Council Meeting #5
Mill Woods United Church
Tuesday, September 22nd, 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), Anita Piebiak (Member-at-Large & NSRC rep), Bruce McCarron (Member-at-Large), Lindy Mair (Member-at-Large), Bill McGregor (Ministry & Personnel), Elfrieda Penner (Recorder & Worship)

Regrets: Carla Janzen (Congregational Care), Gary Boswell (Property), AJ Janewski (Member-at-Large)

Guest: Mark Schweitzer (Stewardship)

1.Prelude

1.1 Prayer: Reverend Dr. William Brook

1.2 Welcome

- Thank you note from Rev. Dale Johnson
- Where or What brings you peace?
  - Hiking in nature; ocean waves; mountains; sunrise & sunsets; reading; surrounded by family and pets

2. Housekeeping and Follow-up

2.1 Changes to the agenda

- Sunday School teacher motions under 5. Other Reports

2.2 Approval of minutes of June 23rd accepted as presented **(Attachment 1)**

<u>Motion 26/27-20</u>: That the minutes of the June 23, 2026 meeting be accepted as presented.
Moved: Carol Hickmann
Seconded: Anita Piebiak
Carried

3. New Business

3.1 Church/Volunteer Fair – Mark Schweitzer

- The Stewardship Committee proposed having another Volunteer Fair (same as in 2025).

- A Volunteer Fair informs new and existing members about the many committees and groups at MWUC, many of which are in need of volunteers.
- People are provided with the chance to check out volunteer opportunities at MWUC.
- This Fair will be held in January 2027.
- For future Volunteer Fairs, Council requests that a letter be written asking for permission to organize the event each year.

3.2 Elevator Update – John Mair

- John will pursue the application for a grant from the Community Facility Enhancement Program to potentially offset some of the costs of maintaining our lift, as mentioned in the June 23, 2026 Council minutes; the next deadline for applications is in January 2027.
- TKE Elevators has assessed our elevator, finds it to be serviceable and that it could last a long time.
- The elevator may need parts replaced, but not the whole elevator.
- We now have a contract with TKE as of September 1, 2026, with quarterly inspections at $125 per month.
- TKE assures us quick response times for problems, and we will pay for repairs as they are needed.
- A major cause of problems with the elevator seems to be with it being operated by a person riding inside the elevator. To eliminate this issue, a box could be installed to cover the controls inside the elevator; Bruce McCarron will talk to Gary Boswell, and TKE may need to be consulted.

3.3 Social Media Update – Carol Hickmann

- AJ Janewski has decided not to continue as Social Media coordinator.
- William Brook, Carol Hickmann and Lane Borstad met to discuss our social media needs and put together a detailed job description; we need to be aware of who our target audience is, and to be careful of a possible overlap of duties.
- the position will be advertised both within our church and Northern Spirit Regional Council.
- A Ministry & Personnel person will be needed to support the Social Media coordinator, as is done with all MWUC staff members.
- Also, a person is needed to monitor the Social Media coordinator.

3.4 This Is Us, 50th Anniversary – Lindy Mair

- **This Is Us:**
  - September 20 John Mair – Search Committee
  - September 27 Ethel Ray – Stitching Connection
  - October 4 Lindy Mair – 50th Anniversary
  - October 11 Rob McPhee – 50th Anniversary
  - October 18 Rob McPhee – 50th Anniversary
  - October 25 Rob McPhee – 50th Anniversary
  - November 1 Carol Hickmann – 50th Anniversary
  - November 8 none
  - November 15 Stewardship

- **50th Anniversary Events:**
  - Saturday November 7, 2026
    - Potluck at 6:00 pm
    - Program to follow; Rob and Jennifer McPhee will MC
  - Sunday November 8, 2026
    - Special service at 10:30 am led by William Brook
    - Catered lunch and cake to follow

  Thanks to Lane Borstad and Liliana Angel for their work on the 50th Anniversary celebration.

