

Present:

Sue Miller	Rev. Lynne Gardiner	Joyce Firlotte
Calvin Miller	Jack Johnson	Sandra Walker
Gail Bradley	Karen Hunt	Paul Coutts
Bill Hughes	Murray Hunt	Kathleen Williamson
Liz Hughes	Heather Thompson	Ruth Anne Johnson
Carol Husband	Bob Klatt	Linda Hamon
Emily Gardiner	Barb Joynt	

Regrets: - Brenda Gray

Welcome:

With quorum present Ruth Anne Johnson called the meeting to order at 12:06pm 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, unsundered 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 Jack Johnson, seconded by Barb Joynt to accept the agenda, as circulated.

All in favour; motion carried

Minutes:

Moved by Linda Hamon, seconded by Karen Hunt to accept the minutes of the April 14 2024 meeting.

All in favour; motion carried

Business Arising from the Minutes: *none*

Committee Reports:

Ministry & Personnel

The M&P committee met on September 9, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Reverend Lynne will be taking Low Church Sunday on December 29th. During the month of January, Reverend Lynne has requested 3 weeks vacation and one week off for study leave. She will be returning on February 2, 2025.

On behalf of the M&P committee we are happy to report that Reverend Lynne enjoyed her well-deserved vacation in PEI. We would again like to thank her for all she does for our congregation and the people around her!

An invitation was sent out by email to two of Bethel's employees to attend the upcoming M&P meeting on December 9, 2024, at 9:30 a.m., along with a phone invitation for one employee.

Stewardship – (Appendix 3)

Property

New fire extinguishers installed

Heat pump inspection and maintenance has been done.

Front door sanded and refinished by Jim Covell who waived his fee.

Moved by Joyce Firlotte, seconded by Calvin Miller that we purchase a \$100 gift card to the Boom Town restaurant as a thank you to Jim Covell. Calvin Miller will purchase it.

All in favour; motion carried

Vicki McClatchie has researched the possibility of installing a chair lift to the pulpit area. Unfortunately this isn't possible for a two (2) step rise. Thank you Vicki for your research. An immediate solution would be for Rev. Lynne to remain on the main level while leading worship.

A concern was raised about parts of the carpeting rippling causing a potential trip or fall to happen. Paul Coutts and Bob Klatt will see to resolving this problem.

Trustees

At the end of August the trustees needed to transfer \$20 000 to Bethel's operating account. There is now a \$16 000 balance in the Trustees account. The \$200 000 investment in the EOORC Foundation continues to do well.

We've had a smooth transition, in the internet service, from Xplornet to WTC with much improved service. There was a WTC billing issue which has been resolved.

As of January 2025 our service fee to TerraUtopia, for maintenance of our website, will increase by 7%

Session – (Appendix 4)

Emily Gardiner is requesting that Bethel United Church be her sponsor as she journeys through the Licensed Lay Worship Leader (LLWL) course. This is a two (2) year process with four (4) online modules to complete. Emily has paid \$300 for the first module.

Moved by Kathleen Williamson, seconded by Heather Thompson that Bethel United Church becomes Emily Gardiner's sponsor.

All in favour; motion carried

Moved by Jack Johnson, seconded by Heather Thompson that we reimburse Emily's \$300 fee for the LLWL course.

All in favour; motion carried

Sandra Walker will be the event coordinator when the hall/sanctuary is rented.

Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council (EOORC)

No report.

UCW

Gail Bradley, Gert Cullen, Karen Hunt, and Ruth Anne Johnson were presented with UCW Life Memberships at a special presentation during worship on Sunday, May 26th.

Betty Clark, Barb Joynt, and Linda Hamon attended the Four Rivers Area Presbyterial AGM on Thursday, April 11th in Carleton Place.

We have made a second donation, in the amount of \$500, to the Perth & Smiths Falls District Hospital Foundation for the MRI campaign.

We had a successful Summer Bake Sale on Saturday, June 29th.

