Present:

Rev. Lynne Gardiner	Sandra Walker	Murray Hunt
Brenda Gray	Paul Coutts	Ruth Anne Johnson
Joyce Firlotte	Bob Klatt	Linda Hamon
Barb Joynt	Jack Johnson	
Chris McColl	Karen Hunt	

Regrets: - Kathleen Williamson, John Gray

Welcome:
With quorum present Paul Coutts called the meeting to order at 12:10pm and welcomed and thanked everyone for staying. Rev. Lynne Gardiner offered an opening prayer.

Minister's Report: - (*Appendix 2*)

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 Brenda Gray, seconded by Karen Hunt to accept the agenda, as circulated.
All in favour; motion carried

Minutes:
Moved by Jack Johnson, seconded by Bob Klatt to accept the minutes of the May 25 2025 meeting.
All in favour; motion carried

Business Arising from the Minutes:
None

Committee Reports:
Ministry & Personnel
The M&P committee did not meet. The next scheduled meeting is for Monday, September 15th at 9:30 a.m. An email was sent out with an invitation to Bethel's employees to attend should they wish.
Although the committee members did not formally meet, Rev. Lynne's upcoming sick leave was discussed. The M&P committee would like to put forward a motion, moved by Brenda Gray and seconded by Bob Klatt, that Rev. Dave Steele cover pulpit supply when Rev. Lynn is on sick leave, at $520.00 per week plus mileage.
All in favour; motion carried

On behalf of the M&P committee, we are truly grateful to have you Rev. Lynne. Thank you very much for all you do!! We are also grateful that Rev. Dave has agreed to cover while you will be recovering.

Stewardship
The Bethel Annual Picnic with Outdoor Service (service was organized by Session/picnic by the Stewardship Committee) took place on Sunday, July 27th at the Rideau Ferry Yacht Club Conservation Area.
Looking ahead the Stewardship Committee is making plans for the traditional Bethel October Stewardship undertaking (More details soon) as well as a Fall/Winter newsletter, a White Gift project and a Christmas Sing-Along.
Karen Hunt updated the list of Mission & Service Story readers for September 21 2025 to June 7 2026.

Property
Still working on the *to do* list.
Electronic piano, from the hall, was donated to a young musician.
Sherri Madden donated a piano for the sanctuary. Paul Coutts, Dave Coutts, and Bob Klatt moved the piano into the sanctuary.

Trustees – no report
Investigating the timeline for withdrawing funds from the EOORC investment, if needed.

Session
Elders met on September 7th.
Plans for the Anniversary service on September 28th. Debbie Steele, guest speaker; Emily Gardiner and Rev. Dave Steele, special music; welcoming five (5) new members.
Celebration of communion scheduled for October 5th.

Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council (EOORC) - no report.
"Holding a Vision for the Future" days: Rev. Lynne, Paul Coutts & Kathleen Williamson will be attending on Friday, September 19th; Rev. Lynne & Linda Hamon will be attending on Saturday, October 4th.
A new Minister of Pastoral Relations was hired.

UCW
We had a successful summer bake sale, selling out as usual.
Monthly meetings resumed on Tuesday, September 2nd and enjoyed a potluck lunch after the meeting.
We are co-ordinating the anniversary lunch on Sunday, September 28th. There are still a few items needed so please check the sign up list on the fridge.

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

Financial Report: - (see *Appendix 3*)
Trustees transferred $10,000 to the operating fund.
Sandra Walker, Joyce Firlotte and Ruth Anne Johnson will work on the budget to be presented at the next Official Board meeting.
Moved by Sandra Walker, seconded by Jack Johnson to accept the financial report as presented.
All in favour; motion carried

New Business:
Water Testing
Janis deSalvo had the water tested in August. Going forward the water will be tested in March, July, and October.

Telephone
Rev. Lynne has had charging problems with the church telephone. Jack Johnson will investigate purchasing a refurbished telephone spending to a maximum of $250.

Using the hall for worship
On an extremely hot summer Sunday comments and questions came up about that decision. By consensus, we now have a policy to follow: if the weather forecast predicts a high of 28^0 C we will automatically have the worship service in the hall.

Bulletin covers
Linda Hamon asked permission to give them away to a church that still uses them. All agreed that this is acceptable.

Correspondence: - *none*

Announcements and Upcoming Events:

Next Meeting:
Sunday, November 23rd following worship. Bring a bag lunch.

Adjournment:
Brenda Gray adjourned the meeting at 1:00pm.

