

**Present:**

Vicki McClatchie  
Carol Husband  
Barb Joynt  
Sandra Walker  
Bob Klatt

Paul Coutts  
Karen Hunt  
Murray Hunt  
Chris McColl  
Rev. Lynne Gardiner

Brenda Gray  
Joyce Firlotte  
Jack Johnson  
Ruth Anne Johnson  
Linda Hamon

**Regrets:** - Kathleen Williamson, Heather Thompson

**Welcome:**

With quorum present Ruth Anne Johnson called the meeting to order at 12:05pm and welcomed and thanked everyone for staying. Rev. Lynne Gardiner offered an opening prayer.

**Minister's Report:** - (*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:**

Moved by Paul Coutts, seconded by Jack Johnson to accept the agenda, with the addition of New Business, e bulletins.

*All in favour; motion carried*

**Minutes:**

Moved by Jack Johnson, seconded by Bob Klatt to accept the minutes of the November 19 2023 meeting.

*All in favour; motion carried*

**Business Arising from the Minutes:**

**Funeral brochure and rentals**

Session continues to work to improve the brochure and hopes to set a date for a funeral information session. Session will set the rates for sanctuary and hall rentals with Sandra Walker as the contact person.

Website

The website seems to be helpful for many members, especially the calendar which Diane Frias updates regularly.

**Committee Reports:**

Ministry & Personnel

The M&P committee met on March 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.  
Reverend Lynne will be on vacation from July 8<sup>th</sup> to July 21<sup>st</sup>.  
On behalf of the M&P committee, Reverend Lynne we wish you a wonderful vacation away in PEI! We hope you get to soak up lots of sunshine and get to spend some time by the ocean. Enjoy every minute away. You deserve it!!  
An email was sent out with an invitation to Bethel's employees to attend the upcoming M&P meeting on June 10 2024.

Stewardship – (Appendix 3)

Property

Accessible door has been installed at Office area.  
Cabinets have been altered to create coat rack.  
Holding tank has been pumped.  
Janis deSalvo has had the water tested with a good result.

Trustees

The initial \$200,000 investment, through EOORC, rose to \$222,482 as recorded in the most recent quarterly report.

Session

No report

Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council (EOORC)

Annual meeting will be held May 31<sup>st</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup>.

UCW

We had a very successful Cookie/Bake sale on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
We hosted soup & sandwich lunches on December 10<sup>th</sup>, January 28<sup>th</sup>, and February 18<sup>th</sup>.

We sent annual donations to the following community agencies:

Bethel U.C.	\$5000.
The Table Community Food Centre	\$500.
Smiths Falls Community Food Bank	\$500.
BBBS	\$200.
Salvation Army	\$200.
Guatemala Stove Project	\$300.
Cornerstone Landing Youth Services	\$200.

Trinity UCW invited us to a "Christmas" potluck on January 8<sup>th</sup> and seven ladies attended and had a very enjoyable afternoon.

Gail Bradley and Liz Hughes attended a safe food handling course at the Health Unit in Smiths Falls.

Gail Bradley, Gert Cullen, Karen Hunt and Ruth Anne Johnson were nominated for UCW Life Memberships to be presented in the spring.

We will be catering the memorial reception for Ollie Moore (April 13), Stella & Denis Lahaise 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration (May 11) and the tea for the Stewardship Fashion Show (June 1).

Moved by Brenda Gray, seconded by Joyce Firlotte to accept the committee reports as presented.

*All in favour; motion carried*

**Financial Report:** - (see Appendix 4)

Moved by Sandra Walker, seconded by Paul Coutts to accept the financial report as presented.

*All in favour; motion carried*

**New Business:**

Voluntary Associate Minister (VAM)

Rev. Lynne Gardiner proposes Rev. Arlyce Schiebout as a Voluntary Associate Minister at Bethel United church. This will enable Rev. Arlyce to retain her license to marry. She is also a supervisor at EOORC. She will serve in emergency pastoral care, participate in special events and be a support for Rev. Lynne.

Moved by Jack Johnson, seconded by Karen Hunt that Bethel United Church recognizes and approves Rev. Arlyce Schiebout as Voluntary Associate Minister.

