

Westworth United Church
#284 Council Meeting Minutes APPROVED
March 25, 2025 7:00 pm
Church Parlour

1. **Call to Order: 7:08pm**

- a) Present: Rhea Yates (Chair), Jan McIlroy (Secretary), Janice Neumann (M & P), Margaret Newbury-Jones (M & P non-voting), Denise Jones (Finance), Christine Strike (guest), Nancy Williamson (Member at Large), Kathy McPhail (Vice Chair), Rev. Tricia Gerhard
- b) Regrets: None
- c) **Opening Prayer and Ceremonial swearing-in of 2025-2026 Council:**
Led by Rev. Tricia Gerhard, we welcomed new members to Council with a brief liturgy of prayer & commitment.

2. Approval of Agenda:

Moved by Denise Jones **Seconded by** Kathy McPhail
that the agenda for March 25, 2025 be accepted as circulated.
CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes:

Moved by Jan McIlroy **Seconded by** Kathy McPhail
that minutes of the Council meeting of February 25, 2025 be accepted as circulated.
CARRIED

4. Business arising from the minutes:

- a. Thank You letter sent to Elizabeth, Carol and Paul Galbraith Foundation through the Winnipeg Foundation on March 14, 2025 for annual ministerial education gift.
- b. The Minister at Augustine United Church will set up a meeting with a small number of United churches to talk about potential for sharing ministry. Date TBD.
- c. Patty Mainville of Rossbrook House has requested a zoom meeting in response to Chair's email regarding the AV grant application. Date TBD.
- d. Vice-Chair position update, which was the only position left open after the annual general meeting on March 2, 2025:

Kathy McPhail has agreed to step into the role of Vice-Chair. This leaves a Member at Large position yet to be filled.

5. Correspondence:

- a) World Day of Prayer email seeking church host for March of next year:

Council is considering a request to host World Day of Prayer in 2026 on behalf of the Fort Rouge and River Heights areas. The World Day of Prayer worship service is offered in March each year. We have volunteers at the ready, and are looking for a team lead. The service, written by Nigerian women on the theme "I will give you rest. Come." If Westworth doesn't host, the host church would also be looking for committee members to help organize the day.

Action: Rhea Yates will put a notice in the Westworth Weekly asking for a volunteer "host" to look into the possibility of Westworth offering to host this event.

- b) Prairie to Pine Regional Council Committee on Ministry Personnel Support March 12, 2025 letter noting May 7, 2025 gathering of Ministry Personnel in Brandon.
- c) Prairie to Pine Regional Council letter and resource first received by email March 12, 2025 advising of **self-assessment** deadline (May 31, 2025) and process. Apologies were sent as Westworth was missed from the initial September 2025 communication:

Council noted that because Westworth has only just received this request, the May 31 deadline is not realistic. We might plan to have the assessment finished in the fall. It might be helpful to look at the assessment congregants did prior to hiring a new minister. It might give us some insight as to what we said was important to us, and give us an opportunity to ask if we are actually doing what we think or say we are doing. Council is thinking about a facilitated discussion as one way to approach the questions about mission, joys and sorrows, and hopes and fears. This self-assessment will be done every three years. The Leadership Retreats might be a good opportunity for this kind of a review.

Action: Rhea Yates will speak to past chairs of Council to see if one of them might be interested in being a "point person" to gather a committee to work on this task.

- d) On April 2 at 1:00 Young United Church is hosting an inaugural meeting of United Churches (with 1 to 3 representatives each) to talk about mission and how we can do that together. Received by email March 15, 2025.

6. Ministry Team and Ad Hoc Committee Reports: None requested this month

- a) Finance (Denise Jones):

Moved by Denise Jones

Seconded by Nancy McPhail

that the Financial Statements for February 2025 be accepted as circulated. CARRIED

Noted that budget remaining under Interfaith Donations could be moved to Outreach.

Action: Denise Jones will ask Outreach to come back to Council with suggestions.

7. **Business arising from reports:** None

8. **Old Business:**

- a) Scent-free communications are attached for Council's review and potential adoption for our purposes:

We will be adding some signage around the church letting people know we strive be a scent-free church. Signage such as: "We strive to be a scent-free church and thank everyone for their cooperation".

Action: Rhea Yates will ask the office to make and post these signs.

