

September 23, 2026

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

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Kay Kristjanson	Maxine Chacun	Helen McCormick
	Denise Biccum	Nancy Gertz	Barb Johnston
	Tanis Podobni	Diane Janzen	Jan Waller
	LeAnne Langlois	Fran Bayliss	Laura Maxwell
	Carol Polk	Lyn Fefchak	Judy Cooper
	Diane Campbell		

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Diane Janzen called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.
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:** Helen McCormick gave the devotional and opening prayer on behalf of the Finance Committee.
4. **AGENDA:**
MOTION: Barb Johnston/Kay Kristjanson that the agenda for tonight's meeting be accepted as submitted

CARRIED.

5. **MINUTES:**

MOTION: Laura Maxwell/Carol Polk that the minutes of August 26, 2026 be accepted as submitted.

CARRIED.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE:** None at this time.

7. **Old BUSINESS:**

a). Liquor Licensing Update: Have finally gotten the fire inspection report from Cory Nixon and it has been sent on to the liquor inspector. There are a few fire code upgrades that need to be done and Fran will talk about that in the property report.

8. **NEW BUSINESS:**

a). Carpet in the Nursery: With all the rain that we have been having, unfortunately we did get some water in both the banquet hall and the nursery. The banquet hall carpet dried up pretty quickly however the nursery carpet has not faired so well. It is a thicker carpet and has been wet before and is starting to smell musty. We managed to dry it out for the most part with fans but the smell is still there. It has been suggested that since that room is being used mostly for storage maybe we just take the carpet out of there and just have the cement floor. Our caretaker Dave said that him and his grandson Matthew would do the work of cleaning out the room and removing the carpet for \$200.00

MOTION: Carol Polk/Jan Waller that we pay Dave Arsenault and his grandson \$200.00 to remove the carpet in the nursery as this job is over and above his regular work load.

CARRIED.

b). Updating Exit Doors, Emergency Exit Signs and Lights: In the fire inspection report that was just done by the Fire Chief Cory Nixon we were informed that we need to do some fire code updating.

Firstly, we were told that we need to upgrade our exit signs. we need to install all lighted signs (with the green man) and emergency lighting. We have had LRB Electric come and assess what we need to upgrade and give us a quote. The quote came back at \$4,864.72 + taxes. This is a safety issue and is something that we need to do. The Fire Chief will be back to make sure the work has been done.

MOTION: Maxine Chacun/Nancy Gertz that we do the emergency exits and lighting as per the fire inspection report and recommendation at the cost of \$4,864.72 + taxes as quoted by LRB Electrical.

CARRIED.

All outside doors have panic hardware but there is a metal strip up the middle that makes it hard to open both doors easily if there were to be an emergency. They can be modified to be brought up to code. The double doors at the back of the banquet hall need to be taken down sanded and remodified to make them fit better for easy access. Brian Blackshaw from Home Hardware submitted an estimate for labour and supplies of \$1,239.40 + taxes.

MOTION: Laura Maxwell/Jan Waller that we update the exit doors and accept the quote from Brian Blackshaw for \$1,239.40 + taxes.

CARRIED.

c). Fundraising Event: An Evening of Wine, Cheese and Stories – Chatter in the Church Overview
Plans are under way for a fundraising evening on Friday, November 6, 2026 at 7:00pm at St. Paul's United Church. the event will combine wine, cheese, charcuterie, fellowship, and storytelling in a relaxed and informal setting. Ticket price is \$50.00 and \$25.00 of that can be given as a tax receipt.

The evening will feature stories about Edward Scales, Dr. Oscar Ross, Eldon Robinson, Myrtle Lane, Mable Cheavins, and Sylvis Armstrong, highlighting their connection to St. Paul's and their contributions to our community.

Rather than a formal history presentation, the stories will be shared in an engaging and entertaining style, bringing these individuals and their connections to life. The evening will provide and opportunity to learn, reminisce, and discover more about the people who helped shape St. Paul's and pour community.

