

**Present:**

Ruth Anne Johnson	Murray Hunt	Paul Coutts
Jack Johnson	Sandra Walker	Joyce Firlotte
Rev. Lynne Gardiner	Bob Klatt	Brenda Gray
Chris McColl	Suzanne Miller	
Karen Hunt	Calvin Miller	

**Regrets:**

Kathleen Williamson	Sheryn Sauv�	Heather Thompson
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**Welcome:**

With quorum present Ruth Anne Johnson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Rev. Lynne Gardiner offered an opening prayer.

**Caring/Sharing:**

We keep in our prayers Ruth Anne Johnson and Sue Miller.  
Congratulations to Rev. Lynne on her acceptance to the Doctoral Program at St. Andrew's College in Saskatoon.

**Minister's Report:** (see appendix 2)

**Aboriginal Acknowledgement:**

We acknowledge that this meeting is being held on unceded, unsurrendered Territory of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Nation, whose presence and stewardship dates to time immemorial and will continue in perpetuity. We honour their long history of welcoming many Nations to this territory and we acknowledge our shared responsibilities to ensure health and wellbeing for all creation for generations to come.

**Agenda:**

Jack Johnson moved, seconded by Paul Coutts to accept the agenda, as circulated.

*All in favour; motion carried*

**Minutes:**

Karen Hunt moved, seconded by Joyce Firlotte to accept the minutes of the November 24 2022 meeting.

*All in favour; motion carried*

**Business Arising from the Minutes:**

*Healthcare precautions*

The Perth and Smiths Falls District Hospital has lifted the mask wearing requirements, but still offers masks for those who choose to wear them.

Here at Bethel we will leave the decision to individuals whether to wear a mask or not always remembering that we care for each other. If someone near you is wearing a mask, please respect their decision. It is warming up outside so opening the windows will help with air circulation.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### Ministry & Personnel

The M&P committee met on March 20th.

Reverend Lynne's vacation time was approved from April 10-23, 2023.

The M&P committee discussed increasing Sandra Milotte's salary from \$25.00 to \$30.00 an hour and would like to put forth a motion to the Board to do so.

Brenda Gray moved, seconded by Bob Klatt to increase Sandra Milotte's salary from \$25/hour to \$30/hour.

*All in favour; motion carried*

On behalf of the M&P committee, we would like to give a big thank you to Reverend Lynne for going above and beyond for the Bethel Congregation! We truly appreciate all you do for us and others!!

Our next meeting is scheduled for June 12th at 9:00 a.m. at the church hall. An email was sent out with an invitation to Bethel's employees to attend should they wish.

#### Stewardship (see appendix 3)

#### Property/Faithful Footprints Greening Project (see appendix 4)

Fire extinguishers have been inspected; holding tank has been pumped out.

Jack Johnson moved, seconded by Karen Hunt that Classic Lines Construction be engaged to carry out the work on the new washroom.

*All in favour; motion carried*

#### Trustees

Jack Johnson continues to monitor our financial investment with the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council program. There have been fluctuations, in interest, since our initial investment. We are able to access the funds as needed. The Trustees have forwarded \$10 000 to the operating bank account.

#### Session (see appendix 5)

#### UCW

Meetings resumed on January 10<sup>th</sup> of the new year.

The Bake & Cookie Sale in December was very successful.

Stewardship and UCW joined together for a Lenten project in support of Lanark County Interval House. Financial donations as well donations of consumable items were collected throughout Lent and presented to Interval House.

A soup & sandwich lunch was provided for the annual congregational meeting on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

The UCW made a \$1000 donation to the Perth & Smiths Falls Hospital Foundation towards its campaign for the purchase of an MRI machine.

On May 14<sup>th</sup> Life Memberships were presented to Barb Joynt, Joy Joynt, and Sue Miller.

Mark your calendars for the summer bake sale on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council (EOORC) (see appendix 6)

Karen Hunt is stepping down as one of Bethel's reps to the committee and is willing to share the duties of a rep. There are only a few meetings a year so it's not a huge commitment.

Sandra Walker moved, seconded by Calvin Miller to accept the committee reports as presented.

*All in favour; motion carried*

**Financial Report:** (see appendix 7)

We are over budget on the snow removal, but have saved almost 50% on energy consumption since the installation of the heat pump in the church hall.

**New Business:**

*Installation of the new washroom*

Discussed under the Property report.

*Website overhaul and maintenance*

Service from xplornet has improved since the installation of a new modem.

Jack Johnson has suggested that we update/improve our website with Gary Petro of Terra Utopia. It would cost a onetime set-up fee of \$2000-\$2500 and a monthly maintenance fee of \$60-\$70.

