

Present:

Paul Coutts
Kathleen Williamson
Joyce Firlotte
Karen Hunt
Chris McColl
Liz Hughes

Bill Hughes
Barb Joynt
Rev. Lynne Gardiner
Ruth Anne Johnson
Brenda Gray
John Gray

Jack Johnson
Heather Thompson
Sandra Walker
Linda Hamon

Regrets: *none sent*

Welcome:

With quorum present Paul Coutts called the meeting to order at 12:20pm 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, 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 Karen Hunt to accept the agenda, with addition 8d – Search committee. *All in favour; motion carried*

Minutes:

Moved by Linda Hamon, seconded by Kathleen Williamson to accept the minutes of the November 23 2025 meeting. *All in favour; motion carried*

Business Arising from the Minutes: - *none*

Committee Reports:

Ministry & Personnel

The M&P committee met on May 25th.

It had been agreed upon that in lieu of taking the first Sunday off after Easter (April 12th, 2026...Low Church Sunday), Reverend Lynne took Sunday, May 3rd, as she was the guest speaker for an Anniversary celebration. She was also on holidays from June 8th-14th. Reverend Lynne's next scheduled holiday is from Monday, August 17th to Sunday, August 30th inclusive. She will be back at Bethel on Monday, August 31st. Reverend Lynne is also considering taking vacation time for the month of January, 2027. Study Leave dates will be determined after Reverend Lynne receives her school calendar.

On behalf of the M&P committee, we would like to give a big thank you to Reverend Lynne for going above and beyond for the Bethel Congregation! We truly appreciate all you do for us and others!

Our next meeting is scheduled for September 14th, 2026 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.

Stewardship

Since the last Official Board meeting on November 23, 2025 the Stewardship Committee met on February 1, March 22, and June 7, 2026

Activities organized by the Stewardship Committee since November 23, 2025

- White Gift Sunday- Advent 1 –Nov. 30 collection.
- Memory Ball Project during Advent (The total amount of money collected for the Perth and Smiths Falls Food Banks through the White Gift Envelopes and the Memory Ball project was \$1401.45. We have a very caring and generous Bethel family)
- The Christmas Sing-Along took place after church on Sunday, December 14th following a Soup and Sandwich Lunch organized by the UCW.
- During Lent, Session/ UCW/ and Stewardship engaged in a joint project to provide updated information about and support for the Hospice Hub. \$629 was donated to the Hospice Hub.
- A successful Ontario Maple Weekend Pancake Breakfast was held on April 4, 2026 . This was a great Bethel Community Outreach Event! We served 165 breakfasts and raised \$1930
- The Mission and Service Story Reader Schedule for June 14 – Dec. 20, 2026 was prepared and distributed.

We are looking forward to the Annual Bethel Outdoor Service and Picnic on July 26th. Stewardship will organize the Picnic Lunch

Sincere thanks to all members of the Bethel Family for their ongoing support of Stewardship activities

Property

Fire extinguishers have been checked and replaced as necessary.

Water filtration system has ultraviolet light and filter replaced.

Hydro One/Electrical contractor have completed new underground hydro line and connection to existing Church panel.

Exterior trim around accessible door installed.

Trustees

The Trustee account at the Royal Bank now has \$26,127.00 available.

There is a total of \$234,175.00 on deposit with EOORC. This was originally \$200,000.00 when the account was established in September 2021. In the first six (6) months of 2026 the deposit earned \$11,875.00 in interest.

Session – no report

Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council (EOORC) -_no report.

UCW

The last UCW meeting was held on Tuesday, June 2nd, followed by a potluck lunch. We had a very successful Summer Bake Sale on Saturday, July 4th. Many thanks to all who donated baking and helped the day of the sale. The continued support of all Bethel members is greatly appreciated.

The next UCW meeting will be on Tuesday, September 8th at 11am.

Moved by Karen Hunt, seconded by Sandra Walker to accept the committee reports as presented. *All in favour; motion carried*

Financial Report: - (see Appendix 2)

Sandra will be having surgery in a few weeks and all is in place for her work to continue until she returns.

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

New Business:

Volunteer Associate Minister (VAM)

Rev. Arlyce Schiebout will continue as VAM as will Rev. Dave Steele until he chooses not to.

Pilot Project

Suggestion to cancel worship services in January 2027. Sandra Walker stated that when Sundays are cancelled there is a significant drop in offerings.

Other option is to ask Rev. Dave Steele to offer online, only, services from home. We would pay pulpit supply but no travel expenses.

If we opt for pulpit supply Kathleen will need to start calls now.

Affirming Committee

Researching educational options and an inclusive wedding policy.

Search Committee

After today's announcement that Rev. Lynne will be leaving us at the end of October it was decided to set up a Search Committee as soon as possible. Joyce Firlotte has offered to chair this committee with Sandra Walker, Kathleen Williamson, John Gray, and possibly 1 or 2 other members. The first task will be to review and update our previous report. Being financially stable will be a great asset in our search.

