

## **April 22, 2026**

MINUTES OF CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS, AT ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH, VIRDEN, MB, HELD IN THE UPPER HALL, ON WENESDAY, APRIL TWENTY – SECOND OF THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY- SIX AT SEVEN P.M.

**PRESENT:**

Diane Janzen	Fran Bayliss	Teresa Makarchuk
Carol Polk	Jan Waller	Helen McCormick
Barb Johnston	Tanis Podobni\	LeAnne Langlois
Marilyn Warkentin	Lea McPherson Ross	

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Diane Janzen called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
2. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT:** With gratitude we are gathered on the land of the Dakota, the Ojibway the Cree, the Ogi-Cree and the homeland of the Métis nation, that we graciously share, in part, thanks to treaty 2.
3. **DEVOTIONAL:** Carol Polk gave the devotional and opening prayer on behalf of the Ministry & Personnel Committee.
4. **AGENDA:** Added to the agenda for tonight's meeting to New Business: New Church Website.

**MOTION:** Jan Waller/Lea McPherson Ross that the agenda for tonight's meeting be accepted as amended and submitted.

CARRIED.

5. **MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** Fran Bayliss/Barb Johnston that the minutes of February 25, 2026 be accepted as submitted.

CARRIED.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Emails received from the Clear Lake Chamber Festival Committee and RFNOW.

7. **Old BUSINESS:**

a). Liquor Licensing & Facility Requirements for Church Halls:

Diane and I met with the liquor inspector regarding the requirements for obtaining liquor licensing approval for the banquet hall, lower hall and upper hall. Based on discussions with him, it is anticipated that most events will operate as a non-sale permit which are typically used for private functions.

Overall, the process to enable liquor use within the halls is straightforward. The use of permits, flexible serving rules for private events, and minimal obligations make this a practical option for renters. With proper documentation, insurance requirements, and health approvals in place, the halls can be positioned as an optional venue for a variety of events and to provide an additional source of revenue for the church.

-NO additional cost involved for the church to apply for licensing.

-NO Formal security is required under expectations

-NO formal certification is required, for private events, family and friends are permitted to serve alcohol in these cases.

-All third-party rental agreements now require liability insurance, so nothing changes.

-To proceed with licensing, the building must first be registered as a Banquet Hall/Concession, so we need to fill out the application with the health inspector.

**MOTION:** Helen McCormick/Barb Johnston that the Council approve to proceed with the application process to register the halls as a Banquet Hall/Concession, and if licensing is

approved, that the rental agreements be updated to reflect any necessary changes.

CARRIED.

b). Bank Signing Officers: See Finance Committee Report

#### 8. NEW BUSINESS:

a). Clear Lake Chamber Festival Committee: Jackie Olver from the Clear Lake Chamber Festival Committee sent an email looking for a complimentary church venue to host a performance featuring world class musicians in the summer of 2026.

After much discussion council agreed that seeing as how our local choir and theatre groups pay a rental fee to use our facility it is only fair that this group would have to pay as well. They are more than welcome to rent the church for the current rental fee.

LeAnne will send a response email with the Council's decision.

b). RFNOW Internet & Telephone Proposal: Representatives from the local company RNOW have been into the church to promote their internet and telephone services. The Office Administrator asked them to make up a proposal to take to the council meeting. There would be approximately a \$10 savings difference between what they are offering and what we are paying now with Westman Communications Group. But there is a \$225.00 +Taxes hook up fee that may or may not be waived seeing how close we are to the source.

Much discussion was had by council comparing the pros and cons of switching providers and in the end the decision was made to stay with Westman Communications Group at this time.

c). Fundraising: Jan Waller spoke on a Fundraising event that is planned for the beginning of June. It is an online auction for items of time, talent and treasures. A goal of 100 items is hoped to be collected from congregation members and friends of the congregation an auction page will be set up through Facebook for people to bid. We are always looking for new fundraising ideas and a couple of churches and other groups in the area have recently done something like this and thought it might be fun to try.

d). New Church Website: Our new website is now up and running. Currently it is a FREE site, also runs ADS throughout the pages. We can only add 100 subscribers, anyone can subscribe to the website but we cannot add their emails if requested. Subscribers receive the blog by email, currently Tanis and LeAnne are posting weekly.

The purpose of a paid site is it would be "AD FREE" and we could add more subscribers if requested.

**MOTION:** Helen McCormick/Lea McPerson Ross that the Council approve purchasing the 3-year plan approximately \$100 at 70% discount, including an additional cost of \$15 for year 2 & 3 for the domain registration of **unitedchurchvirten.ca**.

CARRIED.

#### 8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a). Property Committee: Diane Janzen

Ken Bouchie was to come and look at repairing the front flower bed. Haven't heard anything back from him so not sure if he has been here or not.

