

Council Meeting #8
Mill Woods United Church
Tuesday, January 20, 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), Carol Hickmann (Past Chair and Building Use), Rev. Dr. Dale Johnson (Minister), Lane Borstad (Member-at-Large), Randy Round (Finance), Lindy Mair (Member-at-Large), Gary Boswell (Property), Elfrieda Penner (Worship and Recorder), Bill McGregor (Ministry & Personnel), Enid Oldham (Member-at-Large), Carla Janzen (Congregational Care), Terry Staley (Member-at-Large)

Regrets: Carol Reid (Member-at-Large)

Guest: Rob McPhee

1. Prelude

- 1.1 Prayer: Reverend Dr. Dale Johnson
- 1.2 Council Year End – correction – John Mair
 - The February Council meeting is the final meeting of the 2025-2026 year, not the first of the 2026-2027 year.
- 1.3 Minister Search Committee Update – John Mair
 - Council was given a few more details, which will be included at the presentation to the congregation at the Congregational Meeting on February 1, 2026.
- 1.4 This is Us – Lindy Mair
 - February 1 – Stewardship Committee: Bill McGregor or Mark Schweitzer
 - February 8 – Mission & Service: Jennifer McPhee
 - February 15 – Serenity Funeral Services: Cathy Bayly, Nancy Ehrman
 - February 22 – none
 - March 1 – Council report: Carol Hickmann
 - March 8 Mission & Service: Jennifer McPhee
 - March 15 – Fundraising: Carol Hickmann
 - March 22 – Property Committee: Gary Boswell
 - March 29 – Council Report: John Mair

2. Housekeeping and Follow-up

- 2.1 Changes to the agenda – Cathy Bayly's requests added at 5.
- 2.2 Approval of minutes of November 18, 2025 (Attachment 1)
Motion 25/26-38: That the minutes of November 18, 2025 be accepted as presented.
Moved: Carol Hickmann
Seconded: Randy Round
Carried

3. New Business

- 3.1 Future Markets at MWUC – Rob McPhee (MWUC Markets – Attachment 2)
Motion 25/26-39: Move that the Spring Craft Market be suspended for 2026 pending confirmation at the February 24, 2026 Council meeting.
Moved: Randy Round
Seconded: Terry Staley
Carried

Background:

- The markets need a huge amount of work and energy.
- The team that organizes the Christmas Market is willing to continue for the 2026 Christmas Market, but not also the Spring Market 2026. New leadership will be also needed for future Christmas Markets starting in 2027. Extensive information has been documented over the years on these Markets, which will be made available to new leaders.
- As there is currently no leader for the Spring Market, the recommendation is to drop the Spring Market and focus on the Christmas Market; the above motion will be announced at the February 1, 2026 Congregational meeting, asking for volunteers to take on the leadership for the Spring Market.
- The immediate need is for someone to take over the monitoring of the Market email account to communicate with the vendors until June 2026, when the Christmas Market team will take over.
- Many thanks to Cathy Bayly for taking on the leadership of the Spring Market for so many years!

Discussion:

- The Spring Soiree made more money than the Spring Craft Market and required a lot less intensive work by less volunteers. Perhaps the focus should be shifted to other fundraisers.

3.2 Social Events and Fundraising – Rob McPhee (Attachment 3)

- Rob McPhee and Jennifer McPhee have planned the church social events, as well as various fundraising events for many years and now need a break for at least one year.
- Discussion:
 - Carol Hickmann and Lane Borstad are now tracking the various events and fundraisers to help spread them out throughout the year.
 - The social part of these events is very important to our church; if we lose these fundraisers, we also lose the social part.
 - To address the issue of fundraising, a committee is needed: Carol Hickmann, John Mair, Lane Borstad, Randy Round, Carla Janzen and Lindy Mair are willing to be on this ad hoc committee, perhaps with another person not currently on Council. In 2005, Council looked in detail at fundraising, which is documented in the annual report for this year; this could be a starting point for this committee.

3.3 Revised Alcohol Policy (January 20, 2026) – John Mair

- MWUC Council approves the use of alcohol on church property at occasional Church-sponsored events (eg. Dinner Theatre). Alcohol use may also be permitted for private functions (eg. wedding receptions, birthdays) held on church property provided the request is made by a church member or adherent who is willing to take responsibility for the group. This would require that the church member be present for the entirety of the event. It will be the responsibility of the group requesting the use of alcohol to be sure they comply with the requirements of the AGLC and pay any fees associated with the license. Those requirements are as follows:
 - A Private Special Event License (S.E.L.) is required
 - The cost of the license is \$10 (Jan. 2026)
 - The license must be applied for online at least 14 days in advance
 - The license is then issued via email which is then printed and posted at the event
 - all information is available on the AGLC website
- Council approval will be required for all requests. The policy shall be reviewed by
- Council from time to time to ensure suitability.

Motion: That the Revised Alcohol Policy (January 20, 2026) as outlined above, be approved by Council.

- Question re insurance coverage: John Mair will check with Spirit of Hope United Church regarding how they deal with insurance for events that include the use of alcohol. Thus this **motion** was tabled until the next Council meeting in February.

3.4 Request for Alcohol – Private Function

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.

- This motion was also tabled for the same reason as in 3.3 above.

3.5 Social Media Proposal, submitted by A.J. Janewski (Social Media **Attachment 4**)

Motion 25/26-40: That AJ Janewski be signed to a temporary contract for 3 months at \$15 per hour for up to 10 hours per week to act as digital content coordinator for Mill Woods United Church.

