

Council Meeting #9
Mill Woods United Church
Tuesday, February 24, 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: Carol Hickmann (Past Chair and Building Use), Rev. Dr. Dale Johnson (Minister), Lane Borstad (Member-at-Large), Randy Round (Finance), Gary Boswell (Property), Carol Reid (Member-at-Large), Elfrieda Penner (Worship and Recorder), Jennifer McPhee (Ministry & Personnel), Enid Oldham (Member-at-Large), Carla Janzen (Congregational Care), Terry Staley (Member-at-Large)

Regrets: John Mair (Chair), Lindy Mair (Member-at-Large)

1. Prelude

- 1.1 Welcome
- 1.2 Prayer: Reverend Dr. Dale Johnson

2. Housekeeping and Follow-up

- 2.1 Changes to the agenda - none
- 2.2 Approval of minutes of January 20th, 2026 (Attachment 1)
Motion 25/26-43: That the minutes of the January 20, 2026 meeting be accepted as presented.
Moved: Terry Staley
Seconded: Carla Janzen
Carried

3. New Business

- 3.1 **Living Our Purpose:** *We are a spiritual community where you can explore your purpose and place*
 - Reflecting on our year together as a church council – sharing of thoughts
 - Highlights of 2025-26
 - Greatest Accomplishments
 - What have we done well?
 - Suggestions as we move into the 2026-27 year
 - The start of this year was difficult; the support of so many people including Dale Johnson as well as Northern Spirit Regional Council got us through.
 - We are so grateful that Dale Johnson came forward as our minister.

- We have come a long way with the sound system, livestreaming and PowerPoint.
- We have looked after our church building well.
- Faithful Footprints gave us a lot of information about our building, even though the program didn't work out for us.
- We had a record-breaking year financially.
- Heavenly Hospitality had a really good year, financially and socially.
- Our bell choirs are getting better all the time and are greatly appreciated.
- We are still so good at supporting each other.
- Our team work is impressive, with so many willing helpers.
- We have welcomed quite a few new people, and some of them are willing to help and are even stepping into leadership positions.
- Unfortunately, we have had many illnesses and some deaths; lots of pastoral care has been needed and has been greatly appreciated by the families.
- As our new minister arrives, we are encouraged to give him our support.

3.2 Nominations and Confirmations for 2026-27 – Carol Hickmann

Report of the Nominating Committee: 2026-27

Council

Chair	John Mair
Chair Elect	
Past Chair	Carol Hickmann
Recorder	Elfrieda Penner
Finance	Randy Round
Ministry & Personnel	Jennifer McPhee
Congregational Care	Carla Janzen
Building Use	Carol Hickmann
Property	Gary Boswell
Worship	Elfrieda Penner
Member-at-Large	Lindy Mair, AJ Janewski, Anita Piebiak, Bruce McCarron
Northern Spirit Regional Council Rep.	Anita Piebiak

Other

Congregational Chair	Tim Janewski
Congregational Recorder	Elfrieda Penner
Trustees	Carol Hickmann, Randy Round, Lindsey Jo Pawlyk, Gordon Hodge
Stewardship	Mark Schweitzer, Nancy Siever, Bill McGregor
Memorial	Jan Hodge, Elfrieda Penner
Ministry & Personnel	Jeannette Borstad, Wendy Edey, Bill McGregor, Jennifer McPhee

*NOTE: Minister and Council Chair are ex-officio members of all committees except Ministry and Personnel

- Carol Hickmann thanked:
 - The Council members who are not returning for their contributions: Lane Borstad, Carol Reid, Terry Staley, Enid Oldham.
 - Trustees: Donna Skoreiko and Karl Kropf; Donna has been a trustee since the beginning of our church.

3.3 Motion 25/26-44: That the agenda for the March 1, 2026 Annual General Meeting be approved **Moved: Enid Oldham** (Attachment 2)

Seconded: Terry Staley
Carried

Background: Regular snacks will be served after the service. Childcare for young children will be available if needed.

3.4 Motion 25/26-45: That the following dates be approved for Council meetings, the Annual Financial Meeting and the Annual General meeting

- **Council Meetings:**
 - 2026 – March 24, April 28, May 26, June 23, September 22, October 27, November 17, December 8
 - 2027 – January 26, February 23
- **Annual Financial Meeting:**
 - Sunday November 22, 2026
- **Annual General Meeting:**
 - Sunday March 7, 2027

Moved: Randy Round

Seconded: Carla Janzen

Carried

Background: Each year at the final meeting of the outgoing Council, the meeting dates for the following year are approved so they can be included in the revised Leadership Manual and booked in the church building calendar.