_____ _____

Paul Coutts
Chair, Official Board

Linda Hamon
Secretary, Official Board

Appendix 1 – Agenda

Rideau Ferry Bethel United Church Official Board Meeting

September 14 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 May 25, 2025
5. Business arising from the minutes
   a.
   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 – Sandra Walker, Treasurer
8. New Business
   a. Water test
   b. Telephone
   c. Policy re using the hall for worship
   d. Old bulletin covers
9. Correspondence
10. Announcements

Adjournment

Appendix 2 – Minister's Report

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8)

" Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." John 7:8

It has been a quiet and fulfilling summer at Bethel. While it is clear that our congregations is changing, it is also clear that we are thriving and moving forward as a Community of Faith.

During the summer we have continued to enjoy some of our regular activities (Chat and Chew and Prayer and Share), we have celebrated together at our annual picnic service at the Rideau Ferry Yacht Club and have had a small but successful bake sale. We (somewhat) successfully streamed the 100th Anniversary Service held at the EY centre in Ottawa, and have welcomed Paula Grenke to the keyboard to help lead us in worship. At the same time we've let go of a few things (for example, the piano in the sanctuary that was no longer tunable, the book cases in the hall so we could bring the photocopier to the church, the emphasis on the summer golf team) out of necessity so that we could consider moving forward as a congregation. We've supported each other through further health crises like knee surgeries, abdominal surgeries and long hospitalizations, and new choices for housing and support in the community.

I am reminded this morning that our lives as Christians are marked by change; change that sometimes is difficult, and fraught with all sorts of emotions, and change that seems easy and inevitable. Despite the *feelings* about change, our *call* as disciples is to this place of 'living waters' flowing from within. Despite our *wishes* for things to be stable, predictable and 'the same as it used to be', our lives are marked by transition and movement forward in the name of Jesus.

I am grateful for peaceful summers, but I am also grateful for you willingness as a community to move forward and embrace the next steps of our community life.

During the summer I have started and am in the process of an intense reading course for my DMin on Thriving Church communities. This course will be completed in mid – October. I will begin a second course November 1 on Contextual Liturgy, with its completion date of mid-January. As my second knee surgery is now scheduled for January 7, 2026, I am hoping to complete the course work for this over Christmas.

I have also continued by responsibilities to the Region; I am the Pastoral Charge Supervisor for Grace United Church in Gananoque, for Addison United Church, and have sat on the hiring team for the new Minister of Pastoral Relations (Rev. Whit Strong is retiring). Additionally, I continue to support Pastoral Care in this Region as many churches are without clergy, and consult to the Regional executive on issues of Equity and Accessibility. I am also on the "Clergy Support Leadership Team" and will be facilitating another "Clergy Day Away" in October, at St. John's United Church in Cardinal. I continue with the Rural Ministries Network, and the Disabilities and Justice Network at the General Council Network, and am pleased that they asked me for an article on my Call to Rural Ministry, and have subsequently published it for the National Church.

I am so delighted to be called to Bethel and its Ministries. Our peaceful summer is simply part of our process of moving forward. We are a community that embody "Streams of living water". Thank you. It's a privilege to be part of this.

~Rev. Lynne

Appendix 3 – Financial

Bethel United Church						
As at August 31, 2025						
		Operating		Stewardship		
Balance January 1, 2025		$23,075.83		$552.90		$23,628.73
Receipts						
	Local Support	27,006.97				
	LocalSupport - Par	27,800.00				
	Loose Collection	515.00				
	Memorial Funds	275.00				
	Mission and Services	5,221.00				
	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		
	United Church - Salary Rebate	10,873.95				
	Total Receipts	73,723.86		3,616.00		77,339.86
Disbursements						
	Minister Salary/Benefits	59,139.04				
	Continuing Education	1,689.22				
	Pulpit Supply	5,442.00				
	Pulpit Supply Travel	195.04				
	Organist - Salary	480.00				
	Organist - Travel	20.00				
	Secretary Salary	1,971.69				
	Secretary Travel	121.77				
	Bank Charges	62.36				
	Par Cost	136.00				
	Internet/Web	1,751.33				
	Music Licence	366.00				
	Office - Secretary	85.77				
	Office - Treasurer	140.12				
	Photocopier Expenses	272.27				
	Photocopier Lease	536.63				
	Regional Dues	4,041.00				
	Telephone	79.10				
	Church - Cleaning	1,020.00				
	Church - Hydro	2,551.03				
	Church - Insurance	2,281.84				
	Church - R&M	448.55				
	Church - Snow	5,354.88				
	Church - Septic/Water	225.50				
	Camp Lauren	295.00				
	Mission and Services	5,221.00				
	Stewardship - Lenten Appeal			907.00		
	Stewardship - Expenses			853.92		
	Total Disbursements	93,927.14		1,760.92		95,688.06
Balance		$2,872.55		$2,407.98		$5,280.53