*All in favour; motion carried*

Statistical Report

Ruth Anne Johnson reminded us that it's time to complete the annual statistics form. Linda Hamon stated that she has reported 26 UCW members to 4Rivers Presbyterial Area UCW.

Bulletin Board

Linda Hamon remarked that the rolling bulletin board is looking tattered and old and asked if a wall mounted one could be purchased.

Moved by Sandra Walker, seconded by Brenda Gray that we purchase a bulletin board and mount it on the wall next to the hall door.

*All in favour; motion carried*

Art Display

We need more discussion before we follow through with this idea.

Bulletins (Order of Service)

Vicki McClatchie asked if we could go back to the booklet format for the bulletin. After much discussion it was decided, by consensus, to keep the current format.

**Correspondence:** - none

**Announcements and Upcoming Events:** - none

**Next Meeting:**

Sunday, September 29 2024, following worship

**Adjournment:**

Bob Klatt adjourned the meeting at 1:10pm.

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Ruth Anne Johnson  
Chair, Official Board

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Linda Hamon  
Secretary, Official Board

Initials \_\_\_\_\_

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, unsundered Territory of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Nation, whose presence and stewardship dates back 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 19 2023
- 5.** Business arising from the minutes
  - (i) Funeral brochure and rentals
  - (ii) website and emails
- 6.** Committee Reports
  - a. Ministry and Personnel
  - b. Stewardship
  - c. Property
  - d. Trustees
  - e. Session
  - f. EOORC
  - g. United Church Women
- 7.** Financial Reports – Sandra Walker, Treasurer
- 8.** New Business
  - a. VAM (Voluntary Associate Minister)
  - b. Statistical report
  - c. bulletin board
  - d. art display
  - e. bulletins
- 9.** Correspondence
- 10.** Announcements

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

**Adjournment:**

Initials \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix 2 – Minister’s Report

It is with great joy that I write this report because Bethel continues to be a place of thriving for me personally, and for the entire community. Much of my focus has been on “Flourishing” (riffing off of the Moderator’s project) and what we need as individuals and as community in order to flourish or thrive. Much of the theme conversation during Lent was on Flourishing and provided a very helpful snapshot of what we need and where we need to go. From here, I hope to brainstorm activities and projects to help Bethel move forward as a “Third Place” in the Rideau Ferry Community. Most rural churches used to be “Third Places”, or places other than work or home that are places of belonging and community, but with the secularization of our society, churches have been relegated to a place you ‘attend’ for an hour once a week.

In many respects, Bethel is so far down the line in being a “Third Place” for all of us, that much of my work is easy, but now we are rethinking and refiguring life as a thriving *older* community with much different needs from when this was a multi-generational family church. It’s different, but it’s still good, and exciting.

Many activities at Bethel continue and have become part of what we do on a regular basis. In addition to Sunday morning worship, we continue with Chat and Chew and the Zoom Prayer and Share. Bible Study has restarted but there has not been a whole lot of consistent attendance and so I will be having a discussion with Session about whether or not we want to go in a different direction. Chat and Chew has morphed into a wonderful afternoon that has included people from other churches, all of whom seem to really enjoy the support and care, as well as the sometimes hilarity that this group offers. The Izzy Doll project has been the catalyst for this change, and we will be celebrating this project with a number of other groups on April 23.

The Ecumenical Worship service that was spearheaded last year by Session will go ahead this year as well, and will be held on June 7 with the theme of “Where two or three are gathered, I am there” (Matthew 18:20).

Our Lent and Easter saw many wonderful activities, including the Lenten Project to support the Hospice Hub, a wonderful Good Friday service with a potluck after, and a joyful and celebratory Easter Worship Service. My thanks to all of you for marking another liturgical year with such joy.

I have taken a bit of a step back from Regional Activities because I had been involved in one very difficult and draining activity, and I need to make space for my Doctoral Work. I was recently asked to be part of a committee on Clergy Support, and will consider some peripheral involvement.

I continue with organizing committee for the Annual Theology conference, and will be a presenter (yes – on Bethel and Thriving worshipping Communities!) in October.