3.5 Motion 25/26-46: That Council approve the 2025 Annual Report to be presented at the Annual General meeting on March 1, 2026

Moved: Terry Staley

Seconded: Lane Borstad

Carried

Background: Each year at our Annual General Meeting we have a motion to approve the Annual Report. An overview of financial reports and our narrative take place immediately after this motion is made. The report needs to be approved by Council prior to this overview. The report link is on the church website under “About”.

- Any corrections should be sent to Liliana Angel with specific page numbers.
- Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Annual Report 2025.

3.6 Motion 25/26-47: That the Revised Alcohol Policy (January 20, 2026) that was tabled at the January 20, 2026 Council meeting be removed from the table and brought back for discussion

Moved: Lane Borstad

Seconded: Randy Round

Carried

Motion 25/26-48: That Mill Woods United Church Council affirms the revised policy on alcohol use on church property to allow for alcohol use at occasional Church-sponsored events (e.g. Dinner Theatre) and for private functions held on church property (e.g. wedding receptions). Council approval would be required for all requests. The Alcohol Policy shall be reviewed by Council from time to time to ensure the suitability of this policy.

Moved: Carla Janzen

Seconded: Jennifer McPhee

Carried

Background: The use of alcohol may be permitted for sacramental purposes (communion) at the discretion of the Worship Committee and the minister. Consumption of alcohol other than for

sacramental purposes must be approved by Council. The liquor license and the insurance are the responsibility of the group consuming the alcohol.

3.7 Request for Alcohol – Private Function

Motion 25/26-49: That the motion, that approval be given to serve beer and wine at a function hosted by a member of MWUC congregation on Saturday, May 30, 2026, that was tabled at the January 20, 2026 Council meeting be removed from the table and brought back for discussion

Moved: Carla Janzen

Seconded: Jennifer McPhee

Carried

Motion 25/26-50: That approval be given to serve beer and wine at a function hosted by a member of MWUC congregation on Saturday, May 30, 2026.

Moved: Carla Janzen

Seconded: Jennifer McPhee

Carried

- A package will be given to them with the obligations that need to be met before the event can take place.
- The policy for Alcohol Use that supports this motion will be brought back to Council at the next meeting for approval.

4. Committee Reports

Motion 25/26-51: That the following Reports be received for Information:

Moved: Randy Round

Seconded: Carol Reid

Carried

- Finance – Randy Round
 - Minister Assumptions & Cost
 - 3 year planning / 2026 budget
- Worship – Elfrieda Penner
- Ministry & Personnel – Jennifer McPhee
- Property – Gary Boswell: Elevator preliminary update
- Minister – Rev. Dr. Dale Johnson

Finance:

(Attachments 3 & 4)

- Randy Round presented the ministerial costs that were budgeted for 2026 at the November 2025 Annual Financial Meeting and the current revised ministerial costs for 2026.
- Randy also presented the Three-Year Planning and 2026 Budget.

Worship:

- The Committee meeting was postponed due to the snowstorm last Tuesday, so we met on February 23, 2026.
- Choir: while Bryan LeGrow was away, Ellen Wosar led the choir and played on Sunday mornings. Bryan will be back for the rehearsal on Wednesday; Ellen will be here again on March 22.
- Thanks to Anita Piebiak for leading the worship service on February 8, 2026!
- Communion will continue on the first Sunday of each month, except April 5 (Easter) is changed to March 29 (Palm Sunday) as the Easter service is busy enough.
- Good Friday: the wooden cross will be put up at the front of the sanctuary again, draped with a black cloth. No bulletins, no livestreaming. The labyrinth will be spread out in the sanctuary during Holy Week and taken down after the service on Good Friday.
- Easter Sunday: Flowers will be handed out again to be put into the cross during the service.