Correspondence: - none

Announcements and Upcoming Events:

Next Meeting:

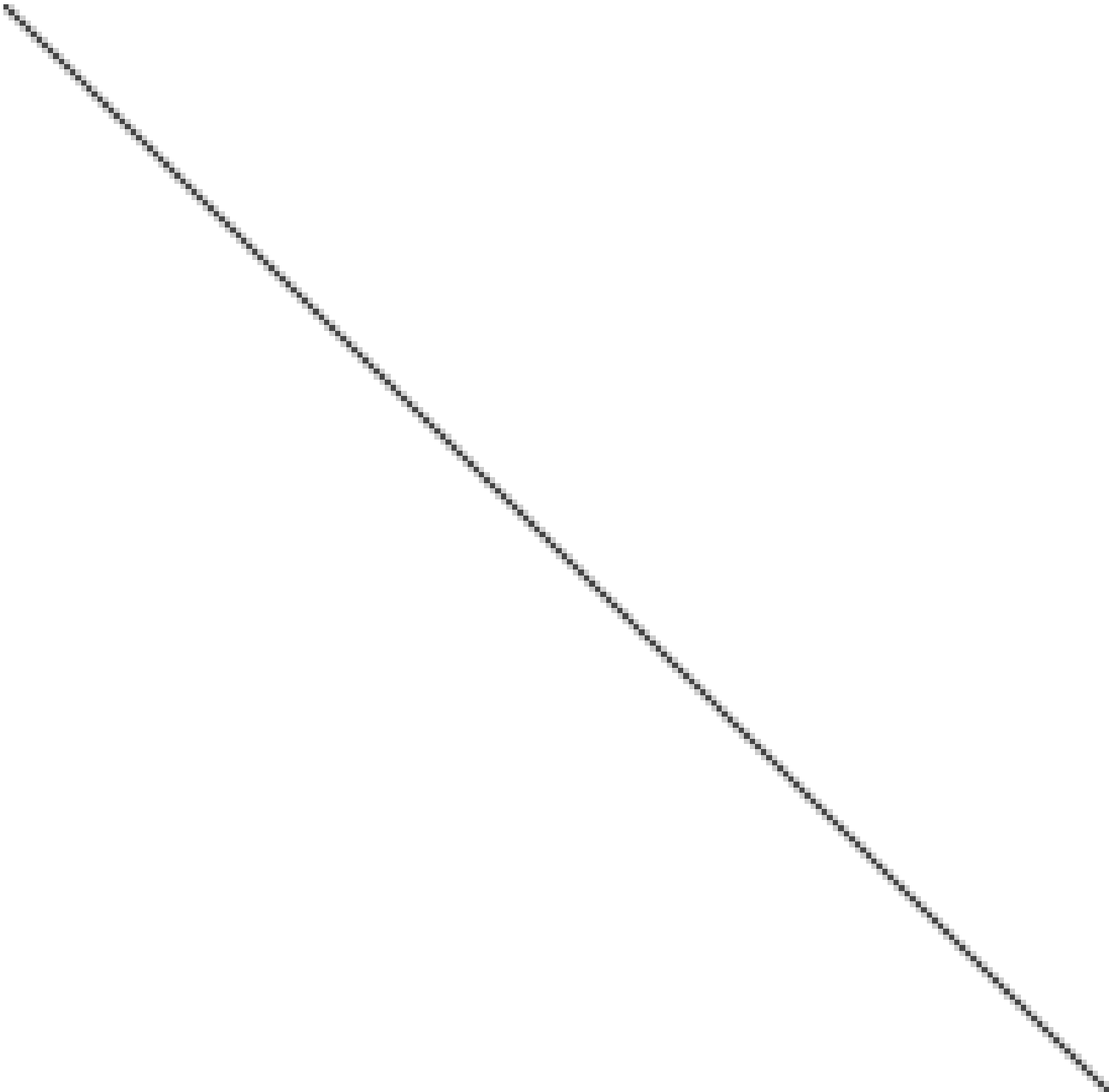
September 13th following worship

Adjournment:

Bill Hughes adjourned the meeting at 12:55pm.

Paul Coutts
Chair, Official Board

Linda Hamon
Secretary, Official Board



Appendix 1 – Agenda

Rideau Ferry Bethel United Church Official Board Meeting

July 19 2026 - 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.

b.

6. Committee Reports

a. Ministry and Personnel

b. Stewardship

c. Property

d. Trustees

e. Session

f. United Church Women

g. EOORC

7. Financial Report – Sandra Walker, Treasurer

8. New Business

a. VAM – Dave Steele

b. Pilot Project

c. Affirming Committee

d.

9. Correspondence

10. Announcements

Adjournment

Initials _____

Appendix 2 – Financial

Bethel United Church				
As at June 30, 2026				
	Operating	Stewardship		
Balance January 1, 2025	\$7,650.45	\$366.53		\$8,016.98
Receipts				
Local Support	17,850.00			
Local Support - Par	20,820.00			
Loose Collection	944.00			
Memorial Funds	310.00			
Mission and Services	4,602.00			
Bethel - Trustees	10,000.00			
Bethel - UCW	6,000.00			
Stewardship - Pancake Breakfast		2,130.00		
Stewardship - Hospice Hub		664.00		
United Church - Salary Rebate	8,795.11			
Total Receipts	69,321.11	2,794.00		72,115.11
Disbursements				
Salary/Benefits	45,668.85			
Minister Fill-In	5,200.00			
Pulpit Supply	261.00			
Pulpit Supply - Travel	179.80			
Organist	1,050.00			
Secretary Salary	1,408.35			
Secretary Travel	108.24			
Bank Charges	48.43			
Par Cost	102.75			
Gifts	50.00			
Internet/Web	1,518.18			
Music Licence	368.55			
Office - Secretary	85.87			
Office - Treasurer	31.36			
Photocopier Expenses	284.43			
Photocopier Lease	274.52			
Telephone	331.49			
Church - Cleaning	780.00			
Church - Hydro	3,115.54			
Church - Insurance	1,830.34			
Church - R&M	572.83			
Church - Snow	4,859.00			
Church - Septic/Water	570.25			
Mission and Services	4,602.00			
Stewardship - Hospice Hub		664.00		
Stewardship - Expenses		560.38		
Total Disbursements	73,301.78	1,224.38		74,526.16
Balance	\$3,669.78	\$1,936.15		\$5,605.93

Initials _____