

Present:

Rev. Lynne Gardiner	Chris McColl	Karen Hunt
John Gray	Carol Husband	Murray Hunt
Brenda Gray	Sandra Walker	Ruth Anne Johnson
Joyce Firlotte	Paul Coutts	Liz Hughes
Barb Joynt	Bob Klatt	Bill Hughes
Vicki McClatchie	Heather Thompson	Linda Hamon

Regrets: - Kathleen Williamson, Rev. Arlyce Schiebout

Welcome:

With quorum present Paul Coutts called the meeting to order at 12:25pm and welcomed and thanked everyone for staying. A special thank you to Vicki McClatchie for providing lunch. 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 Joyce Firlotte, seconded by Karen Hunt to accept the agenda, with three (3) additions under New Business:

- 8b – the Church Hub
- 8c – UCC questionnaire
- 8d – Affirming process

All in favour; motion carried

Minutes:

Moved by Bob Klatt, seconded by Brenda Gray to accept the minutes of the November 24 2024 meeting.

All in favour; motion carried

Business Arising from the Minutes:

None

Committee Reports:

Ministry & Personnel – (Appendix 3)

Brenda Gray moved, seconded by Bob Klatt, that Rev. Lynne's study leave be deferred (rather than loose them) as she was not able to use them before July 1st.

All in favour; motion carried

Moved by Bob Klatt, seconded by Brenda Gray, that Bethel United Church offer a fee for service contract to Paula Grenke to provide music for church services.

All in favour; motion carried

Joyce Firlotte has offered to replace Linda Hamon for 4-6 weeks as she recovers from knee replacement surgery.

The printer/photocopier will be moved, permanently, to Bethel from the Hamon home.

Stewardship – (Appendix 4)

Next meeting is on Sunday, June 22nd following worship.

Property – (to do list)

Front step to have concrete replaced in the stone joints.

Trim around new door.

Wheelchair access to church hall.

Rotted piece of fascia to be replaced (church roof).

Will be getting heat pump system serviced (May 21/25).

Sanctuary cleaning

Trustees – no report

Royal Bank signature change, from Jack Johnson to John Gray, arranged.

Session

Rev. David Steele, provided pulpit supply during February and March.

Communion was celebrated in February and April.

Rentals by the Cemetery Board in April (no fee charged).

Rental for a Piano Recital on June 15th by Paula Grenke

Moved by Karen Hunt, seconded by Chris McColl to waive the rental fee for the piano recital

All in favour; motion carried

Church closure on Sunday June 1st, to be approved by official board, so congregation can join with Trinity United in Smiths Falls for a service at 4pm and potluck.

Moved by Heather Thompson, seconded by Chris McColl to cancel worship at Bethel so congregation can join with Trinity United in Smiths Falls.

All in favour; motion carried

The transfer of membership for Emily Gardiner, from Wall Street in Brockville to Bethel has been requested.

Moved by Heather Thompson, seconded by Karen Hunt to approve Emily Gardiner's transfer of membership.

All in favour; motion carried

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

UCW - (Appendix 5)

Moved by Bob Klatt, seconded by Chris McColl to accept the committee reports as presented.

All in favour; motion carried

Financial Report: - (see Appendix 6)

Moved by Sandra Walker, seconded by Brenda Gray to accept the financial report as presented.

All in favour; motion carried

New Business:

Email vote – March 13 2025

Moved by Linda Hamon, seconded by Brenda Gray, that the treasurer pay the annual fee to the supplier of the calendar software for the website.

All in favour; motion carried

The Church Hub

This is now much easier to access. While preparing the yearly statistics Joyce Firlotte and Sandra Walker received very competent help.

UCC Survey

Questionnaire about a change from three (3) levels of governance to two (2) has been completed.

Affirming Process

Rev. Lynne, Heather Thompson, and Lynne Evans will meet and decide how best to bring the discussion to the Bethel congregation.

Correspondence: - none

Announcements and Upcoming Events:

Next Meeting:

Sunday, September 14 following worship. Bring a bag lunch.

Adjournment:

Bob Klatt adjourned the meeting at 1:15pm.

Paul Coutts
Chair, Official Board

Linda Hamon
Secretary, Official Board

Initials _____

Appendix 1 – Agenda

Rideau Ferry Bethel United Church Official Board Meeting

May 25 2025 - 12:30 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 November 24, 2024

5. Business arising from the minutes

a.

b.

c.