Moved: Bill McGregor

Seconded: Carol Hickmann

Carried

Background:

- Council agreed that Lane Borstad will mentor AJ Janewski in this position.
- John Mair will talk to AJ about the responsibilities of this position.
- Lane Borstad will work with AJ and develop a 3-month contract, to be evaluated at the May Council meeting.

3.6 Follow up – Faithful Footprints – Carla Janzen

- The Faithful Footprints grant program has been cancelled.
- Very little response was received to the letters sent out on behalf of MWUC (see the October 28, 2025 Council minutes).

4. Committee Reports 8:15 – 8:45 pm

Motion 25/26-41: That the following Reports be received for Information:

Moved: Carla Janzen

Seconded: Lindy Mair

Carried

- Finance – Randy Round
- Worship – Elfrieda Penner
- M&P – Bill McGregor
- Property – Gary Boswell
- Trustees, Nominating Committee and AGM – Carol Hickmann

Finance: (Attachment 6,7,8 - 2025 Financial Statements, Dec. 25 for Council, Community Outreach numbers)

- Attached are three files for this meeting:
 - Attachment 6: Normal reporting format for the full year. The column usually included to show an informal update of the 2025 Budget is replaced with a column showing the information for 2025 that was presented at the Annual Financial Meeting 2025.
 - Attachment 7: A very early draft of the Financial Statements that will be included in the Annual Report to be approved by Council at the February Council meeting and by the Congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting on March 1, 2026.
 - Attachment 8: A summary of the Community Outreach account at December 31st, 2025. Due to the amazing response to the Special Christmas Offering for the Bread Run (\$2,437), there is sufficient funding to support our monthly purchases well into the 2026 year without drawing on the amount included in the Local Operations Budget.

Worship:

- Christmas services were great, but less people than other years on Christmas Eve, probably because of the severe cold and poor driving conditions.
- Christmas decorations were taken down last week.
- Attendance is always up when the handbells are playing; thanks to Jeannette Borstad and her family, plus all the bell ringers!
- Pancake breakfast on December 28 was well attended; thanks to Neil and Sherry Alstad!
- Communion continues to be on the first Sunday of each month; thanks to Sherry Alstad and Tracy Tomkins for organizing this!
- Choir: Bryan LeGrow will be away on January 25, February 15 and 22; Wendy Edey organizes pianists for any days Bryan cannot be there. The choir will sing an anthem on most other Sundays till Easter.
- While Dale Johnson was away, John and Lindy Mair led the service on January 11.
- Elfrieda Penner led the service on January 18.
- Anita Piebiak will lead the service on February 8, when Dale is away (February 2 – 8) to prepare for Lent and Easter.
- Thank you to all of these leaders!
- Dale will also be away on April 6 – 12, including the Sunday April 12.
- Worship Committee will meet again on February 17, 2026.
- Welcome/Announcement volunteers needed for:

Jan.25	John or Lindy Mair	March 1	Carla Janzen
Feb.1	Terry Staley	March 8	Carla Janzen
Feb.8	Elfrieda Penner	March 15	Carol Hickmann
Feb.15	Carol Hickmann	March 22	John Mair
Feb.22	Carla Janzen	March 29	Terry Staley

Ministry & Personnel:

- Bruce McCarron is taking on more duties as he continues to recover; AJ Janewski is contracted to fill in as needed.
- Bryan LeGrow will be away on January 25, February 15 and 22 for personal leave and fill-in pianists are in place.
- Liliana Angel will be away for one month in summer; AJ Janewski will cover the office.
- Staff reviews have been completed except Mukta Nistanrda, which will be done on January 25.

Property: (Attachments 9, 10: Elevator Review, Elevator Quote)

- The elevator is an ongoing concern.
- Options:
 - Replace the elevator at \$70,000 to \$80,000.
 - Continue to use the elevator with training while we put away money for eventual replacement
 - Use the elevator only for “things” (i.e. no people) and install a “stair crawler” (stair lift) at a much lower cost than replacing the elevator.
 - Gary Boswell will check on this option and report back to Council.

Trustees, Nominating Committee, AGM:

- The responsibilities of the Trustees as stated in the Leadership Manual are being reviewed and new members are being sought before the Annual General Meeting on March 1, 2026.
- Nominating Committee:
 - all Council members are returning except Terry Staley, Carol Reid, Enid Oldham and Lane Borstad. Many thanks to these outgoing members!
- AGM: all reports are ready to go.

5. Other Reports:

- A request was made to make a petition regarding Public Education available for people to sign; Council agreed to placing this at the back of the sanctuary.
- A request was made to have Serenity Funeral Home inform us of their services on a weekday afternoon; Council agreed to this.
- Fundscrip update: - Lindy Mair
 - Over nine years we have raised \$2298.05
 - We have received from Fundscrip \$1714.34
 - Yet to collect from Fundscrip \$583.71

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, February 24, 2026

Annual General Meeting: Sunday, March 1, 2026

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

6. Adjournment at 9:25 pm

Motion 25/26-42: That the meeting be adjourned.

Moved: Bill McGregor

Thanks to Enid Oldham for bringing snacks this evening!
Elfrieda Penner will bring snacks for the next meeting.

John Mair (Chair)

Elfrieda Penner (Recorder)

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

1. Minutes of the November 18, 2025 Council meeting (already in binder)
2. MWUC Markets
3. Social events and fundraising
4. Social Media job proposal
5. Financial update to December 31, 2025
6. Notes to Financial statements for 2025
7. Community Outreach 2025 transactions
8. Elevator overview 2026
9. Elevator quotes 2026