

Present:

Rev. Lynne Gardiner	Joyce Firlotte	Bill Hughes
Calvin Miller	Vicki Hough	Bob Klatt
Suzanne Miller	Shirley O'Connell	Victoria McClatchie
Jim Hamon	Sandra Walker	Carol Husband
Murray Hunt	Elizabeth Clark	Janis Capes
Karen Hunt	Lynne Evans	Kathleen Williamson
Barb Joynt	Jacj Johnson	Ruth Anne Johnson
Paul Coutts	Elizabeth Hughes	Linda Hamon

Regrets:

None

Welcome:

With quorum present Ruth Anne Johnson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 12:25pm. Rev. Lynne Gardiner offered an opening prayer.

Caring/Sharing:

We keep in our prayers the following the Coutts family on the death of Kaye Coutts.

Appointment of Chair and Secretary:

Karen Hunt moved, seconded by Paul Coutts, that Ruth Anne Johnson chair the Annual Congregational Meeting.

All in favour; motion carried.

Jack Johnson moved, seconded by Elizabeth Hughes that Linda Hamon record the proceedings of the Annual Congregational Meeting.

All in favour; motion carried.

Aboriginal Acknowledgement:

Since time immemorial, First People's lives and spirituality have been deeply connected to the land. We acknowledge the Anishnaawbe and Haudenosaunee peoples whose territories we are on. May we live on this land with respect and gratitude.

Vote for adherents:

Heather Thompson moved, seconded by Sandra Walker, that adherents present at this meeting be allowed to vote.

All in favour; motion carried.

Agenda:

Bob Klatt moved, seconded by Victoria McClatchie, that the agenda with the following additions be accepted.

New Business: AED; coat closet/rack

All in favour; motion carried.

Minutes:

Bill Hughes moved, seconded by Karen Hunt, that the minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of February 26 2023 be accepted with the following corrections.

Review of Bethel United Church 2021 Annual Report should read 2022 Annual Report

Financial Report 2021 should read Financial Report 2022

Budget 2022 should read Budget 2023

All in favour; motion carried

Review of Bethel United Church 2023 Annual Report:

Minister

No additional comments

Ministry & Personnel

No additional comments

Stewardship

Karen Hunt offered thanks to the committee for all its work and also to the congregation for its support of the committee and Stewardship events.

Property

Thank you to David Coutts for his diligence turning on the sanctuary heat early Sunday mornings and for clearing snow from the hall doors. M & P will explore ways to give more to David in appreciation for all he does for Bethel.

Paul Coutts informed us that Drummond North Elmsley Township waived the cost of the building permit for the new bathroom.

The installation of the new accessible door is scheduled for the coming week.

Trustees

Received a \$10,000 towards the installation of the new bathroom.

Session

No additional comments

UCW

Linda Hamon offered thanks to the congregation for its continued support of UCW activities and events.

Choir

No additional comments

Summer Golf

Joanne Hollywood asks again to be replaced as the co-ordinator. All agree that Bethel's summer golf ministry is a lot of fun.

Joyce Firlotte moved, seconded by Jim Hamon, that the committee reports be accepted, as presented.

All in favour; motion carried

Financial Report 2023:

Sandra Walker moved, seconded by Jack Johnson, to accept the Financial Report as presented.

All in favour; motion carried

Budget 2024:

Joyce Firlotte, seconded by Paul Coutts, to accept the Budget as presented.

All in favour; motion carried

Appointment of Financial Reviewers:

Elizabeth Hughes moved, seconded by Barb Joynt, to appoint Brenda Gray and Gert Cullen as reviewers.

All in favour; motion carried

Election of Officers:

Officer to elect are: Chair, Vice-chair, and rep to Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council (EOORC). Discussed the importance of having a rep at EOORC for the transfer of information. We could designate a representative, as needed, to attend meetings. It's especially important to have a rep at voting meetings.

After three (3) times of asking and none received, nominations closed.

Ruth Anne Johnson (Chair) and Joyce Firlotte (Vice-chair) will remain in their positions for 2024.

Sandra Walker moved, seconded by Karen Hunt, to approve Ruth Anne Johnson (Chair) and Joyce Firlotte (Vice-chair) for 2024.

All in favour; motion carried

New Business:

1. Archives

Heather Thompson moved, seconded by Barb Joynt to approve sending the documents listed (see Appendix 1) to the United Church of Canada Archives in Toronto.

All in favour; motion carried

2. Website enhancements

All heading tabs can be used to access information. We also have a "Donate" tab. We hope to set-up eNews which folks would sign-up to receive weekly announcements and information.

A suggestions were made that we continue to update the paper calendar in the hall and use the phone tree for last minute information.

3. AED

Heather Thompson received information about updating the AED with \$500 off the current price. We have fresh batteries and pads and keep up the maintenance. By consensus it was decided that we do not need to upgrade. We will look in to having a CPR training in the near future.

4. Coat closet/rack

Property committee is tasked to find a location for a coat closet/rack. This is definitely needed, especially in the cold weather months.