- b) Additional names of people to provide assessment of sound system echo in assisted hearing devices. The November Communications report including feedback from members/adherents is attached. The name Stan Hamilton was suggested.

9. **New Business:**

- a) Electronic vote took place on March 19 & 20, 2025 regarding a Visioning Committee grant application to the Winnipeg Foundation for \$50,000

Moved by Janice Neumann

Seconded by Kathy McPhail

that Westworth Council support a Winnipeg Foundation grant application in the amount of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) to support development of a business plan for redevelopment and a rezoning plan.

CARRIED

Several Council members mentioned that grant applications should be brought to Finance and then Council in plenty of time to allow proper, unhurried, study of the application and its implications for WUC.

- b) Electronic vote took place on March 14, 2025 regarding a United Church of Canada Foundation grant to support the centennial celebrations at Westworth.

Moved by Denise Jones

Seconded by Margaret Newbury Jones

that Westworth Council approve an application in the amount of one thousand one hundred dollars (\$1,100.00) to the United Church of Canada Foundation to support 100th anniversary celebrations to take place at Westworth United Church.

CARRIED

- c) An expression of interest sent to the Cropro Foundation on March 10, 2025 resulted in a March 13, 2025 request to fill in a one-page preliminary application as soon as

possible. This application is now with Visioning Committee and will come forward to Council before submission.

- d) A Community Roundtable on the Future of Faith Properties hosted by Releven in coordination with 5468796 Architecture as part of the Shared Ground project is taking place at St. Mary's Road United Church at 2 p.m. on April 8. Reserve a spot at Eventbrite. Tricia Gerhard and Rhea Yates will attend, along with some members of the Visioning Committee.
- e) Council consideration of undertaking a formal audit, as put forward at the annual general meeting:

At the AGM in early March of this year, it was raised that our grant applications are much stronger with a formal audit included. Council recommends that an audit be undertaken.

Action: Denise Jones will take that recommendation to the Finance Committee.

- f) Determine the Liaison Roles under the newly installed Council:

Kathy McPhail	Outreach, Trustees, Affirming
Nancy Williamson	Choir, Community Care, Property
Jan McIlroy	UCW, Regional Reps, Communications, Archives
2 nd Member at Large	Worship, CE
Rhea Yates	Ad hoc Visioning Committee

Date of spring Leadership Team Retreat – May 10, 2025

Date of Annual General Meeting in 2026 – March 22, 2026

Upcoming Council meeting dates and format: Deferred to April meeting

- g) New Horizons for Seniors Grant has been approved and contract signed for nine thousand, eight hundred and thirteen dollars (\$9,813.00) and a steering committee is being formed to begin implementation of "Seniors Supporting Seniors for Fun and Learning" grant.
- h) Updates of the Manual and Policy document, including a gift acceptance policy, a gift recognition policy and term limits to member-at-large position.
Deferred to April meeting
- i) Annual General Meeting draft checklist in development. Comments welcome.
Deferred to April meeting

- j) Summary of themes from “The Future of Church Buildings: A Panel Discussion” held on March 11, 2025 with Rev. Dr. Cathy Campbell, Rev. Rob Schoeck and Chris Knight. Deferred to April meeting

10. Other:

See Important dates

11. Important Dates:

May 4, 2025	Larry McPhail – 50th anniversary of ordination
May 10, 2025	Spring Retreat for Leadership Team
May 25, 2025	Centennial Hymn Sing at St. Andrews with Westworth Senior Choir and St. Andrews Choir
June 1, 2025	Westworth and St. Andrew’s will be participating in the Winnipeg Pride Parade There will be a shared service on St. Andrew’s for those who are not going downtown.
June 8, 2025	Centennial Worship at Westworth
June 10, 2025	100th anniversary of United Church of Canada
June 10, 2025	Retired Ministers Luncheon will be held at Westworth
October 25, 2025	Timeless Treasures and English Tea Room
December 10, 2025	75 th anniversary of Westworth United Church
March 22, 2026	WUC 2025 Annual General Meeting

12. Communications to Liaisons

- a) Reminder the Manual is online and will help team leads and team members understand team roles and responsibilities.
- b) Update team leads with the names of their liaisons on Council.

13. Familiarization Walk of Church Premises

14. Closing Prayer: Led by Rhea Yates

15. Motion for adjournment: By Christine Strike at 9:14 pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Jan McIlroy
Secretary of Council

Rhea Yates
Chair of Council