After a well-deserved summer break we resumed meeting on Tuesday, September 2nd, and had a potluck lunch following the meeting.

Several of our members will be attending the Four Rivers Area Presbyterial Fall Rally, in Portland, on Tuesday, October 8th. Rev. Lynne will be the guest speaker.

Soup & sandwich lunch will resume on Sunday, October 27th.

Moved by Bob Klatt, seconded by Liz Hughes to accept the committee reports as presented.

All in favour; motion carried

Financial Report: - (see Appendix 5)

With expenses slowly increasing and offerings not keeping up we discussed ways to inform the congregation about our financial situation. The first effort will be to include PAR information in the Fall/Winter newsletter.

Moved by Sandra Walker, seconded by Karen Hunt to accept the financial report as presented.

All in favour; motion carried

New Business:

Faithful Footprints

Sherry Sauv  has sent in our final report and we have received the final \$1000 of the grant. Sherry will continue sending our energy usage data.

Becoming Affirming

Rev. Lynne has spoken with many at Bethel who think that it's time and a good idea to become an Affirming Church. Although we know that we are a welcoming church this is an intentional process to truly support and be welcoming to the

LGBTQ+2S community. This is a one (1) year process with educational material and speakers available through Affirm United.

Moved by Heather Thompson, seconded by Jack Johnson that we begin the process of becoming an affirming church under the auspices of Affirm United.

All in favour; motion carried

Then, Let Us Sing

This is a recently produced new digital music resource containing hymns from Voices United, More Voices, plus new music with accompaniment included. Since Ruth Anne is stepping back the onus would be on Carol Husband to play every week. This might be an option for music on Sunday mornings. We would need to purchase the resource and possibly equipment to operate it.

Another option would be to hire a musician. Carol recommends a minimum Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM) grade 6 or equivalent. Karen Hunt will contact Paula Grenke for recommendations for contacting music students. Gail Bradley will ask her son, a music producer, for suggestions.

Honorariums

Heather Thompson asked if there is a board policy for honorariums or do we need to create one. It was decided that creating a policy is not necessary and each request will be dealt with individually.

Advent/Christmas services

December 1 – Advent 1; white gift

December 8 – Advent 2; communion

December 15 – Advent 3

December 22 – Advent 4; soup `n sandwich; hymn sing

December 24 – Christmas Eve

December 29 – no service

January services

Rev. Lynne will be off December 29th (low church Sunday), and January 5-26 inclusive. No service on January 5th. Worship services for January 12th, January 19th, and January 26th will be planned at the next Session meeting on November 17th. Any interested members are invited to attend the meeting.

Correspondence: - none

Announcements and Upcoming Events:

With Ruth Anne Johnson (chair) and Joyce Firlotte (vice-chair) retiring we will need to re-examine Bethel's board structure.

Next Meeting:

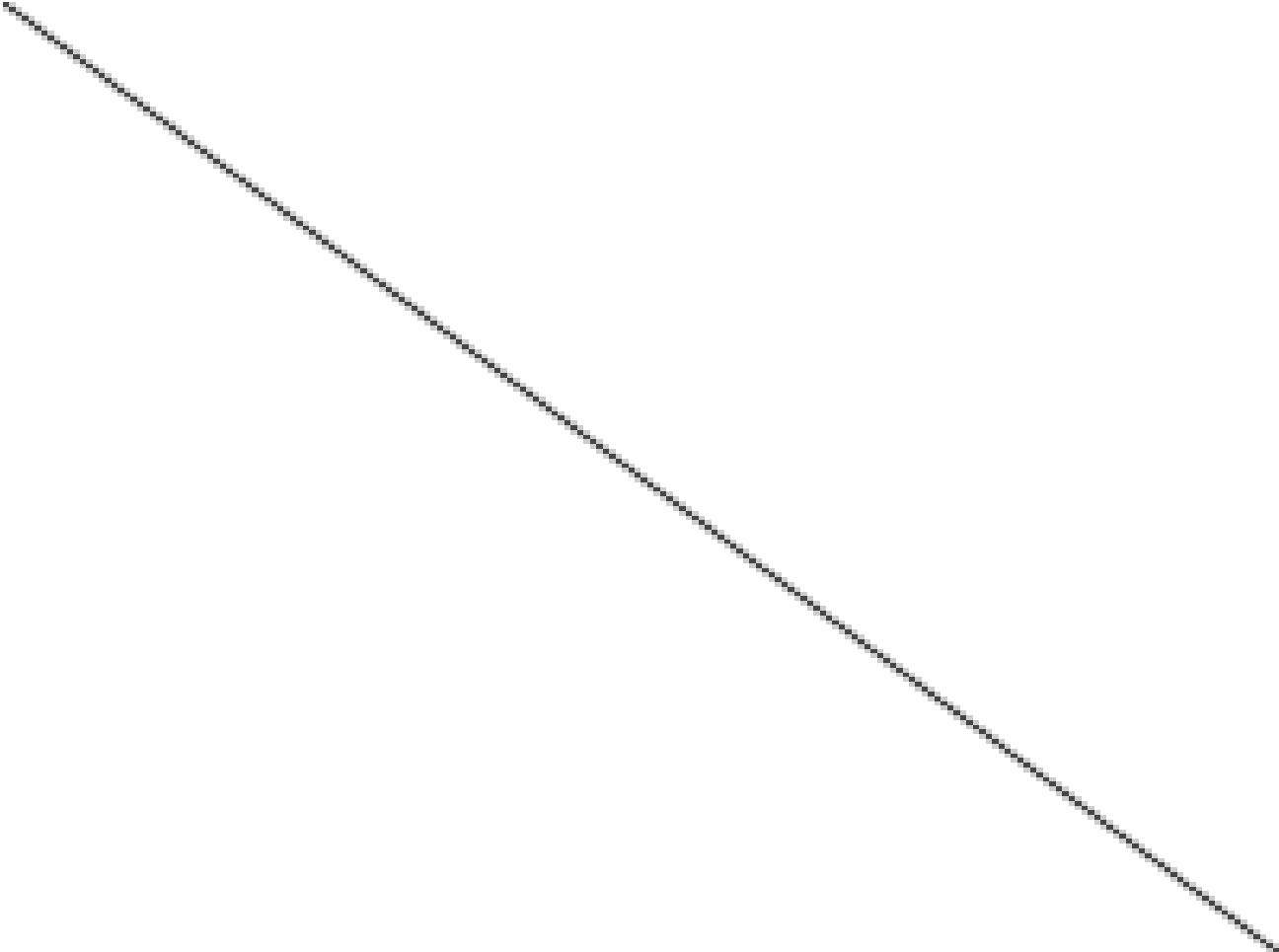
Sunday, November 24 2024, following worship.

Adjournment:

Bob Klatt adjourned the meeting at 2:17pm.

Ruth Anne Johnson
Chair, Official Board

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 April 14 2024
5. Business arising from the minutes
 - (a)
 - (b)
6. Committee Reports
 - (a) Ministry and Personnel
 - (b) Stewardship
 - (c) Property
 - (d) Trustees
 - (e) Session
 - (f) EOORC
 - (g) United Church Women
7. Financial Report – Sandra Walker
8. New Business
 - (a) Faithfull Footprints final report
 - (b) Becoming Affirming
 - (c) "Now Let Us Sing"
 - (d) Honorariums – Board Policy
 - (e) Advent and Christmas services
 - (f) January services
9. Correspondence
10. Announcements

Next meeting: _____

Adjournment:

Initials _____

Appendix 2 – Minister’s Report

*There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens (Ecclesiastes 3:1)*

Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? (Luke 12:25)

It is with a great deal of joy and satisfaction that I write this report. Bethel continues to thrive, and we have demonstrated resilience and tenacity. Many of the ministries are growing, and we have a robust virtual community that remains interested and engaged both through the livestream of worship on Sunday morning, and with the weekly blog. I love that I have people at a great distance weighing in on our ‘theme conversation’ topics, or commenting on the blog and that we can bring worship to people who are often are needing to be home for health reasons, or who simply prefer engaging virtually. We are become the little church that is a gathering place for more than just our community; we have seen our Ecumenical ‘Supper Church’ grow to include our neighbours, as well as our weekly ‘Chat and Chew’. It is an exciting time to be a ministry and I thank all of you for this.