3.5 Next Council Meeting changed to Wednesday, November 18, 2026

4. Committee Reports

Motion 26/27-21: That the following reports be received for Information:

- Finance – Randy Round (Attachment)
- Worship – Elfrieda Penner
- Ministry and Personnel – Bill McGregor
- Minister – Rev. Dr. William Brook (Attachment)

Moved: Carol Hickmann
Seconded: Bill McGregor
Carried

- **Finance: (Attachment 2)**
  - Randy Round reviewed the finances to August 31, 2026 and a Three-Year Budget in preparation for presentation at the financial meeting on November 22, 2026.

- **Worship:**
  - Thank you to the Worship service leaders and musicians in July and August.
  - The Worship Committee met with William Brook for the first time on August 17, 2026.
  - Summer Children's time supervision:
    - Rhys Wynder agreed to supervise any children who were in attendance during the summer; he was paid $20 per Sunday, whether or not any children came (similar to what we've done in past summers). He was here for 7 Sundays, with children here on 3 Sundays (on 2 of those, only Mukta Nistandra's boys were here, on the other only the Langstone children).
    - Proposed that next May or June we ask parents of any children attending at that time, if they plan to bring their children during the summer, and then decide if we need to pay for summer supervision. Conversely, if children do show up, a few adults could be available to take turns taking them outside or upstairs during the service.
  - Bulletins: No bulletins were printed in the summer, which worked out fine.
  - Welcome & Announcements:

September 27	Lindy Mair
October 4	Anita Piebiak
October 11	Carol Hickmann
October 18	Bruce McCarron
October 25	John or Lindy Mair

- **Ministry and Personnel:**
  - Bruce will be on holiday the week of September 21, 2026
  - Lilliana has decided not to attend her administration conference.
  - AJ has decided not to continue as Social Media coordinator. This may be an opportunity for council to determine what we want to do with this position. If we do decide to go forward, I would suggest we make it a proper contract position with a contract with job description, a reporting structure that provides direction and confirms the amount of time for Lilliana to issue payment, as well as an M and P contact like other contracts.

- **Minister's report: (Attachment 3)**
  - William Brook would like to start some things in evenings; he was encouraged to continue trying new things.
  - In the past we have had a support group for the minister made up of church members not on Council; this might be beneficial to revisit; Northern Spirit Regional Council also has a pastoral oversight committee.

5. Other Reports:

- **Sunday School teacher position:** - requested by Jeannette Borstad

<u>Motion 26/27-22:</u> The Ministry and Personnel Committee recommends that the paid Sunday School teacher position / lay employee have an M & P liaison person.
Moved: Lindy Mair
Seconded: Bruce McCarron
Carried

Background:
- Currently, all M & P committee members are the liaison to one staff person each, and an additional member of M & P is needed for the Sunday School teacher.
- Information from the United Church of Canada website: Responsibilities of the Ministry and Personnel Committee:
  "Often ministry personnel and lay employees will propose one member to act as their liaison to the M & P Committee. This person should see the role as one of liaison and communication, not advocacy."

- M & P will look for a person to fill this position.

<u>Motion 26/27-23</u>: M & P recommends that Council explore setting up a Christian Education committee to address the advocacy role for the Sunday School teacher position.
Moved: Randy Round
Seconded: Carol Hickmann
Carried

Background: The Advocacy role is also not currently being addressed for the Sunday School teacher position and M & P would further recommend that Council address this role, possibly for all ages.

6. Adjournment at 9:00 pm

- **<u>Motion 26/27-24:</u> That the meeting be adjourned.**
  Moved: Randy Round

Next Meeting: October 27, 2026
Snacks for the next meeting – Elfrieda Penner

Reminder: November meeting is on Wednesday November 18, 2026

_____ _____
John Mair (Chair) Elfrieda Penner (Recorder)

Attachments are filed with a paper copy of these minutes in the church office**:**
1. Minutes of the June 23, 2026 Council meeting (already in binder)
2. Finance report and update to August 31, 2026
3. Minister's report