Joyce Firlotte moved, seconded by Brenda Gray that Jack Johnson and interested parties explore the potential to restructure and upgrade Bethel's website with Terra Utopia.

*All in favour; motion carried*

*Remit 1 – Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization*

Study guide circulated for this category 3 Remit, additional copies available to the congregation.

*EOORC representative*

Discussed during the EOORC report.

**Correspondence:**

Thank you from Interval House for our financial and in-kind donations from our Lenten project.

**Announcements and Upcoming Events:**

It's Pentecost this coming Sunday; wear red if you can.  
We'll be celebrating Anniversary Sunday on October 1 2023; mark your calendars.

**Next Meeting:**

September 28 2023 at 7:00pm in the church hall

**Adjournment:**

Chris McColl adjourned the meeting at 8:35pm.

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Ruth Anne Johnson  
Chair, Official Board

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Linda Hamon  
Secretary, Official Board

## Appendix 1 – Agenda

- 1.** Welcome, caring and sharing, opening prayer  
Minister's report
- 2.** Aboriginal acknowledgement  
We acknowledge that this meeting is being held on unceded, unsurrendered Territory of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Nation, whose presence and stewardship dates to time immemorial and will continue in perpetuity. We honour their long history of welcoming many Nations to this territory and we acknowledge our shared responsibilities to ensure health and wellbeing for all creation for generations to come.
- 3.** Additions to/adoption of the agenda
- 4.** Approval of minutes of November 24 2022
- 5.** Business arising from the minutes  
(i)
- 6.** Committee Reports
  - a.** Ministry and Personnel – Brenda Gray
  - b.** Stewardship
  - c.** Property and "Greening Project" - Paul Coutts, Bob Klatt, Sherri Sauvé
  - d.** Trustees
  - e.** Session
  - f.** EOORC
  - g.** United Church Women
- 7.** Financial Report
- 8.** New Business and business arising from the annual meeting
  - a. Installation of the new bathroom
  - b. Website overhaul and maintenance
  - c. Remit 1 – Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization
  - d. EOORC representative(s)
  - e.
- 9.** Correspondence
- 10.** Announcements

Next meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

Adjournment:

Initials \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix 2 – Minister

It is a pleasure to be writing this report as it is evident that we are slowly emerging from Pandemic Health Care requirements are beginning to move forward as a community to a life post-Covid. I am grateful for the ongoing care and concern for those who worship with us and attend Bethel activities and am heartened by the assumption that we will continue to care for the most vulnerable in our midst by masking and hand sanitizing when possible. We have now held two community pancake breakfasts with great success, we have been able to continuously worship in our sanctuary without any 'mini shut-down's' due to a surge in Covid cases and have remained committed to streaming worship to Facebook Live, to a steady uptake of 85 to 100 'views' of worship each week.

That Ministry of Bethel also continues during the week with loyal attendance at 'Chat and Chew' as well as our Zoom 'Prayer and Share'. I continue to have ongoing Pastoral visits, but am always struck by the truth that you really all care for each other in such a wonderful way. I continue to write a weekly blog and have a readership of about 160 'subscribers' to this. There are a number of ministry vacancies in the area, so Bethel has become a bit of a 'rural ministries hub' and I regularly do funerals for community members who don't otherwise worship here.

It is also evident that the last three years has taken a toll on the health of the entire community. Many more of us are struggling with fatigue and mobility issues. We are learning that the 'tried and true' methods that we have relied on for fund raising and outreach are having to change as there are fewer and fewer available hands to carry on the work. Despite this need to transition into a new way of being, the bottom line commitment to each other as 'family' and to God's call to outreach in the community remains strong and the work of Bethel is thriving. We are seeing informal connections solidify and grow; connections with Big Brothers Big Sisters, with the Trinity lunch programs and other meal programs in Smiths Falls, with The Guatemala Stove Project and many other outreach programs in our community. As well, we have shown incredible generosity with community needs as they have arisen; both with our own community during the last lengthy power outage, and with the Bakker family as our Advent Stewardship campaign and most recently with Lanark County Interval House for our Lenten appeal.

Bethel is a remarkable generous crew, with a deep commitment to sharing and caring for the world around us. I am honoured to be serving here as your minister.

I continue to meet with **Ministry and Personnel** on a regular basis who support me and the ministry of I have here. Together we have mapped out my vacation and study leave allotments so that I can remain healthy and refreshed in what can often feel like a lonely and isolating role. To this end, I am delighted to officially announce that I have been accepted to do my Doctorate of Ministry at St. Andrew's College in Saskatoon, and will begin my course work this September. This is an 'in context' Doctorate program, and I will continue to serve Bethel; in fact; Bethel will eventually become my thesis!