The event will also provide an opportunity to welcome members of the wider community into St. Paul's, including those who may not regularly attend, while raising funds for the church.

Overall goal is to create a warm, casual, and enjoyable evening of food, fellowship, and stories, while celebrating and preserving an important part of St. Paul's history.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a). Property Committee: Fran Bayliss

- Shingles...7 shingles were missing on the side of the church with asphalt shingles. ACS Roofing replaced the shingles. The tar paper was faded indicating the shingles had been missing for some time. Andrew said the shingles have a good 7 years of life left.
- Relentless rain... one downspout on the East side of the building seems to be plugged as well as 2 downspouts on the west side of the church. No rain coming out. Rain gushing out of the 1 downspout on the west side. Water drained into the Banquet Room. Dave used a shop vac to suck up the water and used a fan to dry the carpet. Also, the drain pipe in front of the church was plugged so water drained into the nursery soaking the carpet. Helen, LeAnne, Dave, Matthew

and I moved the clothing racks so the fan could dry the carpet. The racks are now in the Lower Hall.

Suggestion: Pay Matthew \$200.00 to remove the carpet and baseboards.

- Suggestion as to how to leave the floor in the Nursery?
- Suggestion as to how to prevent future water draining into the Banquet Room....
Do some landscaping.....Extensions on the drain pipes?
- Eaves need cleaning out....suggestion?
- Met with Brian Blackshaw to discuss the installation of panic hardware on the exit doors.
- Met with Brian Blackshaw, Cory Nixon (Fire Inspector) and Helen to hear a clear message as to what doors need the panic hardware. Basement doors need to be sanded to move more easily.
Cost: \$1,239.40 plus taxes.
- The lock on the door in the Upper Hall is to be removed.
- Keep the latches on the sanctuary doors, doors to the “funeral doors” and the doors in the banquet room open when the rooms are in use.
- No Parking stands need to be removed from the area of the “Funeral doors”
- Met with Lance from LRB and Diane to discuss the changing of all exit lighting signs. Cost: \$4,864.72 plus taxes.
- Discussed the cleaning of the sanctuary ceiling fans with Lance from LRB. Showed Lance where the entrance to the attic is to get into lower the fans. Lance and his men will clean the fans and pull them back up and secure them.
- LRB will put in LED lights in Tanis’ Office.
- A light cover in Tanis’ office fell and broke.
- A light cover in the Banquet Room fell off and broke. Need new cover
- Dave will attempt to fix the light fixture cover in the kitchen that was disconnected.

A discussion with LRB and Diane to change the lighting in the Lower Hall to LED lighting

b). Finance Committee: Helen McCormick

Thursday, Sept 17, 2026, 11:00am St. Paul’s United Church Virden, Manitoba.

Meeting called to order at 11:12 am.

Present: Helen McCormick, Jan Waller, Lorne Andrews, LeAnne Langlois (Office Admin), Regrets:

Marlene Heaman, Tanis Podobni (Minister)

Motion: Lorne Andrews/Jan Waller to accept the meeting agenda as presented. CARRIED

Motion: Helen McCormick/Lorne Andrews to accept minutes of August 20th, 2026, as presented.
CARRIED.

LeAnne presented the September bills for review, cheques for signing and had no questions. She stated the Co-op Discount is still under review. Last charge showed no discount received.

Investments – LeAnne called the Credit Union to confirm

#17 – not a Term Deposit – is High Interest Savings Account

#39 – Term Deposit – attached to line of credit

There are NO special interest rates for large deposits. Current offer (no due date?) – 3.9% for 26 mos.

LeAnne left the meeting.

Motion: Jan Waller/Lorne Andrews to pay the list of September 2026 bills as presented. CARRIED.

Motion: Lorne Andrews/Helen McCormick to accept the Balance Sheet as of August 31, 2026, as presented. CARRIED.