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, Treasurer

8. New Business

a. Email vote – March 13 2025

b.

c.

d.

9. Correspondence

10. Announcements

Adjournment

Initials _____

Appendix 2 – Minister's Report

I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge—God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (1 Corinthians 1:4-9)

This is my first report to the Board since I returned to work on April 1. In many respects, I feel like I 'hit the ground running', and felt the demands of ministry returning with full force. We held our Annual Meeting on Sunday April 13, and it is with great delight that we recognized Rev. Dave Steele and Rev. Arlyce Schiebot as Voluntary Associate Ministers. Rev. Dave and Rev. Arlyce come with vast experience and wisdom, and did amazing ministry while I was on Restorative Care. Their participation with us as a Community of Faith is a testament to the functioning and nurturing that you provide in Community.

Holy Week was also marked by the congregation with a lovely Good Friday worship service and a potluck supper. We had approximately 30 people attend (very approximate numbers because I confess that I didn't count), and the company and community was really lovely. Easter Sunday morning was a time of celebration that was enjoyed by approximately 50 people. On May 11, Mother's Day, we celebrated UCW Sunday, and had the gift of recognizing the Lifetime Memberships of 3 of our stalwart UCW members: Anne Dowie, Thelma Munro and Linda Hamon.

As well as my regular Bethel Activities, I have the requirement to be involved in Regional Activities. I am on the Ministry Support Leadership Team, a new Regional Team with the mandate to provide educational, social and personal support to other clergy in the Region. We hosted a Clergy Day away in Kemptville at the beginning of May, that included worship time, support time, a lecture by Rev. Jessie Zinck (Principal at Montreal Dio), and even some art! I led worship, taught a workshop on Progressive Muscle Relaxation, and enjoyed the comradery of my colleagues that I often feel are too far away for me to see. I have, on a regular basis, been drawn on to provide 1-1 support for some of my colleagues.

In addition to this Leadership team, I am the Pastoral Charge Supervisor for Grace United Church in Gananoque, and Addison United Church in Addison. Both of these congregations are at a significant crossroads in their ministry, and I am working with them and with the Regional staff ensure that they have the resources they need to move forward. This is time consuming, and often heartbreaking work, but their commitment to discerning God's plan through this is laudable.

I also continue work at the General Council level, and am on the Rural Ministries Network, and the Disability Theology and Justice Network. At this point, most of this work is information sharing.

I am busy, but I am also supported so much by all of you in this wondrous calling to ministry. For this, and for all of the care you demonstrated during my Restorative Care, and my return to work, I will always be grateful. It is my honour and privilege to continue to serve Bethel.

~Rev. Lynne

Initials _____

Appendix 3 – M & P

The M&P committee met on April 14th.

Reverend Lynne did not take her low church Sunday after Easter this year, so it was agreed upon that she will take off Sunday, June 29th. Beryl Orok will be covering pulpit supply.

It has been agreed upon that Rev. Lynne will be taking vacation from August 18 to August 31 inclusive. Beryl Orok will be covering pulpit supply those two Sundays.

Rev. Lynne's study leave was discussed. The M&P committee would like to put forward a motion, moved by Kathleen and seconded by Bob, that Rev. Lynne's study leave be deferred (rather than loose them) as she was not able to use them before July 1st.

Music at Bethel was discussed. Ruth Anne has agreed to play as long as she can, but there will likely be Sundays when she is absent. The M&P committee would like to put forward a motion, moved by Jennifer and seconded by Brenda, that Bethel United Church offer a fee for service contract to Paula Grenke to provide music for church services.

Linda informed the M&P committee she will be on leave as of the middle of June. Linda, you will certainly be missed!

On behalf of the M&P committee, we would like to say that we are very happy to have you back leading our congregation! We truly appreciate all you do for us and others!!

Our next meeting is scheduled for September 15th at 9:30 a.m. at the church hall. An email was sent out with an invitation to Bethel's employees to attend should they wish.

