

b). Planned Gift Committee: The Planned Gift Committee met on January 12, 2026 to go over any applications that were submitted for funding and any other business needing attending to. We had three new people join our committee. Denise Biccum as Trustee rep and is now the new committee secretary, Christine Cross as a congregational member at large and is now the C.E. rep, Joan Brown as a congregational member at large. Diane Janzen is now the new chairperson for the committee. This was unfortunately Dave Reid's last meeting with us. He had let the committee know in November that he would be stepping down. We would like to say thank you to Dave for all of his years of service. He has been on the committee since the start in 2008 and has been a huge benefit to the committee.

The following allocations were presented at the meeting.

Motion: made by Christine Cross and seconded by Dave Reid that \$1,000.00 be given to the St. Paul's Helping Hands to purchase 10 plastic folding tables to replace some of the old heavy wooden tables that have become too much for people to maneuver around.

Motion: made by Christine Cross and seconded by Diane Janzen that \$1,000.00 be given to the Stewardship Committee to go towards their 2026 Mission and Service goal of \$12,000.00.

Motion: made by Joan Brown and seconded by Denise Biccum that we give \$1,800.00 to the Property Committee for the purpose of painting the banquet hall.

Motion: Made by Dave Reid and seconded by Joan Brown that we give \$1,815.76 to the Property committee for the purpose of installing 2 20A 125 V split receptacles in the banquet hall. This is for being able to plug in and perk two coffee urns at the same time.

Motion: made by Christine Cross and seconded by Diane Janzen that we give \$100.00 to the Outreach Committee for the [purpose of buying Christmas stockings for the Westman Women's Shelter at Christmas time.

Motion: made by Denise Biccum and seconded by Diane Janzen that the interest of \$889.98 from the Myrtle Lane Bequest, be allocated to the Christian Education of St. Paul's for projects for children and youth.

The monies available to spend is \$8,275.28, allocation requests were \$5,715.76, leaving \$2,559.52 to be added to the funds for 2027.

MOTION: Diane Janzen/Helen McCormick that we accept the motions brought forward by the Planned Gift Committee for the 2026 allocations of funds.

CARRIED.

c). 2026 Proposed Budget: The Finance Committee presented the proposed budget for 2026. Questions were asked and answered.

MOTION: Helen McCormick/Diane Jazen that the 2026 proposed budget be accepted as presented.

CARRIED.

d). Annual Meeting Date:

MOTION: Marilyn Warkentin/Laura Maxwell that St. Paul's Annual Meeting be held on Sunday, March 15, 2026 following worship.

CARRIED.

We will have a potluck lunch after worship with the meeting to follow.

Do we still want Muffin Morning? Yes, shouldn't be an issue to have coffee and muffins before worship.

e). Things That Need Follow Up:

- Updated Membership List
- A draft of a picture book has been made up from all of the pictures that were taken during all of the anniversary celebration held in 2025. Do we want to print a copy or two to have here at the church? Yes, council thought it would be a great keepsake to have around. It was also mentioned that, if possible, it might be a great idea to have a slide show at the annual meeting.
- St. Paul's Structure Booklet is getting closer to being completed.

f). Request to Donate Funds to the Food Cupboard: Tanis submitted a letter to the council asking if they would be in favour of donating a portion of or all the rental money (\$300.00) that was received from the Theatrix Players for the use of our space for the Christmas Play to the Food Cupboard in their name. The group was very appreciative of the use of the space and it was wonderful to have so many folks in our building. For some this may have been the first time back since the funeral of a loved one, one can never guess or imagine the ripple effect that we have on folks.

This request is not coming from them; they do not know that I am even sending this letter. Supporting the community is the one thing that St. Paul's does on many levels and this would be another way of showing our support.

MOTION: Diane Janzen/Barb Johnston to discuss the request to donate to the food cupboard as per the request of the letter given to Council from Tanis.

Council held discussion on this request with lots of back and forth of being for the donation and also giving reasons on being hesitant as not wanting to perhaps set a precedent for future rentals.

MOTION: Helen McCormick/Carol Polk that we do not donate the rental money to the food cupboard.

CARRIED.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a). Property Committee: Diane Janzen

LRB fixed the light over the stained-glass window above the choir loft. The socket had rusted out. The electrician had to reconstruct the socket.

Murray's Fire Extinguishers from Brandon was out and checked the fire extinguishers. All are good.

Marc Talbot picked up and replaced several broken light ballast covers from LRB.

The Property Committee decided not to purchase paper products such as paper towels, toilet paper, hand sanitizer, etc. from a salesperson but rather shop local and have the caretaker pick up the products when necessary.

A local family graciously donated a nativity scene to St. Paul's United Church which we are grateful. Who is responsible to remove the nativity scene and store it? Is it the Property Committee? Where would the nativity scene be stored?

Unfortunately, the nativity scene did not get lit up for Christmas due to the never-ending snow at the time of its arrival. Hopefully next year.

A quote was placed with Planned Gift Committee to paint the banquet hall and to add wiring for help with plugging in the coffee urns.

b). Finance Committee: Helen McCormick

We had a couple of meetings. On December 22, 2025, the Finance Committee met and began the usual routine business, funds from recent activities were consolidated: \$1,767.25 from the Christmas Bake

Sale & Tea and \$491.47 from Christian Education (Pl. 24) were transferred to the General Account. Included in the Christian Education yearly total was the Sunday School honorariums and the reimbursement for Ella and Mia’s registration fees to the ALF Retreat.

