

**Council Meeting 2025/26 #1**  
**Mill Woods United Church**  
Tuesday March 25, 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

**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), Elfrieda Penner (Worship and Recorder)

**Regrets:** Enid Oldham (Member-at-Large), Terry Staley (Member-at-Large)

**1 Gathering time**

1.1 **Prayer:** Dale Johnson

1.2 **Welcome from the new Chair – John Mair**

- John Mair thanked Carol Hickmann for her dedication and for her work as Chair Elect and Chair of Council.
- To enable the meetings to flow smoothly and timely, it will be important to be conscious of staying on task.
- As 90 minutes is as long as most people can stay focused and productive, the meetings will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. and aim to end at 8:30 p.m., ending no later than 9:00 p.m.; if more time is needed, some items will need to be deferred to the next meeting.
- People are encouraged to arrive at 6:30 p.m. for “Who We Are” time: the better we know each other, the better we will work as a team.
- All reports are to be sent to John Mair at least a few days before each meeting, along with any proposed motions and background information to the motions, and with an estimate of how much time will be needed for any anticipated discussion, to help with controlling the length of the meetings.

- The agendas and the attachments, including committee reports and finance reports, will continue to be sent to Council members a few days before the meetings, to give people time to read through them and consider any questions they might have.
- Try to get away from printing paper copies, to save time and money; consider having a digital copy on your phone, iPad or laptop, or bring your own printed copies.
  - One paper copy of the Council minutes, signed by the Council Chair and the Recorder, along with the attachments will continue to be kept at the church.
- An addition to **Holy Manners**: speak loudly and clearly so everyone can hear.

## 2 Housekeeping and Follow-up

### 2.1 Changes to the agenda

- Add under 3.5 Committee reports:
  - Property: estimate for jacking up the cement by the front entrance

### 2.2 Approval of minutes of February 25, 2025 **(Attachment 1)**

- **Motion 25/26-01: That the minutes of February 25, 2025 be accepted as presented.**
  - **Moved by Carol Reid, seconded by Bill McGregor**
  - **Carried**

## 3 New Business

### 3.1 Sunday Morning **Welcome & Announcements**:

March 30 – Rob McPhee	May 4 – Carla Janzen
April 6 – Elfrieda Penner	May 11 – Carol Hickmann
April 13 – Carol Hickmann	May 18 – Lane Borstad
April 20 – John Mair	May 25 – John or Lindy Mair
April 27 – Lindy Mair	

- Greeting people at the entrance on Sunday mornings:
  - John Mair will be greeting on most Sundays.
  - The person doing the Welcome & Announcements is encouraged to join John Mair as a greeter, or to take over the greeting when he is not there.

### 3.2 **MWUC Leadership Manual** Overview – Carol Hickmann

- This manual has been handed out to all Council members and chairs of all committees; it is also available digitally to them.
- If discarding old copies, these need to be shredded, not just recycled.
- Suggestion: if the sections with confidential information, i.e. phone numbers and email addresses, are removed or password protected, the manual could be made available on the church website, as the rest of the information could be useful to others.
  - John Mair will discuss this with Liliana Angel and bring the information to the next Council meeting.
- A photo directory, with or without a directory, has been considered in the past.

### 3.3 **Mill Woods United Church: Church Council Terms** – Carol Hickmann

- **Motion 25/26-02: That as of the 2026 Council term, limits be put on the length of time one person stays in one position.**
  - **Moved by Randy Round, seconded by Bill McGregor**

**Background:** Over the years there has been a tendency to have people remain on Council for many years. While there are advantages to this, it also limits opportunity for new people to become Council members. As well, people who take on Council positions need to know that there is not an expectation that they will remain on Council forever. Beginning in 2026, this process could begin in a staggered way so that all positions would not begin or end in the same year.

This proposal would provide opportunities for members-at-large to learn about Council and perhaps take on a further role after a few years. It would bring new ideas to both Council and committees while still providing for continuity. It would allow the chair to remain in place for two years if circumstances deemed appropriate. Finally, it leaves open the possibility for an individual to remain on Council for a longer length of time but in a new position.

- Many years ago at MWUC, limits were set for every Council position.
- About 15 years ago, the trend was to streamline Councils with specific terms and staggered start times to allow for continuity.
- Specific terms would be difficult to adhere to, if a new person with the necessary skills for that position is not found at that time.
- More information is needed before voting; thus **Motion 25/26-02** is being deferred to a future meeting, as approved by the movers of this motion.
  - John Mair and Carol Hickmann will review this motion.

3.4 **Financial Files to Archives March 2025 – Randy Round (Attachment 2)**

- **Motion 25/26-03: That the Council of Mill Woods United Church authorize the Financial Representative, Randy Round, to send documents as identified in the appendix to the attached Deposit Agreement, consisting primarily of financial and accounting records, to the United Church of Canada Archives for permanent storage.**
  - **Moved by Randy Round, seconded by Carol Reid**
  - **Carried**

**Background:** Refer to attached background document “Financial and Accounting Records – Records Retention Update” dated March 23, 2025 (Attachment 2)

The importance of these documents being in the archives is as follows:

- Documents will be more organized so it is easier to find the right documents when someone requests them.
- Improves security – only the right people can access the right documents.
- Saves office space.
- Prevents loss of documents.

