

Present:

Rev. Lynne Gardiner	Barb Joynt	Brenda Gray
Jack Johnson	Joyce Firlotte	Sandy Lackey
Karen Hunt	Sandra Walker	Vicki McClatchie
Murray Hunt	Paul Coutts	Carol Husband
Heather Thompson	Kathleen Williamson	Linda Hamon
Bob Klatt	Ruth Anne Johnson	

Regrets: - none

Welcome:

With quorum present Ruth Anne Johnson called the meeting to order at 12:50pm and welcomed and thanked everyone for staying. Rev. Lynne Gardiner offered an opening prayer.

Minister's Report: - (*Appendix 2*)

Rev. Lynne Gardiner informed us that Rev. Arlyce Schiebout will provide emergency pastoral care while she is on restorative care. She has contacted Rev. Whit Strong about retired ministry supply for February and March. This would give us consistent leadership while Rev. Lynne is off.

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

All in favour; motion carried

Minutes:

Moved by Joyce Firlotte, seconded by Sandra Walker to accept the minutes of the September 29 2024 meeting with the correction that Ruth Anne Johnson has not stepped down as church accompanist (pg 393).

All in favour; motion carried

Business Arising from the Minutes:

a. *Becoming an Affirming Ministry*

We will defer the process until Rev. Lynne returns from medical leave. It's important to acknowledge that this is a serious process and involves information and education for the congregation.

b. Funeral workshop

Deferred to the spring.

c. LLWL fee

Emily Gardiner has received financial support from EOORC for the online Licensed Lay Worship Leader course.

d. Music Options

Rev. Lynne attended an information session on the new music resource, Then, Let Us Sing. After discussing with the Official Board it was decided that there is no real advantage to Bethel using it. We don't have enough technology, or someone committed to implement it each Sunday.

Karen Hunt called Paula Grenke, a local piano teacher, to ask if she had a mature student who might be interested, but had no luck. Paula offered to fill in if necessary.

Committee Reports:

Ministry & Personnel – no report

The committee will meet on Monday, December 16 2024 at 9:30am.

Stewardship – (Appendix 3)

Property – no report

Janis deSalvo has had the water tested and the holding tank has been pumped out.

Trustees – no report

Our \$200,000 investment with the EOORC foundation now stands at \$231,885

Session – (Appendix 4)

Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council (EOORC) – no report.

UCW

We hosted the soup & sandwich lunch on Sunday, October 27th.

Plans are well underway for the Cookie & Bake Sale on Saturday, December 7th.

Packing of the cookie boxes will be on Friday, December 6th at 1:00pm.

Sign up for the soup & sandwich lunch on Sunday, December 22nd is complete. After the lunch we can all enjoy the Christmas sing along.

We will review our community donations at the January UCW meeting.

Moved by Bob Klatt, seconded by Jack Johnson to accept the committee reports as presented.

All in favour; motion carried

Financial Report: - (see *Appendix 5*)

Sandra Walker has reviewed our insurance policy and we no longer have liability coverage, only property. She will investigate other sources for liability insurance. Moved by Sandra Walker, seconded by Karen Hunt to accept the financial report as presented.

All in favour; motion carried

Budget 2025: - (see *Appendix 6*)

Some of our expenses have gone up either by cost or increased usage. Moved by Jack Johnson, seconded by Joyce Firlotte to accept the budget as presented.

All in favour; motion carried

New Business:

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, April 13 2025

Annual Report

Deadline for committee reports is February 16 2025.

Nominating Committee

Please give prayerful thought to nominations for Chair, Vice-Chair and EOORC representative to put forth at the Annual Congregational Meeting/

Correspondence: - *none*

Announcements and Upcoming Events:

Next Meeting:

Annual congregational meeting on Sunday, April 13 2025, following worship.

Adjournment:

Bob Klatt adjourned the meeting at 2:00pm.

Ruth Anne Johnson
Chair, Official Board

Linda Hamon
Secretary, Official Board

Initials _____

Addendum – December 3 2024

Moved by Brenda Gray, seconded by Bob Klatt that Rev. Dave Steele be hired to provide pulpit supply during the months of February and March 2025 and to act as pastoral charge supervisor during Rev, Lynne Gardiner's absence, January – March 2025 . Upon receipt of an invoice, the treasurer will issue a cheque according to the following terms:

-Pulpit supply \$520 per week

-Mileage 0.55 per kilometer

-\$30 per hour if attending meetings of the Official Board

All in favour; motion carried.

Appendix 1 – Agenda

Rideau Ferry Bethel United Church Official Board Meeting

November 24, 2024 - 1:00 p.m.