My statement of 'intent' has been to essentially evolve Bethel into a vibrant centre of community and wellness; something that Bethel has already shown a commitment to moving toward. It is interesting that as soon as I had submitted my application for this program, that I began to be invited to speak on

the topic of Rural Ministry and Rural Community Development. I have turned all of these invitations down; after all I haven't even started my course work!

However, it is evident that Bethel is on the 'leading edge' of transition to a new and thriving way of being a Community of Faith.

My deep thanks to the unflagging support of the M & P Committee (Brenda, Bob, Jennifer and Kathleen) as well as to Ruth Anne for her letters of recommendation.

I continue to meet with **Session** to form plans for worship and other activities. We recently took a bit of a risk and held "Church in the Round" for our Good Friday Service, followed by a potluck dinner. The service featured some of our "Illustrated Ministry" posters coloured by our faithful "Chat and Chew" people – many of whom had not engaged in this kind of activity since they were children! The posters turned out beautifully, and with support from our younger members (Michel and Marie-Josée), were proudly displayed as part of the "Stations of the Cross" readings. It was such an example of how Bethel is Community together. My thanks to Chris McColl for the idea and for stealing Bronwen and Isla's colored pencils for much of Lent.

I continue to meet with **Stewardship** to formulate plans and ideas for both fundraising and Outreach. This is a hard working crew that mostly I just say "go to it!" and they do.

**Trustees and Property** meet as necessary. I am a member of **UCW** – and attend as a member not as clergy.

Since my acceptance into the Doctoral program, I have formally resigned from the **Regional Executive**. I am, required, however, to continue to attend large Regional meetings and the smaller clergy meetings as they arise. I am continuing as **Pastoral Charge Supervisor** for Addison United Church.

I will continue with the **Annual Theology Conference Planning Committee** however, only as a member, not as the Registrar.

On a final note, I need to also thank Linda Hamon for all she does for me and for Bethel. Worship on Sunday morning couldn't possibly happen without her! She catches my mistakes on a regular basis, ensures that I'm 'kept in the loop' on things and generally makes sure that things are running smoothly. Thank you Linda.

And thank you to all of Bethel. You continue to be a remarkable place to serve.

~Rev. Lynne

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Initials \_\_\_\_\_

### Appendix 3 – Stewardship

The Stewardship Committee met on January 15, March 5, and May 7.

Activities of the Stewardship Committee since the last Official Board Meeting have included:

1. Sunday January 15, 2023 - Fellowship (with muffins, cheese, tea and coffee) which was shared after the postponed Christmas Eve Service on Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. Almost everyone who was in church that morning stayed for the fellowship and enjoyed the opportunity to connect with one another.
2. Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> the Stewardship Committee offered a Tourtière Lunch - in the Hall following the Sunday Service as both a fundraising and an outreach/fellowship activity. This was a very positive, much enjoyed event.
3. April 1<sup>st</sup> and April 29<sup>th</sup> - Pancake Breakfasts - As well as being successful fundraisers, the pancake breakfasts provided outreach opportunities for members of our Bethel community and others in the broader community to connect with one another.
4. During Lent, we worked with the UCW to carry out a Lenten Project in support of the work of Interval House. The project was very well supported by the Bethel Community and both the monetary and material contributions were gratefully received by Interval House and its clients.
5. The Stewardship Committee continues to organize the Minute for Mission story readers list which provides readers for each Sunday Service and connects the readers with the Minute for Mission story provided by Mission and Service of the United Church of Canada.
6. Stewardship and Session will work together to organize a community potluck supper with fellowship and short message for Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup>.
7. Looking ahead we will again work with Session to offer a Summer Picnic and Outdoor Service. The date will be Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup> and we are again booked to use the Picnic Shelter Area at the Rideau Ferry Yacht Club Conservation Area.

The next Stewardship Committee meeting is scheduled for Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup> after church when we will plan activities for fall.

Respectively submitted by Diane Frias and Karen Hunt



#### Appendix 4 – Faithful Footprints Greening Project

##### Background

The Team submitted a grant application to the United Church Faithful Footprints program late in March. March 31, 2022 we received official notification that the grant was approved, based on our budget projections for \$20,000. Once our work has been completed and the proper accounting is done, we will receive the monies.

##### Status

The new EnergyStar heaters for the hall and sanctuary (3 in total) were received. Two 54" fans for the sanctuary were received. Down rods for the fans are in transit. Bob is arranging the electrical work for both heaters and fans. Scaffolding will need to be put in place to do the work in the sanctuary.

The decision was made at the AGM to turn the now insulated storage room into an additional washroom. Unfortunately, toilets are not included in the grant contract. However, any Energy Star lighting or heating with the quote specs should be. The installation of a storm door on the basement entrance will not take place this year.

