

Present:

Rev. Lynne Gardiner	Bill Hughes	Heather Thompson
Donna Makahnouk	Liz Hughes	Suzanne Duquette
Bill Makhnouk	Rev. Dave Steele	Chris McColl
Joyce Firlotte	Debbie Steele	Vicki McClatchie
Brenda Gray	Ruth Anne Johnson	Barb Joynt
Lynne Evans	Jack Johnson	Karen Hunt
Shirley O'Connell	Vicki Hough	Murray Hunt
Betty Clark	Suzanne Miller	Kathleen Williamson
Anne Dowie	Calvin Miller	Paul Coutts
Rev. Arlyce Schiebout	Sandra Walker	Linda Hamon

Regrets:

None

Welcome:

With quorum present Ruth Anne Johnson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 12:40pm. Rev. Lynne Gardiner offered an opening prayer.

Reminder that this is the annual meeting for the calendar year 2024 and the Annual Report contains committee reports and activities for 2024. We usually hold this meeting earlier in the year, but decided to wait until Rev. Lynne returned from her restorative leave post-surgery.

Caring/Sharing:

Appointment of Chair and Secretary:

Kathleen Williamson moved, seconded by Karen Hunt, that Paul Coutts chair the Annual Congregational Meeting.

All in favour; motion carried.

Joyce Firlotte moved, seconded by Kathleen Williamson 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:

Jack Johnson moved, seconded by Chris McColl, that adherents present at this meeting be allowed to vote.

All in favour; motion carried.

Agenda:

Barb Joynt moved, seconded by Brenda Gray, that the agenda, as presented, be accepted.

All in favour; motion carried.

Minutes:

Karen Hunt moved, seconded by Lynne Evans, that the minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of February 18 2024 be accepted.

All in favour; motion carried

Review of Bethel United Church 2024 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

No additional comments

Trustees

Jack Johnson is retiring and will be replaced by John Gray.

Session

Heather Thompson is resigning as co-chair of Session.

UCW

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

Choir

Choir members are slowly aging out, but we'll continue on as best we can.

Summer Golf

Bethel's summer golf ministry has been a lot of fun, but will probably not continue.

Brenda Gray moved, seconded by Jack Johnson, that the committee reports be accepted, as presented. Thanks to all who make our activities happen.

All in favour; motion carried

Financial Report 2024:

Sandra Walker moved, seconded by Heather Thompson, to accept the Financial Report as presented.

All in favour; motion carried

Budget 2025:

Karen Hunt moved, seconded by Calvin Miller, to accept the Budget as presented.

All in favour; motion carried

Appointment of Financial Reviewers:

Joyce Firlotte moved, seconded by Liz Hughes, to appoint Brenda Gray and Gert Cullen as reviewers for 2025.

All in favour; motion carried

Election of Officers:

Kathleen Williamson nominated, seconded by Karen Hunt, that Paul Coutts accept the position of Chair of the Official Board for 2025.

We offer our sincere thanks to Ruth Anne Johnson for her many years of service to the Official Board.

Joyce Firlotte nominated, seconded by Liz Hughes, that Kathleen Williamson accept the position of Vice-chair of the Official Board for 2025.

Both nominations accepted and carried.

Joyce Firlotte moved, seconded by Jack Johnson, that Diane Frias be added to the roster of officers as Tech Support volunteer.

All in favour; motion carried

New Business:

1. UCC 100th Anniversary

June 8 2025 – National event from St. Johns, NL

June 15 2025 – EOORC regional service at 11am at the EY Centre, Ottawa.

Trinity U. C. is organising a bus.

2. Volunteer Associate Ministers

Jack Johnson moved, seconded by Heather Thompson, that Bethel United Church recognises and approves Rev. Arlyce Schiebout as a Volunteer Associate Minister.

All in favour; motion carried

Sandra Walker moved, seconded by Vicki McClatchie, that Bethel United Church recognises and approves Rev. David Steele as a Volunteer Associate Minister.

All in favour; motion carried

3. Becoming an Affirming Congregation

Rev. Lynne would like to convene a working group of 3-5 interested people to investigate the process.

Acknowledgements and Vote of Thanks:

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

Announcements:

Stewardship committee is hosting a Fashion Café on May 3 2025. Fashion accessories will be available for sale. All donations gratefully accepted. Please share with your family and friends.

Closing and adjournment:

Jack Johnson adjourned the meeting at 1:40pm and Rev. Lynne closed with prayer.

Paul Coutts
Chair, Official Board

Linda Hamon
Secretary, Official Board

Initials _____