Initials _____

Appendix 4 – Stewardship

1. The Stewardship Committee partnered once again with the UCW on a Lenten Project. The focus of the **2025 Lenten Project** was to raise awareness about the work of the PSFDH Hospital Foundation and provide support to the PSFDH Foundation's current appeal to raise money for the purchase of a new cataract microscope (\$800.00 was raised for the Lenten project).
2. **The Bethel Annual Pancake Breakfast** took place on **Saturday April 5, 2025**. We served 130 breakfasts and earned about \$1400.00 There was lots of good camaraderie, laughter and goodwill as members of the Bethel Family and visitors from the broader community connected and shared. Special thanks to the large number of Bethel family folk who helped to carry out this event.
3. **The Fashion Café held on April 5, 2025** was a great fun, outreach event, well attended, with lots of really interesting accessories very well organized by Ashley and Sandra. The hall looked terrific thanks to Sandy Lackey and her decorating crew. The hospitality team kept the tea/coffee and yummy cookies coming throughout the afternoon. On top of it all we raised about \$400 to add to church funds.
4. **The Bethel Annual Picnic with Outdoor Service (service to be organized by Session/picnic by the Stewardship Committee) will take place on Sunday, July 27th** at the Rideau Ferry Yacht Club Conservation Area. More details to follow

Submitted by Karen Hunt

Initials _____

Appendix 5 – UCW

December 7 2024 Bake/Cookie sale

At the January meeting the following donations were approved:

- Mission and Service \$500.00 January 2025 and \$500.00 July 2025
- The Table \$500.00 January 2025 and \$500.00 July 2025
- SF Community Food Bank \$500.00 January 2025 and \$500.00 July 2025
- Interval House \$300.00 January 2025
- Snow suit Fund \$200.00 January 2025
- Kids Help Line \$200.00 January 2025
- Cornerstone Landing \$200.00 January 2025
- Hospice Hub \$200.00 January 2025

Storage containers were purchased for the Christmas tree and all the ornaments

February 2 2025	Soup/Sandwich lunch
March 7 2025	Bethel hosts the Perth & area World Day of Prayer service
March 9 2025	Soup/Sandwich lunch
April 9 2025	Four Rivers Area UCW Annual meeting attended by Liz Hughes, Barb Joynt, Sandy Lackey, Linda Hamon
April 13 2025	Soup/Sandwich lunch before the Annual Congregational meeting
May 6 2025	Trinity UCW invited for “Fun, Food, Fellowship”
May 11 2025	Presentation of Life Memberships to Anne Dowie, Thelma Munro, Linda Hamon
June 10 2025	last meeting before the summer followed by a potluck lunch of our favourite appetisers
June 28 2025	Summer bake sale

Appendix 6 – Financial Report

Bethel United Church					
As at May 15, 2025					
		Operating	Stewardship		
Balance January 1, 2025		\$23,075.83	\$552.90		\$23,628.73
Receipts					
	Local Support	16,355.00			
	LocalSupport - Par	13,900.00			
	Loose Collection	200.00			
	Memorial Funds	50.00			
	Mission and Services	2,658.00			
	Stewardship-Lenten Appeal		907.00		
	Stewardship - Fashion Café		475.00		
	Stewardship - Pancake Breakfast		1,929.00		
	United Church - Salary Rebate	10,873.95			
	Total Receipts	44,036.95	3,311.00		47,347.95
Disbursements					
	Minister Salary/Benefits	33,282.47			
	Pulpit Supply	4,934.00			
	Pulpit Supply Travel	97.24			
	Organist - Salary	30.00			
	Organist - Travel	20.00			
	Secretary Salary	1,126.68			
	Secretary Travel	72.16			
	Bank Charges	42.75			
	Par Cost	69.00			
	Internet/Web	821.73			
	Music Licence	366.00			
	Office - Secretary	85.77			
	Office - Treasurer	140.12			
	Photocopier Expenses	191.89			
	Photocopier Lease	358.79			
	Regional Dues	4,041.00			
	Telephone	33.90			
	Church - Cleaning	540.00			
	Church - Hydro	2,063.39			
	Church - Insurance	1,129.59			
	Church - R&M	321.99			
	Church - Snow	5,354.88			
	Mission and Services	2,658.00			
	Stewardship - Lenten Appeal		907.00		
	Stewardship - Expenses		524.67		
	Total Disbursements	57,781.35	1,431.67		59,213.02
Balance		\$9,331.43	\$2,432.23		\$11,763.66

Initials _____