Sherri spoke with Stephen Collette from the granting program. The submission for the monies happens when the work is complete. Due to Covid, they recognize work may take longer than anticipated. Sherri will collate all the receipts and work completed to submit upon completion. Pictures are also required, so if you have any of the work as it happened, please forward to Sherri.

Finally, once completed, Karen and Sherri, working with a writer, will submit articles to various church newsletters and local news.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sherri Sauvé  
Paul Coutts  
Bob Klatt

Initials \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix 5 – Session

### Phone tree

Sandra Walker revised the list and circulated for use to announce the cancellation of the in-person Christmas Eve service. A few edits were made.

### Communion dates

February 5, April 2, June 4, August 6, October 1, and December 3.

### Lent in a bag

Easter cards will be sent out by April 2<sup>nd</sup> instead of Lent-in-a-bag. Linda Hamon purchased 24 cards. Sandra Walker has sent them out.

### Church-in -the-Round

This service was held on Good Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 4:30pm followed by a pot luck supper. Despite the ice storm there was a good turnout.

### Pulpit supply

Pulpit supply for April 16 (Norma Rightly) and April 23 (Sharon McDonald) was arranged by Kathleen Williamson.

### Dinner church

We will invite neighbouring churches (St. Paul's, Trinity SF, Addison, St. Andrew's Toledo, Holy Trinity Anglican, Lombardy) for fellowship and community building on Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm. Linda Hamon will work on a poster.

### Outdoor worship & picnic

The Rideau Ferry Yacht club/Conservation area has been reserved for Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup>. Session will lead the service.

### Submitted by

Heather Thompson & Sandra Walker – Co-Chairs

Appendix 6 – EOORC

The 2023 EOORC Annual General Meeting will take place on Friday and Saturday May 26–27, 2023 at the Brockville Memorial Centre. ON. Karen Hunt will participate as a Bethel Lay Representative on Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup> and Heather Thompson will be the Bethel Lay Representative on Saturday May 27<sup>th</sup>. Both of us have registered to participate virtually-

The 2023 EOORC Annual General Meeting theme is - “Building Courageous Community”. The AGM Guest speaker is Rev. Michael Blair, General Secretary United Church of Canada.

One of the many topics to be addressed at the AGM will be a Remit on removing structural barriers so that the Indigenous Church can determine its place and structure within the United Church. This Remit was authorized by the 44<sup>th</sup> General Council. All regional councils and all pastoral charges governing bodies will be required to vote for or against the Remit by March 31, 2024 - but there is much learning to be done prior to the vote. The education around the Remit will begin at the upcoming AGM. More information will be available for pastoral charges soon.

It has been my pleasure to serve as the Bethel Lay representative to EOORC.

Respectively submitted,

Karen Hunt

Initials \_\_\_\_\_

Appendix 7 – Financial

Bethel United Church				
As at May 08, 2023				
		Operating	Stewardship	
Balance January 1, 2023		7,707.17	2,140.75	9,847.92
Receipts	Local Support	23,670.91		
	Loose Collection	665.00		
	Mission & Service	2,570.00		
	Bethel - UCW	5,000.00		
	Memorial Donations	815.00		
	Stewardship - Lenten Appeal		2,031.50	
	Stewardship - Lunch		626.00	
	Stewardship - Pancake Breakfast		2,640.00	
	Trustees	10,000.00		
	Broadview	75.00		
	Lunch Bunch	691.10		
	Building Donation	300.00		
	Supply Donation	60.00		
		43,847.01	5,297.50	49,144.51
Disbursements	Minister Salary/Benefits	26,356.43		
	Pulpit Supply	693.00		
	Pulpit Travel	98.01		
	Organist Salary	300.00		
	Organist Travel	180.00		
	Secretary Salary	1,126.68		
	Secretary Travel	76.67		
	Internet	509.75		
	Bank Charges	61.70		
	Par Cost	68.00		
	Gifts	100.00		
	Music Licence	354.00		
	Office - Secretary	96.03		
	Office - Treasurer	155.85		
	Photocopier Expense	180.96		
	Photocopier Lease	274.52		
	Telephone	33.90		
	Church - Cleaning	400.00		
	Church - Hydro	1,451.00		
	Church - Insurance	1,101.84		
	Church - R&M	24.82		
	Church - Snow Plowing	2,288.25		
	Energy Upgrade	6,154.63		
	Broadview	100.00		
	Mission & Services	2,570.00		
	Stewardship - Expenses		563.92	
	Stewardship - Lenten Appeal		2,031.50	
		44,756.04	2,595.42	47,351.46
		6,798.14	4,842.83	11,640.97

Initials \_\_\_\_\_