Again, my work life and health is facilitated by so many of you and I am so grateful. Thank you so much.

~Rev. Lynne

### Appendix 3 – Stewardship

#### **a) Lenten project update**

Stewardship and the UCW partnered to make people more aware of the new **Hospice Hub program**. There were notices in the Bulletin each Sunday about the Hospice Hub and Isobel Boyle from the Hospice Hub spoke to us during the worship service next Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. On March 24<sup>th</sup> members of the Bethel family had an opportunity to make a financial contribution towards the Hospice Hub Project via a "Loose Change" donation in the offering plate.

**The amount collected was \$ 485.00 ( includes loose collection on March 24th and donations by E-transfer).**

b) **ON Maple Weekend April 6<sup>th</sup> Pancake Breakfast** was a very successful outreach event with much laughter and camaraderie both amongst attendees and volunteers.

- Huge thanks to all in the Bethel Family who worked very hard to carry out the event
- We had a good partnership with Oliver's Mapleworks. We advertised their maple syrup and they advertised our Pancake breakfast AND they provided the maple syrup for the breakfast
- The event was well supported by D/NE who advertised the Pancake breakfast on their website
- There was also good promotion on My FM
- **Amount in Donation Box = \$1914.00 Attendance – 131 Adults and 11 children**

We will not offer a second Pancake Breakfast this spring noting the demands on the time/energy of all the volunteers who carry out the event and recognizing the many other events scheduled at Bethel during April/May

c) **On Saturday June 1<sup>st</sup>, the Stewardship Committee and the UCW will work together to offer a Fashion Show and Tea in support of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Lanark County** beginning at 1:30 p.m.(Tea) with the Fashion Show at 2:00 p.m..

- **Tickets will be sold at a cost of \$20 each and the number of tickets sold will be limited by the table space available in the hall (40 suggested)**
- **Clothing will be provided by Jewel's**

#### **Looking ahead**

1. Bethel Picnic and Outdoor Service – will take place at the Rideau Ferry Yacht Club Conservation Area on **Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup>**. Session will be responsible for the Outdoor Service. Stewardship for the Picnic.

**2. Ecumenical potluck and worship service will take place on Sunday July 7<sup>th</sup>**. Worship at 4:30 followed by dinner.

Appendix 4 – Financial Report

Bethel United Church				
As at March 31, 2024				
		Operating	Stewardship	
Balance January 1, 2024		12,239.91	4,910.49	17,150.40
<b>Receipts</b>				
	Local Support	15,405.00		
	Loose Collection	362.00		
	Mission & Service	1,833.00		
	Memorial Donations	1,215.00		
	Hospice Hub	485.00		
	Building Donation	120.00		
	Bethel Trustees	10,000.00		
	Broadview	60.00		
	Transfer from Stewardship Fund	4,500.00		
		33,980.00	0.00	33,980.00
<b>Disbursements</b>				
	Minister's Salary	16,293.24		
	Employee Benefits	5,039.13		
	Pulpit Supply	741.00		
	Pulpit Supply Travel	69.74		
	Organist Salary	120.00		
	Organist Travel	80.00		
	Secretary Salary	845.00		
	Secretary Travel	58.64		
	Bank Charges	49.28		
	Par Service Charge	52.19		
	Broadview	60.00		
	Gift Cards	200.00		
	Internet/Zoom/Donation/Website	729.40		
	Music Licence	329.00		
	Office - Secretary	89.59		
	Office - Treasurer	51.98		
	Photocopier Expense	126.98		
	Photocopier Lease	177.84		
	Telephone	33.90		
	Church - Bathroom	3,421.68		
	Church - Cleaning	360.00		
	Church - Steel Door	4,920.02		
	Church - Hydro	1,313.46		
	Church - Insurance	854.43		
	Church - R&M	15.77		
	Church - Snow Plowing	1,779.75		
	Church - Septic/Water	179.15		
	Hospice Hub	485.00		
	Mission & Services	1,833.00		
	Transfer to operating		4,500.00	
		40,309.17	4,500.00	44,809.17
<b>Balance</b>		5,910.74	410.49	6,321.23

Initials \_\_\_\_\_