Bethel United Church Hall

1. Welcome and opening prayer

a. Minister's report

2. Aboriginal acknowledgement

We acknowledge that this meeting is being held on unceded 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 September 29, 2024

5. Business arising from the minutes

a. Becoming an affirming Ministry

b. Funeral workshop

c. LLWL fee

d. Music Options

6. Committee Reports

a. Ministry and Personnel

b. Stewardship

c. Property

d. Trustees

e. Session

f. EOORC

g. United Church Women

7. Financial Reports and Budget– Sandra Walker, Treasurer

8. New Business

a. Date of Annual meeting

b. Annual Report

c. Nominating Committee

d.

e.

9. Correspondence

10. Announcements

Adjournment

Initials _____

Appendix 2 – Minister’s Report

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. (Philippians 4: 8, 9)

Last week, when I had a conversation with some of my colleagues about my upcoming medical leave, one of them pointed out that I was doing a whole ton of ‘awfulizing’ about ‘abandoning Bethel’ while I was recovering. She pointed out to me that I was constantly extolling Bethel’s resilience and care for each other, and reminding them that you were a community that was thriving and exciting to serve.

I DO brag about Bethel all of the time. I love this Community of Faith. I love how you care for each other, how you work together towards your future and how you care for me in the midst of it all. You are an amazing, faithful group of people. I confess that sometimes I descend into ‘awfulizing’. It’s easy to do in the face of much difficulty in our world.

Focusing on the things that are ‘pure, lovely, admirable, excellent and praiseworthy’ has now become part of my spiritual discipline, and a spiritual discipline that I will encourage all of you to make a part of your daily life. If we focus on the goodness that God has called us to, we are reminded that:

- In September we rejoiced with Jennifer and Dan at their Wedding
- In October, we raised enough money for the Guatemala Stove Project to build approximately 5 new safe stoves for families in need.
- In October I spoke about the work you all are doing to make our building accessible.
- In October I spoke about the work you are doing to build and maintain community and “third places” for all of us.
- In November, the work we did with Faithful Footprints was featured in their publications and in the EOORC Newsletter.
- In December, for our White Gifts Sunday we will be receiving donations for the food banks in Perth and Smiths Falls
- In December we will be receiving 6 new people into membership at Bethel.
- Typically, we have about 40-45 people in worship on Sunday morning, about 10-12 at Chat and Chew, 6-8 logging into Prayer and Share, countless numbers of you volunteering with BBBS, with the Lioness’ and the Lion’s club, many environmental groups and bowling! We have a virtual congregation of 85-100 people, we have several members holding municipal government offices, and we still put on the best soup and sandwich lunches around!

We are a thriving, wonderful community of Faith. I am so grateful to be called here. I am also grateful for your resilience and tenacity. Thank you for inspiring me to a better and more faithful response to the world.

~Rev. Lynne

Initials _____

Appendix 3 – Stewardship

1. Members of the Bethel family were very generous in their support of the 2024 October Stewardship Appeal. The appeal this year focused on the Guatemala Stove Project. By the end of October \$1000 had been contributed to this important locally organized volunteer-run project which supports Mayan people in the Western Highlands of Guatemala with masonry cook stoves, bursaries and microloans. Our Bethel donation will mostly cover the cost of 3 stoves.
2. Bethel members have been collecting warm clothing and other items for newcomers to Perth (first for nurses from India who have come to work at PCC and now also for a large group of men and women who are refugee applicants from Ghana. Our donations were made through Deacon Liana Gallant and St. James Anglican Church who have established the Open Arms – Welcoming Newcomers to Perth program to organize the needed items.
3. The Fall Bethel News has been distributed by email and by hand or postal mail to all for whom we have contact information.
4. White Gift Sunday is Sunday, December 1 (Advent One). Contributions this year will go to the Perth and Smiths Falls Food Banks as many in our communities are struggling with food costs and food bank use continues to increase. White Gifts can be made using white envelopes which will be in the pews beginning November 24th and collected on Sunday, December 1st.
5. Stewardship will organize a hospitality time (coffee, tea and muffins) in the church hall on Sunday, December 8th following the reception of new members during the church service.
6. There will be a Christmas Sing-Along on Sunday, December 22nd in the Hall after church following a UCW Soup and Sandwich Lunch. Carol Husband will be on the keyboards.
7. Plans are underway for a fun, drop-in “Fashion Café” in the New Year. Please mark your calendars for 1-3 p.m. Saturday afternoon March 8th 2025 (International Women’s Day) We’re hoping to offer purses, jewellery, scarves, hats and perhaps men’s ties for sale. More details to follow.
8. Please also mark your calendar for Bethel Ontario Maple Weekend Pancake breakfast will take place on Saturday April 8, 2025. More details in the New Year.
9. The next Stewardship Committee Meeting will take place on Sunday, February 9, 2025

Submitted by Karen Hunt

Initials _____

Appendix 4 – Session

Rev. Lynne presented a report on the “Then Let Us Sing” workshop, a virtual music program which will require some technical knowledge to operate. We will table the issue until it becomes pressing.

Rev. Lynne will be having double knee replacement surgery on January 9th. Rehabilitation will be two months. We wish Rev. Lynne a speedy recovery.