Motion: Helen McCormick/Jan Waller to accept the Profit & Loss Statement as of August 31, 2026, as presented. CARRIED.

DISCUSSION: Review of GIC due to renew October 21st, 2026 - GIC # 39 General - \$5000.

Motion: Lorne Andrews/Helen McCormick to discuss the renewal of GIC # 39 General - \$5000 on October 15th meeting. CARRIED.

OLD BUSINESS:

Co-op Membership –LeAnne stated the Co-op Discount is still under review. Last charge showed no discount received.

NEW BUSINESS:

ACC Rental

Fire Inspection – Home Hardware / Brian Blackshaw quote

DISCUSSION: Reviewed the quote from Home Hardware / Brian Blackshaw. We discussed the benefits of ACC renting the lower hall. More discussion to follow once we receive confirmation from Erica Darvill, Economic Development Manager or Nolan Trembath, ACC Director, Facilities.

c). Ministry & Personnel Committee: Carol Polk

Our committee did not have a meeting in September. We need to meet with the M&P Committee from Oak Lake and Griswold. We are to meet once a year as per our agreement.

Will Check with Barry Stuart about snow removal for the winter.

d). Membership and Pastoral Care: Maxine Chacun

Our committee met on September 21, 2026.

Motion was made by Arlien Fridd and seconded by Chris Dunning to remove the following from St. Paul's Membership roll due to death:

#432 Charmaine Rainey

#813 Gerry Gatey

#208 Mavis Stephenson

#45 June Blair

CARRIED.

4 sympathy and 5 grad cards have been delivered or mailed since our May meeting.

We open/close and will usher for the month of October.

Several chicken casseroles and soup have been delivered to members who have been hospitalized or deceased members spouse. Thank you for the leftover beef barley soup that was given to our committee.

e). Outreach Committee: Barb Johnston

- Our committee met on September 18, 2026.
- M&S for July was \$795.50 and August was \$740.50 for a YTD of \$6,277.50.
- Outreach is going to apply to Planned Gift for \$1000 for M&S and \$200 for Christmas stockings.
- M&S Change for Change campaign ends on October 4, 2026.
- Stephen Lewis Fund currently has \$206.00. We donate \$309 annually to the Stephen Lewis fund so fundraising is required.

- We will do a pajama and Christmas stocking callout on November 15, 2026.
 - A casserole luncheon fundraiser for Outreach is set for Friday, November 13th from 11:30 to 1:30. (casserole, bun, drink and dessert for \$15). We will be asking for help with casseroles, desserts and workers. (Church is already booked will have to pick another date).
- Stephen Lewis Valentine Day tea is set for February 12, 2027.
- We are trying to line up the following organizations to speak at the church.
 - Women's Shelter
 - John Howard Society
 - Truth & Reconciliation. May have to partner with schools or request funds from Planned Gift as the cost is \$300 per hour plus travel.
- We will continue to work at the Goulter breakfast program.

• f). Worship Committee: Kay Kristjanson

The worship committee met on September 1, 2026.

It was noted that Marilyn Warkentin and Anna Maitland have resigned from the committee with Judy Mytopher stepping back for some time. It was decided to send cards to them thanking them for their years of help on the committee.

The next communion will be Sunday, October 4th. It was recommended not to have it the same day as muffin morning. The Elements will be served in the pews. Committee members are reminded to submit the receipts for bread, juice purchased. Tanis will ask Judy C if she would host with the rest of the current committee assisting.

St. Paul's is doing the services at the homes on October 4th. 2:00pm at the Westman, and 3:00pm at the Sherwood. It is hoped members of the congregation will attend as well.

Tanis reported the SALT Shakers held a wind-up June 17th, with a pizza party, reverse scavenger hunt where they went out and handed out "little Jesus's". There was also a busy, successful Vacation Bible School with about 12 attending.

In previous minutes there was mention of the committee applying for Planned Giving Funds possibly for new banners. Other ideas were to possibly get some of the new hymn books. "Then Let Us Sing" at \$32.95 or \$28.01 for 50. Tanis will bring her copy to next meeting. We are to think about other possible ideas to bring up at next meeting.