Among other key decisions made, the committee voted to close the Fundraising Chequing Account, transferring the remaining balance into the General Account. So, going forward, all fundraising transactions will be processed through the General Account, simplifying the bookkeeping.

Our January meeting began, with a review of January bills and other financial statements. Discussions touched on potential rent fee increases, which were confirmed to be under review by another group. Part of our plan, Tanis will send out personalized thank-you cards to all 2025 donors, and the 2026 budget was thoroughly reviewed and finalized.

A couple of motions were passed – Term deposit #21 was renewed into a 5-year Step Saver at 4%, and the committee voted to present the 2026 balanced budget to Council for approval.

In other business we have a notice of motion:

So-notice is hereby given that at the next regular meeting, February 25, 2026, of the Church Council, the following motion will be brought forward:

Motion: That Committee Sunday Duties include to serve as envelope stewards and be responsible for counting the Sunday offering in pairs, completing the required donation tally sheets, and preparing and completing the deposit of Sunday collections, in accordance with established financial controls and procedures.

Further, that donors who are uncomfortable with confidentiality related to envelope handling be advised of the option to give through Pre-Authorized Remittance (P.A.R.) as an alternative method of donation or to only put their number on the envelope, with no name.

Rationale: This motion supports strong financial stewardship, accountability, and transparency, while also respecting donor comfort and confidentiality by offering a secure, consistent alternative for giving.

Committees are asked to please discuss at your next meetings and we will be discussing the notice of motion at the February Council meeting.

c). Ministry & Personnel Committee: Carol Polk

We have hired Dave Arsenault as our new caretaker. He began work on January 5, 2026.

We had one application for the job, but felt very confident in Dave’s references from previous employers and the M&P Committee had a good vibe from him when they interviewed him.

Our committee is planning to touch base with Tanis and LeAnne in the spring time.

d). Stewardship Committee: Laura Maxwell

M&S contributions for December was \$2,167.74 (which included the change bags) for a year-to-date total of \$13,128.24.

Our November Change for Change campaign was a big success I believe. We made \$700.04 for M&S so congratulations to all who contributed. I know my purse was quite a bit lighter and my shoulder is very thankful about that.

The breakdown for the year looks like this:

Congregational Contributions	\$10,989.70 (includes candlelight service of \$482.20)
Planned Gift Allocation	\$1,000.00
Celebration Jar	\$438.50
Change for Change Campaign	<u>\$700.04</u>
	\$13,128.24

Our M&S goal for 2025 was set at \$14,000.00 as we are a little short of our goal by \$871.76.

Our committee had made a motion to be hopefully passed at the annual meeting to reduce our M&S goal to \$12,000.00 for 2026. We think that it might be a more realistic goal for our congregation in the future.

Our committee looked after opening and closing the church for the month of December.

e). Membership and Pastoral Care: Maxine Chacun

We met on December 9th and signed approximately 35 Christmas cards which we delivered to Kin Place, Westman, Sherwood, Princess Lodge and Bolton Place.

Motion was made by Arlin Fridd and seconded by Chris Dunning that member #63 Joyce Cawston and member #668 Jack Forsyth be removed from the membership roll due to death.

Motion was made by Arlien Fridd and seconded by Maxine Chacun that

#825 – Elaine (Dillion) Black

#966 – Natalie Griffith

#653 – Brenda Griffith

#652 – Howard Griffith

#622 – Debra Lawrence

#1012 – Sarah (Cochrane) Reimer

Be removed from the non-resident membership list by “own request”.

f). Outreach Committee: Barb Johnston

Barb delivered stockings and \$100.00 cheque to the Westman Women’s Shelter.

Outreach Committee hosted the Christmas Tea.

Worked at Goulter School Breakfast program

In lieu of the Valentine tea we plan on hosting a casserole luncheon in April after a church service. The money donated will go towards our Stephen Lewis fund.

g). Worship Committee: Marilyn Warkentin

Our shared services with the Anglican church at the Westman and Sherwood Homes are May 3rd and October 4th.

Thank you to Brian Mytopher who fixed the closet door in the choir room. It had come off the track.

Is there any interest in having a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper this year? If not our people are more than welcome to attend the supper at Oak Lake on February 17th at the Oak Lake Legion Hall from 5-7pm.

We will be having communion on February 15th. Going to try something a little different with people lining up. People seem to not know which way to turn to get back to their seat after they have received their blessings. This occurs when we have two stations. We will try having one station and have people move from one side of the church to the other and go around to their seats. Those who can’t come up will be served in their seat.

Ella is now doing Sunday school on the 1st and 3rd Sundays.

Minister’s Report:

My observations this past several weeks is that the weather and world events are playing havoc with people’s emotions. Some people seem to be on the brink of a break down, so we must do our best to support everyone who crosses our paths as we never know what someone is dealing with in the moment.

December was a busy month here at St. Paul’s. We had one funeral, the Community Play, The Candlelight Carol Service, the Longest Night Service and Christmas Eve Service along with the regular Sunday worship services.

Now at this time we all are preparing annual reports and getting ready for the annual meeting.
I am hoping to have a Lenten Study during the Season of Lent.

MOTION: Diane Janzen/Helen McCormick to accept all reports as submitted.

CARRIED.

8. **OTHER BUSINESS**:

- a). Diane and Gwenda will look after the Annual meeting potluck lunch
- b). Gwenda and Glenn will look after taking down and putting away the nativity scene when the snow melts a little more.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:27pm

Next council meeting is Wednesday, February 25, 2025

Chairperson

Secretary