Pulpit supply options were discussed and referred to the Official Board. We will activate the emergency call list during this period. Sandra Walker will update the list.

The Affirming ministries program was discussed, accepted and referred to the Official Board. A separate committee was suggested and that Jan Gardiner and Kathleen Williamson could be asked to be members.

The Funeral Planning and MAID (medical assistance in dying) workshops have been deferred to May.

November 26th The Christmas Tree will be set up and decorated at Chat and Chew.

December 1st is the First Sunday in Advent and will be White Gift Sunday

December 8th will be a very busy Sunday as we welcome six new members to Bethel and Celebrate Communion. Stewardship Committee will offer coffee & muffins after the service.

December 24th Christmas Eve service will be celebrated at 4:30

There will be no services December 29th and January 5th.

January 12th The Session is so very pleased that pulpit supply will be offered by Emily Gardiner.

January 19th A Christingle service. Ashley Walker has offered to prepare the Christingles for service. The congregation is invited to stay after the Church service to decorate them.

January 26th We will offer a 45 minute Old Tyme Religion sing a-long with Carol Husband.

Respectfully submitted by:

Heather Thompson
Co-Clerk of Session

Sandra walker
Co- Clerk of Session

Appendix 5 – Financial Report

Bethel United Church				
As at November 13, 2024				
		Operating	Stewardship	
Balance January 1, 2024		12,239.91	4,910.49	17,150.40
Receipts	Local Support	33,150.00		
	Local Support - Par	32,310.00		
	Loose Collection	1,138.25		
	Mission & Service	6,915.00		
	Memorial Donations	1,700.00		
	Golf Donation	205.00		
	GST/HST Rebate	3,059.89		
	Hospice Hub	485.00		
	Building Donation	240.00		
	Bethel Trustees	30,000.00		
	Bethel - UCW	5,000.00		
	Energy Rebate	1,000.00		
	Rental	600.00		
	Stove Project	1,511.50		
	Stewardship - Pancake Breakfast		2,015.00	
	Stewardship - Picnic		400.00	
	Stewardship - Tea & Fashion Show		1,020.00	
	Transfer from Stewardship Fund	6,500.00		
		123,814.64	3,435.00	127,249.64
Disbursements	Minister's Salary	57,026.34		
	Employee Benefits	17,456.13		
	Pulpit Supply	1,235.00		
	Pulpit Supply Travel	123.86		
	Organist Salary	630.00		
	Organist Travel	420.00		
	Secretary Salary	2,816.70		
	Secretary Travel	193.93		
	Bank Charges	133.94		
	Par Service Charge	169.44		
	Anniversary	200.00		
	Gift Cards	283.62		
	Internet/Zoom/Donation/Website	2,702.29		
	Music Licence	329.00		
	Office - Secretary	185.63		
	Office - Treasurer	51.98		
	Photocopier Expense	295.87		
	Photocopier Lease	711.36		
	Regional Dues	4,204.00		
	Telephone	124.30		
	Church - Bathroom	3,421.68		
	Church - Cleaning	1,320.00		
	Church - Steel Door	4,920.02		
	Church - Hydro	2,730.73		
	Church - Insurance	2,840.86		
	Church - R&M	866.58		
	Church - Snow Plowing	1,779.75		
	Church - Septic/Water	714.75		
	Hospice Hub	485.00		
	Mission & Services	6,815.00		
	Stewardship Expenses		792.59	
	Stove Project	1,511.50		
	Transfer to operating		6,500.00	
		116,699.26	7,292.59	123,991.85
Balance		19,355.29	1,052.90	20,408.19

Appendix 6 – Budget 2025

Budget Bethel Pastoral Charge:Rideau Ferry			
	Budget 2024	Actual Nov 13/24	Budget 2025
Expenses			
Salary/Benefits	88,280	77,929	93,487
Travel	1,200	738	875
Con. Ed./Book Allowance	1,640	0	1,689
Gifts	700	284	700
Training Fund	3,000	0	3,000
Pulpit Supply	1,700	1,235	1,525
Music License	400	329	350
Treasurer Hon.	500	0	500
Internet/Zoom/Donation/Website	2,100	2,702	2,958
Regional AGM	500	0	500
Regional Dues	4,204	4,204	4,350
Office (Minister)	100	0	100
Office (Secretary)	100	186	200
Office (Treasurer)	250	52	200
Telephone	240	124	235
Par Cost/Bank Charges	350	303	360
Photocopier Expenses	350	296	350
Photocopier Lease	800	711	720
Church - Cleaning	1,440	1,320	1,560
Church -Grass/Snow	2,500	1,780	2,000
Church - Hydro	2,500	2,731	3,000
Church - Insurance	3,400	2,841	3,400
Church - Maintenance	700	867	500
Church - Water/Septic	500	715	1,015
Miscellaneous	46	200	26
TOTAL	117,500	99,547	123,600