

Council Meeting #3
Mill Woods United Church
Tuesday, May 26th, 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), Carol Hickmann (Past Chair & Building Use), Randy Round (Finance), Carla Janzen (Congregational Care), Gary Boswell (Property), Anita Piebiak (Member-at-Large & NSRC rep), AJ Janewski (Member-at-Large), Bruce McCarron (Member-at-Large), Lindy Mair (Member-at-Large), Jeannette Borstad (Ministry & Personnel), Elfrieda Penner (Recorder & Worship)

Regrets:

1. Prelude

1.1 Welcome – Thanks to Dale for snacks!

1.2 Prayer: Reverend Dr. Dale Johnson

1.3 “Words Matter”

(Attachment #2)

Discussion on how this article applies to MWUC:

- A number of years ago Council set up the Facing the Future committee when our future didn’t look so bright financially; we decided that if we’re going to go out, let’s go out big. Instead of cutting back on programs to save money, we focused on using our resources to grow.
- To make changes happen, the whole church needs to be involved.
- For many years we focused on attracting young families. We have shifted to celebrating the people we have here and the new people of any age who have come, thus rewriting our story.
- The 50th Anniversary book of MWUC is keeping the story of our church alive and current.
- We’re different - in a good way!

2. Housekeeping and Follow-up

2.1 Changes to the agenda - none

2.2 Approval of minutes of April 28, 2026

(Attachment #1)

- At 3.3 the 50th Anniversary committee includes Kay Miller and Carla Janzen.
- At 4. under M&P : AJ Janewski or Celia Conway will be in the church office [during some of the time Liliana Angel is away in July]

Motion 26/27-11: That the minutes of the April 28, 2026 meeting be accepted as amended.

Moved: Carol Hickmann

Seconded: Lindy Mair

Carried

3. New Business

3.1 This Is Us – Lindy Mair

May 31 AJ Janewski (for John Mair on the Council meeting)

June 7 none

June 14 Carla Janzen (on Congregational Care)

June 21 Jennifer McPhee (Minute for Mission)

June 28 John Mair (Council meeting)?

- No This is Us in the summer
- Thanks to Carla Janzen for the TiU update on the Bread Run.

3.2 Elevator Update – John Mair and Randy Round

- John Mair, Randy Round and Gary Boswell met with a representative of Arsenault Operators to discuss what the options are for replacement of the church elevator.
- At this point this is not a crisis, so rushing into a decision is not recommended. Our maintenance costs are not high at present. As long as the elevator is operated only by people who have been officially trained in its use, there tend to be minimal problems.
- There are many points to be considered before committing to replacement of the elevator:
 - A financing plan is needed to pay for a new elevator:
 - Possible grants need to be investigated; Carol Hickmann and Lindy Mair will do this and report back to Council by June 15, 2026 so that this can be addressed at the next Council meeting on June 23, 2026. Northern Spirit Regional Council may offer a grant for this purpose. As the elevator is meant to be used by people with mobility issues, this information would be important to include in grant applications and could affect for which grants we might be eligible to apply.
 - Fundraising events
 - Loans: possibly from Northern Spirit Regional Council, from Servus Credit Union
 - Input and even decision making would be needed from the congregation
 - Trustees: according to our church handbook, Trustees have a huge role in making decisions on major expenses, which would include replacing an elevator.
 - Northern Spirit Regional Council Property Committee needs to give its approval.
- Concern was expressed about the need for the elevator surrounding the Christmas Market. The event could be limited to having vendors only on the main floor, greatly reducing the strain on the elevator, but also significantly reducing our profits due to less vendors. Or if vendors will be located in the basement or the loft, these vendors could come in on Friday to set up, which would reduce the intensity of elevator activity on the Saturday of the Market.
 - Even if a new elevator was to be approved soon, it would not be ready for the Christmas Market, especially given that obtaining grants can take a long time.

4. Committee Reports

Motion 26/27-12: That the following Reports be received for Information:

- Finance – Randy Round
- Worship – Elfrieda Penner
- Ministry and Personnel – Jeannette Borstad
- Minister – Rev. Dr. Dale Johnson

Moved: Carla Janzen

Seconded: Anita Piebiak

Carried

- **Finance**

(Attachments #3 and 4)

- Randy Round presented the financial update to April 30, 2026.
- An ongoing Capital Fund awareness is needed, not just for a new elevator.