Tanis also reported that the Theatrics group will be putting on "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever in Virden" Saturday, November 28 and Sunday, November 29th matinees at 2:00pm.

Other dates to consider – our Thanksgiving Service may be October 4th with World Communion Sunday or October 18th which is World Food Sunday. The Remembrance Service will likely be November 15th. Council has decided to have a Carols & Candles service on December 6th at 7:00pm. The Longest Night Service is set for December 20th at 7:00pm.

Advent Faith & Food gatherings will be starting Thursday, November 26th at 11:30am running until December 17th.

The committee is gathering to decorate for Thanksgiving October 1st at 1:30pm.

Worship Committee & Council Discussion on Zoom Services: Once again, the discussion for pulpit supply for the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month (zoom Sundays) has been brought up for discussion. And once again, we are reminded that we are a ½ time ministry and the reason we are ½ time is financially we felt we could not sustain full time so therefore if we start paying pulpit supply on a regular basis that adds up too. Zoom was something we thought we should give a try for those Sundays that Tanis is in Oak Lake and Griswold to fill the void at St. Paul's but zoom is not everyone's favorite thing we get that. However, there is not an abundance of people wanting to do pulpit supply anymore

and one person is not going to want to do it on a regular basis and there are regulations on pulpit supply such as on how often and costs and things like that. We know that people like the community of being together on Sunday morning but there are options: you can watch the zoom service at home or everyone is more than welcome to make the trip to Oak Lake and attend their worship service.

We have already had this discussion at the May Council meeting and those minutes read: “St. Paul’s Council needs to make a decision on zoom service Sundays and when to have pulpit supply.

We are technically a ½ time ministry and there is confusion as to when to have pulpit supply and when not too and seems to be causing a bit of an issue. The Sundays that there is pulpit supply at either Virden or Griswold/Oak Lake we do not have the “techy” people to set up for zooming the services out, so one Community of Faith has a service and the other(s) do not and does not seem fair either way. Tanis leads worship at St. Paul’s the 1st and 3rd Sundays and Griswold/Oak Lake on the 2nd and 4th Sundays and rotates the 5th Sundays.

Council agreed that we continue with zoom services as is and if Tanis is not available on the 2nd or 4th Sundays for zoom services at St. Paul’s then there will not be church. In the event of a special service like Easter or Christmas then we will see about getting pulpit supply to cover.”

Minister’s Report:

We have been back to worship for 3 Sundays now. On August 30th we had a Camp Sunday where worship was centered around all things summer camp. This past Sunday we had lots of youth which was amazing.

Since our last council meeting, I have had five funerals here in Virden and surrounding area. Thank you to those who were part of the choir for the Harold Veldhuis funeral. The family was so pleased. 13 people came out to sing.

October 4th the Outreach Committee “Change for Change” campaign ends.

Would it be possible to move October’s council meeting up a week and I am not available on October 28th.

MOTION: Denise Biccum/Judy Cooper that we move October’s church council meeting to Wednesday, October 21, 2026.

CARRIED.

There is a Truth and Reconciliation event on September 30th at 1:00pm at the Residential School Site at Brandon. Premier Wab Kinew is to be in attendance and a new Memorial Carian is to be dedicated at the Turtle Crossing site.

MOTION: Helen McCormick/Jan Waller to accept all reports as submitted.

CARRIED.

8. OTHER BUSINESS:

a). Planned Gift Applications: Reminder that the planned gift applications are due to the office by October 31, 2026. Applications are available off the website or see LeAnne at the office.

b). Christmas Bake Sale: Fran and Maxine will check with the Hospital Auxiliary to see when their sale is and will then set a date. The Outreach Committee will once again host the tea.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:51pm by Fran Bayliss.

Next council meeting is Wednesday, October 21, 2026.

Chairperson

Secretary