

## **November 26, 2025**

MINUTES OF CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS, AT ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH, VIRDEN, MB, HELD IN THE UPPER HALL, ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER TWENTY – SIXTH OF THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY- FIVE AT TWELVE – FIFTEEN P.M.

**PRESENT:**

Diane Janzen	Maxine Chacun	Helen McCormick
LeAnne Langlois	Gwenda Haywad	Lyn Fefchak
Laura Maxwell	Kay Kristjanson	Marilyn Warkentin
Carol Polk	Fran Byliss	Lea McPherson - Ross
Tanis Podobni		

NOTE: Today's meeting time was changed to 12:15pm at the request of the Minister.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Gwenda Hayward called the meeting to order at 12:18pm.
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:** Lyn Fefchak gave the devotional and opening prayer on behalf of the Outreach Committee.
4. **AGENDA:** The time of the meeting should have been changed on the agenda to 12:15pm.

**MOTION:** Marilyn Warkentin/Laura Maxwell that the agenda for tonight's meeting be accepted as amended and submitted.

CARRIED.

5. **MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** Maxine Chacun/Laura Maxwell that the minutes of October 23, 2025 be accepted as submitted.

CARRIED.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE:** An email from the United Church of Canada regarding assessment increases.  
At the General Council 45 meeting in August, a resolution was passed to increase the Denominational Assessment from 4.5% to 5% for 2026 and in 2027 a further increase from 5% to 5.5%.

7. **NEW/OLD BUSINESS:**

- a). 2026 Salaries: Tanis and LeAnne were asked to leave the room while M&P reported on salaries.

Lea McPherson-Ross read the motions made by the committee:

Motion made by Carol Polk and seconded by Lea McPherson-Ross:

Tanis Podobni, as per minimum salary requirements set by United Church, Tanis' salary will increase by 2.6%. Tanis is COL Group 4 A1-2 Designated Lay Minister.

50% of \$68,077.00 = \$34,038.50 per year.

Continuing Education: 50% of \$1,733.00 = \$866.50 per year.

Phone/Internet: \$60.00 per month

Travel: \$.60km as per United Church Guidelines

Monthly taxable travel allowance paid only by St. Paul's \$100.00 per month.

Office Administrator:

Motion made by Lea McPherson-Ross and seconded by Donna George:

Current salary of \$19.46 hour, 2.6% increase = \$.50/hour to \$1996 which we rounded to \$20.00 an hour.

Continuing Education: \$700.00 per year.

Caretaker:

Motion made by Donna George and seconded by Carol Polk  
Current salary \$10,358.00 annually. A 2.6% increase is \$270 for an annual salary of \$10,628.00.

Pianists remain at \$75.00 per Sunday or special occasion

Sunday School remains at \$50.00 per Sunday

Snow removal at \$20.00 per hour

Lawn Care at \$25.00 per hour

**MOTION:** Lea McPherson-Ross/Helen McCormick that we accept the salaries for 2026 as presented.

CARRIED.

b). Treasurer of Council Position: With Gwenda Hayward being Chair of the Council she can be no longer be the Treasurer of Council. More discussion was held during the Finance Committee report.

c). Christmas Holiday Closure:

**MOTION:** Fran Bayliss/Lea McPherson – Ross that St. Paul’s be closed from December 25, 2025 – January 2, 2026.

CARRIED.

There will not be a church service on December 28<sup>th</sup> and will resume on January 4<sup>th</sup>.

## 8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a). Property Committee: Fran Bayliss

Brian Blackshaw has come and installed a winter cover over the air conditioner.

Grab bars have been installed in all of the bathrooms.

Four Seasons Mechanical has been here and serviced the boiler. Everything seems fine they said.

However, the relay valve may need to be replaced in the near future.

b). Finance Committee: Helen McCormick

The Finance Committee met on November 20, 2025 with all members present.

The agenda and minutes from the October 20, 2025 meeting were approved. Financial reports, including the October 2025 bills, the Balance Sheet as of October 31, 2025, and the Profit & Loss Statement as of October 31, 2025, were reviewed and accepted.

The Committee discussed ongoing research into the potential transition to QuickBooks online, with no decision made at this time.