At the same time, in the month of August, our Treasurer, Sandra, had to ask the Trustees to transfer money into the General Ledger to cover our bills. This is not a surprise for the Trustees, and frankly, that’s why we have the Trustees. It does however, point to a big shift in the way we think about ministry at Bethel, as the money held in trust for us is finite. As soon as we heard about this need, several people in our community immediately ‘upped’ their offerings through PAR, and many others began problem-solving ways of bringing more funds into the church.

Which then exposed another truth about who we are; and that is that our traditional and time-tested means of fund-raising are no longer useful for us as a community. The UCW catered a funeral reception, but it was much work and difficult to arrange. As well there have been long held discussions about the viability of big bake sales and other events as the volunteer effort has gotten too large and onerous for most. The things that we have always relied on to keep our bank accounts in the black are becoming too difficult for us a community to manage.

This is a hard truth to face. But it is also the season that we are in.

Our scriptures remind us all of the time, that life is about rhythms that change, and our job as people of faith is simply to recognize and worship God in all of these times or seasons. We are moving into a new time; and we need to let this happen and recognize that God is present and still leading us as community, even though we can’t do what we have previously. So while it feels uncomfortable and we really want to protect ourselves against change and discomfort, it is simply part of the rhythm of life.

I hope that all of you will join me in rejoicing at the gifts that we have at this time; a thriving community of faith that is growing and embracing the world around us, a robust virtual worshipping community, and a faithful remnant of God’s chosen people who are embracing their life on God’s terms, rather than on a quest for safety or prominence. With our eyes wide open to the season we are called to, we can work through the discomfort of change and come into a new way of being.

~Rev. Lynne

Initials _____

Appendix 3 – Stewardship

On **Saturday, June 1**, a **Fashion Show and Tea** was held in support of Big Brothers/ Big Sisters of Lanark County. This was a fundraising and an outreach event carried out by the Stewardship Committee in partnership with the UCW. We wanted to raise awareness about Jewels and Big Brothers /Big Sisters of Lanark County and welcome members of the community into our Bethel Church Hall. Money from ticket sales (50 tickets) went to Bethel United Church. Proceeds from the clothing sales went to Jewels. A very positive, much enjoyed event made possible by the efforts of the many members of the Bethel Stewardship/UCW “Team”.

Sunday, July 7, Ecumenical Worship Service and Potluck Supper– Stewardship assisted in the set-up/clean-up for the potluck supper which followed the worship service. A very successful well-attended and much appreciated event.

Sunday, July 28, Bethel Picnic and Outdoor Service - a much-enjoyed Picnic BBQ which followed the Outdoor Service held at the Rideau Ferry Yacht Club Conservation Area.

Parking passes were made available by the RVCA at a reduced price and we reserved the picnic shelter for sun/rain protection. 33 people attended.

Expenses were covered by donations. Everyone seemed to enjoy the location/food and camaraderie ... and the giant bubbles

Looking ahead

October is traditionally Stewardship Month at Bethel. The focus for the 2024 Stewardship Project will be to provide support for and raise awareness about the **Guatemala Stove Project**

We will **launch the project on Sunday, October 6th**. Tom Clarke from the Guatemala Stove Project will speak during the service and will also join us for a sharing time with coffee/tea and muffins in the Hall following the Service

Guatemala Stove Project donations will be received either as loose change/undesignated funds on October Sundays.

