

Present:

Rev. Lynne Gardiner
Chris McColl
Kathleen Williamson
John Gray
Brenda Gray

Sandra Walker
Paul Coutts
Joyce Firlotte
Barb Joynt
Karen Hunt

Murray Hunt
Heather Thompson
Linda Hamon

Regrets: *none sent*

Welcome:

With quorum present Paul Coutts called the meeting to order at 12:15pm and welcomed and thanked everyone for staying. Rev. Lynne Gardiner offered an opening prayer.

Minister's Report: - *no report*

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 Kathleen Williamson, seconded by Heather Thompson to accept the agenda, with addition 8e – snow cancellation policy. *All in favour; motion carried*

Minutes:

Moved by Chris McColl, seconded by Barb Joynt to accept the minutes of the September 14 2025 meeting. *All in favour; motion carried*

Business Arising from the Minutes:

Pre-printed bulletin covers were donated to Grace United Church, Gananoque.

Committee Reports:

Ministry & Personnel

The M&P committee met on September 15, 2025.

Rev Lynne's request for vacation time from November 3-16th was approved. Her study leave was discussed although no definite dates were set due to her upcoming surgery.

On behalf of the M&P committee, we want to thank you for all you do! Best wishes for a successful operation and a quick recovery. We are also grateful that Rev. Dave has agreed again to cover while you will be recovering.

The next scheduled meeting is for Monday, December 1st at 9:30 a.m. An email was sent out with an invitation to Bethel's employees to attend should they wish.

Stewardship

1. During the October Stewardship Campaign, our generous Bethel Family donated \$1520.00 to support the Community Housing Initiative in Perth (CHIP) Program and their work to provide additional affordable housing in Perth.
2. The Fall/Winter Bethel Newsletter has been distributed by email and paper copies are available at the church.
3. This year Bethel will have a Memory Tree in the sanctuary. This project is being organized by Vicki Hough. Our usual tree will be put in place but on it there will initially only be lights and then during the days leading up to Christmas, the rest of the tree will be covered with white and gold (memory) balls. A donation to the local Perth and Smiths Falls food banks along with each request is welcomed.
4. White Gift Sunday will be celebrated on the first Sunday in Advent, November 30. White envelopes will be in the pews beginning Sunday, November 23 and will be collected on Sunday, November 30. Our contributions this year will again go to the Perth and Smiths Falls Food Banks (The Table Community Food Centre in Perth and the Smiths Falls Community Food Bank in Smiths Falls) as many in our communities are struggling with food costs and food bank use continues to increase.
5. The Stewardship Committee will organize a Christmas Sing-Along on Sunday, December 14th following the UCW Soup and Sandwich Lunch.

Property

Water filtration system unit had time reset and is going through its regular cycle.

Should be okay until next summer before any service is required.

Masonry repair work was completed on the front church steps and hall step. Also repaired and repointed bricks and around window sills. Some parging done on foundation walls.

Changed batteries in remotes and had heat pump completely serviced.

Perth septic service pumped out the septic holding tank.

Couple small items left on to do list, depending on weather and scheduling availability may be deferred until spring time.

Trustees

At the beginning of September \$10,000 was transferred to the operating account to support the operation of Bethel.

The Trustee account now has \$6,000 available.

A total of \$230,000 is on deposit with EOORC. This was originally \$200,000 when the account was established in September 2021.

In November arrangements were made to transfer \$30,000 from the EOORC account to the Trustee account at RBC.

Session

Elders met on November 2nd to discuss services for Advent/Christmas. November 30th – Advent 1, communion, White Gift; December 7th – Advent 2; December 14th – Advent 3; December 21st – Advent 4; December 24th – Christmas Eve family service. No worship service on December 28th and January 4th. Rev. Dave Steele will lead worship from January 11th to March 22nd while Rev. Lynne is on restorative leave.

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

UCW

Monthly meetings continue on the first Tuesday of the month.

Liz Hughes, Heather Thompson, and Linda Hamon attended the Four Rivers Area UCW Fall Rally on October 15th at Grace United, Gananoque.

UCW provided lunch for soup & sandwich on Sunday, October 16th.

Cookie & Bake Sale coming up on Saturday, December 6th, from 9am until sold out.

We will be packing cookies on Friday, December 5th at 9:30am. Cookies and other baked goods can be dropped off, at the church, on Thursday, December 4th from 2-3pm or before 9am on the Friday.

Moved by Brenda Gray, seconded by Heather Thompson to accept the committee reports as presented. *All in favour; motion carried*

Financial Report and 2026 Budget: - (see Appendix 2, 3)

Moved by Sandra Walker, seconded by Heather Thompson to accept the financial report as presented. *All in favour; motion carried*

Moved by Brenda Gray, seconded by Heather Thompson to accept the budget, as presented, for approval at the Annual Congregational Meeting on April 19 2026.

All in favour; motion carried

New Business:

Annual Congregational Meeting – April 19 2026 following worship

Annual reports – due March 16 2026

Nominating Committee

Will present candidates for empty Official Board positions

Photocopier

Joyce Firlotte proposed that we purchase a photocopier when the current lease expires. She has done some preliminary research and will discuss with Sandra Walker and Linda Hamon specific needs and costs and do some further research for the next meeting.