- **Worship**

- Offering box: feedback please
 - Thanks to Bruce McCarron for the new table for the Offering Box
 - The Offering Box needs to be placed in a more visible spot, such as in the back of the center aisle. A larger sign would also help for visibility.
 - The preservice announcements on the PowerPoint screen need to include announcements about the Offering Box and about the availability of the Hearing Aids. AJ Janewski will add these announcements.
- Welcome & Announcements in June:
 - May 31 Carla Janzen
 - June 7 Carol Hickmann
 - June 14 Anita Piebiak
 - June 21 Bruce McCarron
 - June 28 John or Lindy Mair

In summer, Welcome & Announcements will be done by the service leaders.
- Music leaders: Wendy Edey has arranged these for July and August, as Bryan LeGrow is off in the summer.
- Mukta Nistrandra is off during July and August; back in September, as far as I know.
- No children's time during the service in the summer
- No printed bulletins in the summer
- July service leaders:
 - July 5: John & Lindy Mair
 - July 12: Anita Piebiak
 - July 19: Bruce McCarron
 - July 26: Wendy Edey & Elfrieda Penner

Thanks to all of these worship leaders!
- August 2: still at Kathy Poechman's cabin; a great way for William & Darolyn Brook to meet most of us for the first time.
- William Brook's first Sunday service with us will be on August 9, 2026. If he wants to make changes, these will be happily accommodated.
- AJ Janewski and Elfrieda Penner were able to attend William Brook's ordination on May 3, 2026 in Lethbridge. He was pleased to have us be part of this celebration. After the service, we presented him with the card from Council, a special stole with the affirm symbol (thanks to Sherry Alstad) and a copy of our MWUC 50th Anniversary book (thanks to Rob McPhee), which he very much appreciated.
- Elfrieda will come meet with William Brook when he gets here. The Worship Committee will arrange a time to meet with him in early August.

- **Ministry and Personnel**

- As Dale Johnson is retiring at the end of June 2026, there will be sadness in our congregation, combined with uncertainty about the future; even though we will have a new Minister, a change in leadership also brings uncertainty. Staff, too, are aware of this mixture of emotional ups and downs, yet are coping well, being supportive of each other.
- M & P have organized a Farewell luncheon for Dale, inviting all staff and M & P members to a catered lunch on June 24th at the Church. Our focus is to celebrate the work and leadership that Dale has brought to our Church community. M & P members will cover the costs.

- Liliana Angel will be on holiday from July 2 to August 7, which includes one week carried over from last year with permission.
- Office hours for July 3 – August 7, 2026:
 - Mondays 9:00 am - 3:00 pm on July 6, 13, 20, 27
covered by Celia Conway (Total maximum 24 hours)
 - Tuesdays and Fridays: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm on July 3, 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24, 28 31, August 4, 7
covered by AJ Janewski (Total maximum 44 hours)
 - Celia Conway and AJ Janewski will be paid \$22.00 per hour for a maximum of 68 hours, approximately **\$1500.00** during this holiday time. Both Celia and AJ will submit their time sheets for hours worked.
 - Priorities for this part-time staff are phone calls, in-person requests, preparing PowerPoint slides for Sundays, and our weekly What's the Buzz newsletter; Liliana Angel has trained them both in these jobs.
- Randy Round will discuss with Liliana Angel any financial concerns that may come up while Liliana is away in July.
- Lastly, Liliana Angel has registered for the UCC Office Administrators Conference held in Saskatoon from Monday October 5th to Friday October 9th, sharing transportation with Celia Conway, and including hotel costs for herself.
- M & P is also looking to have a Minister-On-Call for the month of July. Usually there is no cost associated with such a request.
- When Rev. William Brook begins at MWUC, the first Sunday gathering will be at Kathy Poechman's cabin, so there will be no service at the church on August 2.
- Stitching Connection will meet intermittently in July, Clothing Bank is closed for July and will re-open in August, Food Bank is also closed for July and will resume in August.

- **Minister's Report**

- Dale Johnson is compiling confidential notes with Carla Janzen on pastoral care needs to be passed on to William Brook.
- Baptism and legal name change requirements for United Church of Canada archival purposes need to be met.
- Dale Johnson has let some of the local churches know that we have a new minister starting in August 2026.

6. Adjournment 8:40 pm

- **Motion 26/27-13: That the meeting be adjourned.**
Moved: AJ Janewski

Next Meeting: June 23rd, 2026

Snacks volunteer for next meeting: Elfrieda Penner

John Mair (Chair)

Elfrieda Penner (Recorder)

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

1. Minutes of the April 28, 2026 Council meeting (already in binder)
2. Words Matter article
3. Financial update as of April 30, 2026 - Summary
4. Financial update as of April 30, 2026 – in numbers