Bethel News. A Fall 2024 Newsletter will be distributed at the end of October. Along with other items, the newsletter will provide information about PAR.

The **2024 White Gift Sunday will be December 1, 2024**, the first Sunday in Advent

Christmas Sing-Along. A tentative date is Sunday, December 22 in Hall after church following a Soup and Sandwich Lunch. Confirmation to follow

The Stewardship Committee will meet next on **Sunday, November 3** after the Service.

Submitted by Karen Hunt

Appendix 4 – Session

The theme for Easter was Butterflies. Beautiful posters done by members of the congregation at Chat & Chew, were posted in the Sanctuary.

We held Church-in-the-Round on Good Friday based on the Stations of the Cross using Posters. It was followed by a pot luck supper.

Arlyce Schiebot will be joining Bethel as a Voluntary Associate Minister

Easter Cards were sent to Helene Chapman and Leona Weisberger

March 10th - The Session decided that we would continue to charge \$100 rental of the Hall and if someone had a problem with that we could waive the Fee

The hall was rented twice for the Celebration of Life of Ollie Moore and the 60th Anniversary party for Denny and Stella Lahaise

July 7th we held a very successful Dinner Church with members of community Churches joining us.

July 28th the annual Picnic Service was held at the Yacht Club in Rideau Ferry

September 22 is our 129th Anniversary as Bethel United Church. We will also celebrate Rev. Lynne's 60th Birthday

Pulpit Supply was needed- April 7th; July 14th & July 21 with Liz Church
Communion was held three times.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Thompson – Clerk of Session

Initials _____

Appendix 5 – Financial Report

Bethel United Church As at September 12, 2024				
		Operating	Stewardship	
Balance January 1, 2024		12,239.91	4,910.49	17,150.40
Receipts	Local Support	26,875.00		
	Local Support - Par	25,820.00		
	Loose Collection	1,003.25		
	Mission & Service	5,698.00		
	Memorial Donations	1,215.00		
	GST/HST Rebate	3,059.89		
	Hospice Hub	485.00		
	Building Donation	120.00		
	Bethel Trustees	30,000.00		
	Bethel - UCW	5,000.00		
	Broadview	60.00		
	Energy Rebate	1,000.00		
	Rental	600.00		
	Stove Project	272.50		
	Stewardship - Pancake Breakfast		2,015.00	
	Stewardship - Picnic		400.00	
	Stewardship - Tea & Fashion Show		1,020.00	
	Transfer from Stewardship Fund	6,500.00		
		107,708.64	3,435.00	111,143.64
Disbursements				
	Minister's Salary	46,164.18		
	Employee Benefits	14,143.65		
	Pulpit Supply	1,235.00		
	Pulpit Supply Travel	123.86		
	Organist Salary	480.00		
	Organist Travel	320.00		
	Secretary Salary	2,253.36		
	Secretary Travel	153.34		
	Bank Charges	106.45		
	Par Service Charge	135.94		
	Broadview	60.00		
	Gift Cards	283.62		
	Internet/Zoom/Donation/Website	2,080.91		
	Music Licence	329.00		
	Office - Secretary	89.59		
	Office - Treasurer	51.98		
	Photocopier Expense	216.22		
	Photocopier Lease	533.52		
	Regional Dues	4,204.00		
	Telephone	90.40		
	Church - Bathroom	3,421.68		
	Church - Cleaning	1,020.00		
	Church - Steel Door	4,920.02		
	Church - Hydro	2,525.62		
	Church - Insurance	2,276.02		
	Church - R&M	559.84		
	Church - Snow Plowing	1,779.75		
	Church - Septic/Water	506.85		
	Hospice Hub	485.00		
	Mission & Services	5,698.00		
	Stewardship Expenses		792.59	
	Transfer to operating		6,500.00	
		96,247.80	7,292.59	103,540.39
Balance		23,700.75	1,052.90	24,753.65