A couple of drain pipes at the back of the church got damaged over the winter and are in need of repair. Diane has contacted Don Purvis and he is to come and have a look at them.

There are some bricks along the back wall of the church that starting to crumble are in need of some mortar repair before it becomes a big problem.

b). Finance Committee: Helen McCormick

The Finance Committee met on April 21 to review and accept the financial reports for the period ending March 31, including the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statement. March and April bills were discussed and approved for payment. A float was also approved in preparation for the upcoming May 15 barbeque.

The signing officers have been successfully updated with the Credit Union. May has been designated as PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) month, and additional information will be shared on the church website.

LeAnne is currently asked to review the elevator maintenance contract to confirm service details. The new church website is now live and available for members to explore. In addition, online giving through Canada Helps is fully set up, allowing donations to be made electronically with funds deposited directly into the church account on a weekly basis.

c). Ministry & Personnel Committee: Carol Polk

Our committee recently met with Tanis and LeAnne.

LeAnne will be on holidays from July 1 – August 4, 2026. She has also requested time off to attend the UCC Office Administrator's Conference October 5-9, 2026 in Saskatoon.

Tanis will be away from May 28 – June 12, 2026. May 28-31 she will be attending the Prairie to Pine Regional Annual Meeting in Selkirk and June 1- 16 will be on holidays. She will also be taking study leave August 12-15 for a youth conference in St. Catherines, Ontario.

Dave our caretaker has agreed to take on caretaking for funerals.

Barry Stuart is carrying with the yard work for the summer.

d). Membership and Pastoral Care: Teresa Makarchuk

Our committee met on March 17, with four members present.

At our December meeting a motion was made - Moved by Arlien Fridd and seconded by Chris Dunning that Joyce Cawston member #63 and Jack Forsyth member #668 be removed from the membership roll due to death.

From the March meeting a motion was made: Moved by Arlien Fridd and seconded by Chris Dunning that Doug Gatey member #182, Kathi Gatey member #786 and Laura Gatey member #1031 be removed from the membership roll by own request.

Diane Janzen has volunteered to be council chairperson. We are still looking for a Chair elect.

e). Outreach Committee: Barb Johnston

No report at this time.

We continue to go to Goulter School.

We were thinking about having a spring tea but with all the activities planned for spring we might wait till fall and have a speaker come out and talk about Truth and Reconciliation and have refreshments then.

The M&S for March was \$835.50 for year-to-date total of \$2,434.90.

f). Worship Committee: Marilyn Warkentin

What are the thoughts of church for July and August? Council proposed that we close for the month of July and we could possibly open earlier in August depending on Tanis' holiday plans. Tanis will have holiday dates for the next meeting.

We are looking for pulpit supply for May 10, 31 and June 7<sup>th</sup>.

Minister's Report:

Wallace Annual Service July 5, 2026. Faith and Feast begins tomorrow, April 23<sup>rd</sup> – a spill over from our Lenten book study. Bring a bag lunch. A couple of committal services coming up from funerals that were held earlier.

A request for baptism for Adelynn Baker daughter of Rayna and Mathew Baker. The baptism will take place on May 3, 2026. Council approves of this baptism.

How does church council feel about private baptism? A baptism that would perhaps take place on day other than a Sunday morning with the appropriate Community of Faith representatives present. Council was in favour of private baptism. It was felt that this is something that has happened in the past.

**MOTION:** Lea McPherson Ross/Marilyn Warkentin to accept all reports as submitted.

CARRIED.

8. OTHER BUSINESS:

a). Baptist Church Gathering Update: Diane, Helen and Kel attended the community meeting at the Baptist Church. There were about 25 people in attendance. There was some interest in the building being used as a community centre but there was not a clear plan or idea on who would support what financially. It is unfortunate that the building is sitting there not being used.

**MOTION:** Teresa Makarchuk/Helen McCormick that we extend the meeting past 9:00pm.

CARRIED.

This meeting got us thinking that St. Paul's needs to come up with a plan. Where do we see ourselves in 5 years? Perhaps set up a visionary team to take a strong look at ourselves and gather ideas and thoughts. How do we make use of our space? How do we generate more income from our space? Perhaps a letter could be sent to a not-for-profit group in town and see if they would be interested in renting some of our space for their various activities? Lea McPeherson Ross volunteered to compile a letter.

b). Are we interested in spraying the outside of the building for maple bugs? the infestation seems to get worse every year. LeAnne will look into the cost.

c). The Spring Barbeque is on May 15<sup>th</sup> rain or shine.

9. CLOSING PRAYER: The meeting was closed in prayer by Tanis Podobni.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20PM.

Next council meeting is Wednesday, May 27, 2026.

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Chairperson

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Secretary