3.5 **Committee Reports**

- **Motion 25/26-04: That the following Reports be received for Information:**
  - **Worship – Elfrieda Penner**
  - **Minister – Rev. Dr. Dale Johnson**
  - **Property – Gary Boswell**
- **Moved by Carla Janzen, seconded by Lindy Mair**

- **Worship:**
  - Worship committee met last week; will meet again on May 6
  - Welcome & Announcements: in July and August these will be done by the Worship leader.
  - This is Us: none during July and August
  - Communion on April 6 and May 4
  - Dale will talk more about the Easter services:
    - Good Friday service at 11:00 a.m. Our wooden cross will be covered with a black cloth.
    - Easter Sunday: flowers to be put into the cross by the congregation; handbells will play
  - June 1 will be a music-based service.
  - June 15: pulpit exchange for an Affirming service, with Blaine Gregg of Spirit of Hope as our guest speaker.
  - Worship leaders are needed when Dale is away for:
    - May 18, July 6, July 13, August 31
  
- **Minister:**
  - Sunday School Update: Mukta's contract with MWUC will be amended to give her the summer off, from June 1 to September 7, 2025.
  - United Church of Canada Centennial Celebration Update:
    - "This Was Us"
      - will highlight historical events of the UCC; some of these are also being posted on a "clothesline" in the sanctuary.
      - will also be used to highlight events in the history of MWUC as we approach our church's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2026.
    - An application for a UCC grant to support centennial events and projects has been submitted to the UCC. This would be used to publish a book to celebrate the history of the UCC and of MWUC.
    - Hymns Past, Present and Future will be the focus of the service on June 1, 2025.
    - UCC Centennial Anniversary Sunday June 8:
      - the Zimbabwean Church has been invited to join our service
      - afternoon celebration at Fort Edmonton Park, at a reduced entrance rate for UCC attendees, with a special service to be broadcast in a large tent
  - United Church Easter Sunrise Service to be held on April 20, 7:00 a.m. at Emily Murphy Park
  - Good Friday service will start at 11:00 a.m., and will include a celebration of life for Martina Schweitzer's mother.
  - Pastoral Care series led by Dale Johnson started on Thursday March 20 with about 15 attendees. Three more sessions are planned for March 27, April 3 and April 10.
  
  - Truth and Reconciliation – A New Approach:
    - It would be good to take a more positive approach to highlighting Truth and Reconciliation; Dale Johnson is working on this, possibly relating the UCC role to Truth and Reconciliation.
  - AJ Janewski has been appointed to the Northern Spirit Affirm Committee; he will present on this committee on April 6 during This Is Us.
    - Dale Johnson asked if Council wants him (Dale) to write a letter on behalf of the church seeking to rescind Bills 26, 27 and 29, which are part of a broader set of legislation concerning transgender rights and healthcare.

- As Council was not familiar with these Bills, Dale Johnson agreed to do further research on these bills and share this information with Council, before Council is asked to decide about a letter addressing our concerns.
- **Property:**
  - **Motion 25/26-05: that Council approve \$6,500 to lift the cement pad at the front of the church.**
    - **Moved by Gary Boswell, seconded by Bill McGregor**
    - **Carried**
  - This work will likely be done at the end of April.
- After presentation of these reports, Motion 25/26-04 was **Carried**.

### 3.6 Other Reports

- **MWUV AV Policies and Procedures Manual** – Lane Borstad (Attachment 3)
  - This manual is still a work in progress.
  - Long & McQuade came to the church to give advice on improving streaming to try to fix our many current problems.
  - A representative from Telus also came this week; they will replace the existing phones in the offices and will upgrade our internet; the monthly cost will be substantially less than at present.
  - The acoustics in the sanctuary are still being looked at, but it is difficult to obtain concrete information toward a solution to the reverberation; Tim Burton and Bryan LeGrow have been consulted.
- **Faithful Footprints** – Carla Janzen
  - UCC has put a temporary hold on the Faithful Footprints program to deal with their application process; they will notify us when this hold is lifted in mid-April.

### 3.7 Adjournment at 8:50 p.m.

- **Motion 25/26-06: That the meeting be adjourned.**
  - **Moved by Carol Reid**

**Next Meeting: Tuesday April 22, 2025 – 7:00 pm**

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John Mair (Chair)

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Elfrieda Penner (Recorder)

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

1. Minutes of the February 25, 2025 Council meeting (already in binder)
2. Finance to Archives March 2025
3. MWUC AV policy and procedures manual for church AV

**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
- Council review of alcohol use related to non-Church events