Snow Cancellation Policy

Kathleen Williamson moved, seconded by Karen Hunt that if the Weather Network announces a weather alert for significant snowfall, in our area, Worship at Bethel will be cancelled. The telephone tree will be activated to notify Bethel members.

All in favour; motion carried

Correspondence: - *none*

Announcements and Upcoming Events:

Next Meeting:

Annual Congregational Meeting following worship on April 19 2026

Adjournment:

John Gray adjourned the meeting at 12:15pm.

Paul Coutts
Chair, Official Board

Linda Hamon
Secretary, Official Board

Initials _____

Appendix 1 – Agenda

Rideau Ferry Bethel United Church Official Board Meeting

November 23 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 September 14, 2025

5. Business arising from the minutes

a. Bulletin covers

b.

c.

d.

6. Committee Reports

a. Ministry and Personnel

b. Stewardship

c. Property

d. Trustees

e. Session

f. EOORC

g. United Church Women

7. Financial Report and Budget 2026 – Sandra Walker, Treasurer

8. New Business

a. Date of Annual Meeting

b. Annual Report

c. Nominating Committee

d. Photocopier

e.

9. Correspondence

Announcements

Adjournment

Initials _____

Appendix 2 – Financial

Bethel United Church				
As at October 31, 2025				
		Operating	Stewardship	
Balance January 1, 2025		\$23,075.83	\$552.90	\$23,628.73
Receipts				
	Local Support	35,481.97		
	LocalSupport - Par	34,820.00		
	Loose Collection	692.00		
	Memorial Funds	275.00		
	Mission and Services	6,715.00		
	Camp Lauren	295.00		
	GST Rebate	1,736.94		
	Stewardship - Lenten Appeal		907.00	
	Stewardship - Fashion Café		475.00	
	Stewardship - Pancake Breakfast		1,929.00	
	Stewardship - Picnic		305.00	
	Stewardship - Chip Program		1,520.00	
	Stove Project	144.00		
	Trustees	10,000.00		
	United Church - Salary Rebate	10,873.95		
	Total Receipts	101,033.86	5,136.00	106,169.86
Disbursements				
	Minister Salary/Benefits	73,915.32		
	Supply Minister	4,680.00		
	Continuing Education	1,689.22		
	Pulpit Supply	762.00		
	Pulpit Supply Travel	195.04		
	Organist - Salary	780.00		
	Organist - Travel	20.00		
	Secretary Salary	2,253.36		
	Secretary Travel	139.81		
	Anniversary	200.00		
	Bank Charges	89.82		
	Par Cost	169.50		
	Internet/Web/Zoom/Donation	2,670.86		
	Music Licence/Piano Tuning	698.50		
	Office - Secretary	164.76		
	Office - Treasurer	140.12		
	Photocopier Expenses	368.82		
	Photocopier Lease	536.63		
	Regional Dues	4,041.00		
	Telephone	125.59		
	Church - Cleaning	1,320.00		
	Church - Hydro	2,734.13		
	Church - Insurance	2,892.00		
	Church - R&M	2,225.34		
	Church - Snow	5,354.88		
	Church - Septic/Water	553.20		
	Camp Lauren	295.00		
	Stove Project	144.00		
	Stewardship - Chip Program		1520	
	Mission and Services	6,715.00		
	Stewardship - Lenten Appeal		907.00	
	Stewardship - Expenses		853.92	
	Total Disbursements	115,873.90	3,280.92	119,154.82
Balance		\$8,235.79	\$2,407.98	\$10,643.77

Appendix 3 – 2026 Budget

Budget Bethel Pastoral Charge:Rideau Ferry			
	Budget	Actual	Budget
	2025	Oct-31	2026
Expenses			
Minster Salary/Benefits	86,527	73,915	88,780
Supply Minister	2,800	4,680	6,240
Con. Ed./Book Allowance	1,689	1,689	1,738
Travel	875	355	500
Gifts	700		700
Lay Training Fund	3,000		0
Organist	780	780	1,800
Pulpit Supply	1,525	762	1,566
Secretary Salary	3,380	2,254	3,380
Music License/Piano Tu	350	699	700
Treasurer Hon.	500		500
Internet/Zoom/Donation	2,958	2,671	3,350
Regional AGM	500		500
Regional Dues	4,350	4,041	4,950
Office (Minister)	100		100
Office (Secretary)	200	165	200
Office (Treasurer)	200	140	200
Telephone	235	126	192
Par Cost/Bank Charges	360	259	325
Photocopier Expenses	350	369	500
Photocopier Lease	720	537	720
Church - Cleaning	1,560	1,320	1,560
Church - Grass/Snow	2,000	5,355	5,500
Church - Hydro	3,000	2,734	3,200
Church - Insurance	3,400	2,892	3,700
Church - Maintenance	500	2,225	1,000
Church - Water/Septic	1,015	553	800
Miscellaneous	26		24
TOTAL	123,600	108,521	132,725