- Annual General Meeting on March 1, 2026: Elfrieda Penner and Tim Janewski will both be away, so Laine Pickle will take the minutes and Rob McPhee will chair the meeting.
- Welcome/Announcements reminders – thank you:
 - March 1 Carla Janzen
 - March 8 Carla Janzen
 - March 15 Carol Hickmann
 - March 22 John Mair
 - March 29 Terry Staley
- A few more people are needed to help with the Action Team.
- The Worship Committee agreed to try a change in the offering procedure:
 - Laine Pickle will build a box to receive the offerings; this will be placed at the back of the church before the service, perhaps next to the Hymnals cart. When this box is ready, a picture of the box along with ways of giving will be included in the pre-service announcements on the monitors. At the usual offering time the box will be brought forward, and the offering prayer and hymns will happen as usual. The box will be left on the communion table until after the service.
- The whole Worship Committee is thrilled to have our new minister in place and starting in August; we will do our best to support him!
- Next Worship Committee meeting is planned for April 14, 2026.

Ministry & Personnel:

- M&P has discussed Dale Johnson's leaving date, as well as how to welcome our new minister.
- The custodial position is currently shared by Bruce McCarron and AJ Janewski; Bruce is still waiting to get his driver's license back.
- Bryan LeGrow has been away.

Property:

- The elevator continues to be of concern; it is projected to last another 3 – 5 years.
- Various changes would be needed to repair or replace the elevator, adding to the expense.
- Having the elevator inspected shortly before the Christmas Market would enable peace of mind for its use during the Market, as the elevator is critical for the success of the Market.
- The previously suggested stair crawler may not be a realistic option. The stairway is a fire exit and may not be wide enough especially at the top floor. The cost could be \$40,000 or more.

Minister:

- Adam Graham, son of Ami Graham, is requesting to be baptised by Dale Johnson before he retires. We are tentatively planning to do this on Pentecost, May 24.
- Holy Week – Labyrinth will be open beginning on Monday, March 30. On Good Friday we will hold a brief service at 10:30 am followed by walking the Labyrinth. The Labyrinth will be closed and packed away by 1:00 pm to allow set up time for the Bread Run.
- Dale Johnson will take his last study leave April 6-12, including Sunday April 12.
- There will be a celebration of life for David Baker here at the church on June 20. Dale Irving has been asked to participate in this service.
- Proposed worship services in June:
 - a. June 7 – Pride Sunday
 - b. June 21 – Father's Day
 - c. June 28 – "Sayonara Service" (Dale's last Sunday). Heavenly Hospitality will provide lunch. The Zimbabwean Methodist Church will be invited to the service and lunch.

5. Other Reports

- Fundraising Committee – Lane Borstad and Carol Hickmann
 - Met in January and again in February
 - Fundraising and Social events
 - All the fundraisers, social events and Heavenly Hospitality dates with contact people are now entered on a spreadsheet to help keep track of these events.
 - Spring Craft Market update:
 - Kirsten Phillips and Celia Conway have taken the lead.
 - Will be only on the main floor; if enough vendors sign up, the balcony could also be used
 - Christmas Market
 - Still hoping for a response to the call for shadowing the team organizing this Market
- MWUC Sound System Update – Lane Borstad
 - Many thanks to Brian Sampson and Tim Burton for their Audio-Visual work.
 - Also thanks to the PowerPoint team: Gordon Langford, Gordon Hodge, Lane Borstad and Elfrieda Penner.
 - Gary Boswell and Carol Hickmann for consultation support.
 - Volume and clarity of sound were identified by many people as being problematic.
 - The reverberation problem in the sanctuary has kept various music groups from renting this space for performances or practices.
 - The light levels are also problematic; they are only at half of the recommended levels. The brighter halogen lights have all burned out and cannot be replaced.
 - The speakers broke down and had to be replaced.
 - Various damage was done to equipment by renters; clearer guidelines were written and given to the renters.
 - Lane wrote a detailed policy manual for using the sound system; new equipment was purchased and installed.

Council thanked Lane for his many hours of work to evaluate and upgrade the church sound system!
- Social media with AJ and future planning – Lane Borstad
 - AJ Janewski was hired as our digital content coordinator and has been posting new material on our website.

Annual General Meeting: Sunday, March 1, 2026

First Meeting of New Council: Tuesday, March 24, 2026

6. Adjournment 9:20 pm

- **Motion 25/26-52: That the meeting be adjourned.**
Moved: Terry Staley

Thanks to Elfrieda for snacks!

Carol Hickmann (Past Chair)

Elfrieda Penner (Recorder)

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

1. Minutes of the January 20, 2026 Council meeting (already in binder)
2. AGM agenda
3. New minister assumptions and costs
4. Three-year planning and 2026 budget

Future Topic:

- **50Th Anniversary Celebrations – planning for November 2026**