A significant portion of the meeting focused on cash counting and cheque – signing responsibilities. The committee identified the need for an envelope steward to assist with Monday morning offering counts and discussed having signing authorities assist if necessary. Proposed signing authorities include the Council Chair, Finance Committee Chair, one member of the Finance Committee, and the office Administrator. It was emphasized that all cheques must be fully prepared before being signed.

Due to Gwenda Hayward’s position as Chair of Council, she can no longer serve as Council Treasurer. The Committee discussed whether the Chair of Finance should assume the role of Council Treasurer. This matter remains to be resolved.

**MOTION:** Diane Janzen/Fran Bayliss that the Chairperson of the Finance Committee take over the role of Treasurer of Council. At this time that is Helen McCormick.

## CARRIED.

c). Ministry & Personnel Committee: Lea McPherson - Ross

The Caretakers Alicia and Marc Talbot have handed in their resignation effective December 31, 2025. We are very sorry to see them go.

Our committee got together to go over the caretaker job description and hope to get the job posting out very soon.

LeAnne will be on holidays from December 24, 2025 – January 2, 2026.

d). Stewardship Committee: Laura Maxwell

M&S for October was \$1,495.50 for a year-to-date total of \$10,025.00.

November Newsletter is done for another year. Thanks to everyone who submitted articles & pictures. Huge thanks to LeAnne and Tanis for all their help in getting the newsletter to look as good as it did. Tanis manages to finesse the words in and around the pictures (which I struggle with) much better than I can. LeAnne also got the newsletter out via email in quick order. I understand even the coffee ladies helped with the ones that didn't get emailed by folding and stuffing the newsletter into envelopes. It is very all much appreciated. It takes a village to get our newsletter out and I thank everyone who helped in any way.

This Sunday is the last Sunday for our November Change for Change campaign. Hopefully I will have a report next month on the results.

e). Membership and Pastoral Care: Maxine Chacun

We got together and made soup to give out.

Doing Christmas Cards again this year to give out to our people in the resident homes.

f). Outreach Committee: Lyn Fefchak

We have been going once a month and making scrambled eggs and toast/jam for the breakfast program at Goulter School.

Our committee looked after opening, closing, some ushering and zoom in October.

We thank you all for the items donated to the John Howard Society...much appreciated. A spokesperson from there will come speak to St. Paul's when it works for Tanis. The Stephen Lewis Foundation also wishes to send a speaker to us at some point.

Now we are collecting Christmas Stockings and PJs for the shelter in Brandon. We usually send in 70 stockings each year.

The Tuesday afternoon group is gathering and some are knitting shawls, some are knitting their own project and some are sorting photos or making cards.

Outreach is serving the refreshments at the bake sale.

We plan to meet every second month.

g). Worship Committee: Kay Kristjanson

The big question was do we have zoom Sundays in January? Do People want to come to the church or zoom from home? The congregation was asked to vote by ballot. We will give the people till December 14<sup>th</sup> to vote.

The worship committee thought that instead of having two zooms back-to-back that Marilyn Warkentin would take on the service for November 30<sup>th</sup> and we would do the hanging of the greens.

Upcoming Christmas Services:

- December 7<sup>th</sup> Services at the PCHs with St. Mary’s.
- December 14<sup>th</sup> Zoom Service in the am and Candlelight service at 7pm.
- December 21<sup>st</sup> In person worship in the am and Longest Night service at 7pm.
- December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Services at 4:30pm.
- December 28<sup>th</sup> No Service.

Minister’s Report:

December 7<sup>th</sup> is our turn for services at the PCHs with St. Mary’s Anglican Church.  
 Had one graveside service at the Virden cemetery.  
 For the month of December, we will have a combination of regular and Christmas Services.

**MOTION:** Fran Bayliss/Laura Maxwell to accept all reports as submitted.

CARRIED.

8. OTHER BUSINESS:

- a). December Muffin Morning: Let’s not worry about having one in December and start fresh in January.
- b). We are on structure document #3 and pretty much have it completed.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 1:20pm.

Next council meeting is Wednesday, January 28, 2026.

---

Chairperson

---

Secretary