Acknowledgements and Vote of Thanks:

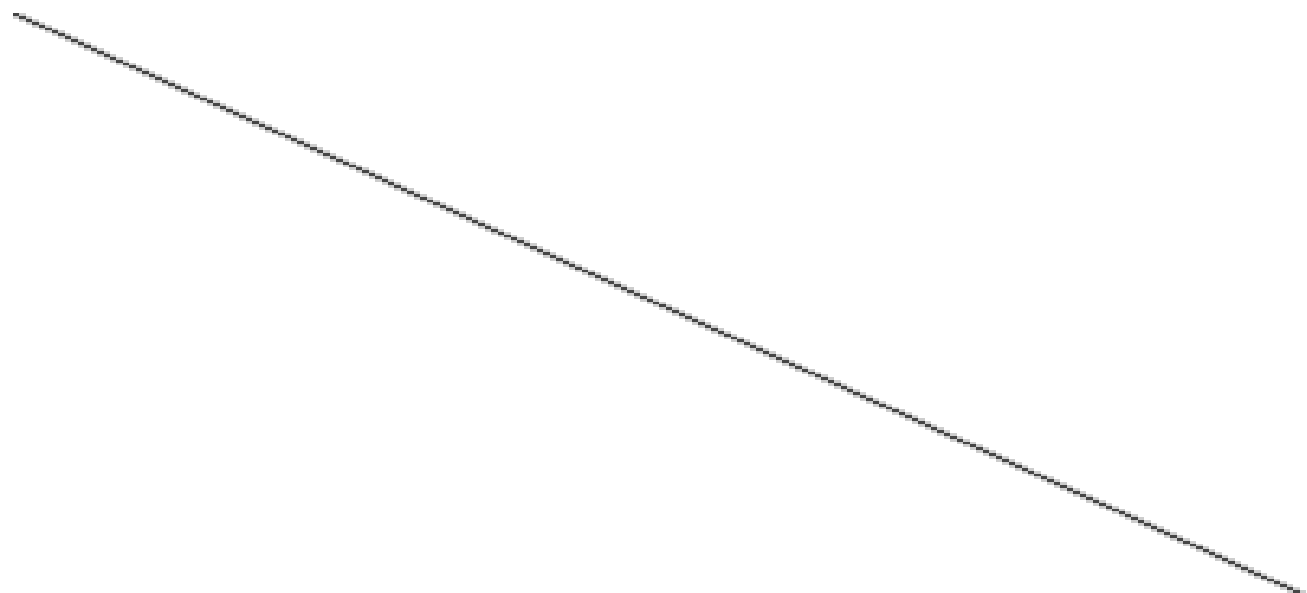
We acknowledge and give thanks to all who contribute to the life and work of Bethel United Church.

Announcements:

None

Closing and adjournment:

Heather Thompson adjourned the meeting at 1:35pm and Rev. Lynne closed with prayer.



Ruth Anne Johnson
Chair, Official Board

Linda Hamon
Secretary, Official Board

Appendix 1 – Documents to Archives

Records have been sent to the United Church of Canada Archives listed under the following titles:

- Series 1: Elmsley Presbyterian Pastoral Charge including St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Port Elmsley and St. Mary's/Bethel Presbyterian Church in Oliver's Ferry (1886-1907)
- Series 2: Bethel Presbyterian Church in Rideau Ferry (1913-1916)
- Series 3: Elmsley Lombardy Pastoral Charge includes Elmsley Presbyterian Pastoral Charge, Lombardy Methodist Circuit, Lombardy United Church, St. Andrew's United Church Port Elmsley and Bethel United Church in Rideau Ferry (1868-1989)
- Series 4: Bethel United Church (1907-1978)
- Series 5: St. Andrew's United Church Port Elmsley (1929-1995)

1. A History of Lombardy United Church - 1886-2007
2. A Short History of the United Church Women by Jean Lathwell
3. Vacation School Certificate - Mrs. Ken (Dora) Coutts July 31 1953
4. Certificate of Life Membership - Mrs. Kenneth (Dora) Coutts February 13 1959
5. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Bethel UCW December 11, 1969
6. The story of the Scotts living in the manse from 1922-1926 by Mary McLean
7. Newspaper article about 100th anniversary celebrations
8. Minutes of Session of Lombardy United Church - 1868
9. Minutes - meeting of Lombardy United Church Elders and Stewards September 4, 1986
10. Death certificate - Alexander MacKenzie Beggs – July 8 1944
11. History of Lombardy United Church written by Velma Blanchard
12. History of Bethel United Church read at Anniversary, September 19, 1955
13. The History of Rideau Ferry by Mrs. Edward Joynt
14. Minutes of final meeting of Lombardy United Church Trustees – April 28, 2016
15. Land Deed for St. Andrew's United Church, Port Elmsley, July 23, 1888
16. Newspaper clipping – Closing of St. Andrew's United Church, October 31, 2004
17. Bethel United Church 100th Anniversary bulletin, September 24, 1995
18. 100th Anniversary Book 1895 – 1995
19. Bulletin for Closing Ceremony of St. Andrew's United Church, October 31, 2004
20. Elmsley Lombardy Pastoral Charge – Annual Report 1947
21. Cradle Roll, Birthday and Record Book – Bethel United Church 1922
22. Letter to Miss Munsie, organist of Oliver's Ferry Presbyterian Church, December 28, 1892
23. Annual Report of Elmsley Lombardy Pastoral Charge – 1986
24. Annual Report of Elmsley Lombardy Pastoral Charge – 1985
25. Annual Report of Elmsley Lombardy Pastoral Charge – 1984
26. Annual Report of Elmsley Lombardy Pastoral Charge – 2015
27. Annual Report of Elmsley Lombardy Pastoral Charge – 2016
28. Annual Report of Elmsley Lombardy Pastoral Charge – 1992
29. Annual Report of Elmsley Lombardy Pastoral Charge – 1993