amazing work putting together the book on the history of MWUC: - discussion

- Rob McPhee prefers if we read and enjoy the book and share our reactions with him and others.
- This sharing could happen during Sharing Joys, Concerns, Gratitude.
- A note of our gratitude for Rob's initiative, for the huge amount of work and time spent on this invaluable project will be expressed in What's The Buzz.
- Any further ideas can be given to Lindy Mair.

4. Committee Reports

Motion 26/27-09: That the following Reports be received for Information:

- Finance – Randy Round
- Property – Gary Boswell: Sewer Issues
 - Information
 - Building Maintenance Schedule
- Worship – Elfrieda Penner
- Ministry & Personnel – Jennifer McPhee
- Minister – Rev. Dr. Dale Johnson

Moved: Randy Round

Seconded: Carla Janzen

Carried

- **Finance** (Attachments #5 and 6)
 - Randy Round presented the financial update to March 31, 2026.

- **Property:** (Attachment #7)
 - Sewer Line update:

Motion 26/27-10: Moved that we proceed to remove the spruce tree that is causing the intrusion into the sewer line along with the mugo pine that is located over the sewer line.

Moved: Bruce McCarron

Seconded: Gary Boswell

Carried

- Building Maintenance Schedule:

(Attachment #8)

- This schedule of anticipated expenses was put together by Gary Boswell as a reference for long-term planning.

- **Worship:**

Easter services:

- Good Friday service was well attended; the labyrinth was walked by many.
- Easter was also well attended, with the bell choirs playing.

July services:

- 5th to be led by John and Lindy Mair
- 12th need a leader
- 19th need a leader
- 26th to be led by Wendy Edey and Elfrieda Penner

August 2:

- Potluck at Kathy Poechman's cabin at Lake Isle

Welcome people reminders:

- April 26 John or Lindy Mair
- May 3 Carol Hickmann
- May 10 Bruce McCarron
- May 17 John or Lindy Mair
- May 24 John or Lindy Mair
- May 31 Carla Janzen

Offering box: will be introduced on May 3, 2026.

- Feedback will be appreciated!

Communion:

- May 24
- June 28
- None in July or August, unless William Brook decides otherwise

Mukta Nistandra:

- Off for July and August; back on September 6.

Rev. William Brook:

- AJ Janewski and Elfrieda Penner will be going to Southminster United Church in Lethbridge to attend his ordination on May 3, 2026.
- The Worship Committee plans to arrange a meeting with William in mid-August.

Livestreaming:

- Brian Sampson and Tim Burton have been receiving a payment of \$50 for every time they livestream a service. When another person is responsible for the livestreaming, they will be paid the same amount.

- **Ministry & Personnel:**

- As per her contract, M&P is sending Liliana Angel to the UCC Church Administrators' Conference in Saskatoon from October 5 to 9, 2026.
- Liliana Angel will be away July 1 to August 10, 2026; AJ Janewski will be in the church office during this time.

- **Minister:**

- Wedding: Bob Pollard and Stella Galbraith on Friday May 1, 2026
- Working with Sherry Alstad and her son, we are creating a special stole for William Brook as a gift from Mill Woods United Church on his ordination on May 3, 2026. AJ Janewski will be attending the service and will present William with the stole and our 50th Anniversary Book.
- Lane Borstad is working on fixing the charging issue with the hearing aids.
- I have recently signed a petition, along with other Alberta clergy and church leaders protesting the Alberta Christian Leadership Summit May 4 – 5 in Red Deer. The summit is designed for radical right Christians whose social and political views align with the Premier. In my signing I included that I am the minister of Mill Woods United Church in Edmonton.
- My photo has been taken for our clergy Rouge's Gallery (photos of former MWUC ministers located in the church lounge).
- The Zimbabwean congregation has been invited to attend the service and lunch on Dale Johnson's last Sunday as MWUC's minister on June 28, 2026.
- Question to Council: What are some things I need to be aware of or pay attention to in the last 2 months of my time with you as your minister?
 - Important to clarify for the congregation why Dale Johnson needs to leave MWUC for one year: that it is United Church of Canada policy and to give our new minister the time and space to establish relationships and connections with the members of the congregation.

5. Other Reports

- Carla Janzen cancelled the donation of a large amount of potatoes we were offered for the Bread Run, as we have already received another large donation of potatoes.
- Bruce McCarron shared that Grace United Church is sending AJ Janewski to Norquest for a six-day course for a Building Experience certificate.

6. Adjournment at 9:00 pm

Motion 26/27-11: That the meeting be adjourned.

Moved: AJ Janewski

Next meeting: May 26, 2026

Snacks volunteer for next meeting: Dale Johnson

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 24, 2026 Council meeting (already in binder)
2. Stewardship request
3. Bread Run
4. Social Media contract extension
5. Financial summary to March 31, 2026
6. Financial Update to March 31, 2026
7. Sewer line update
8. Building maintenance schedule