Westworth United Church
#288 Council Meeting Minutes APPROVED
September 30, 2025 7:00 pm
Upper Classroom

1. **Call to Order:**
   Present: Denise Jones (Finance), Rev. Tricia Gerhard, Jan McIlroy (Secretary), Kathy McPhail (Vice Chair), Janice Neumann (M & P), Nancy Williamson (Member at Large), Rhea Yates (Chair)
   Regrets: Margaret Newbury Jones (M & P)

2. **Opening Prayer:** Led by Rhea Yates

3. **Approval of Agenda:**
   Moved by: Denise Jones **Seconded by:** Nancy Williamson
   that the agenda for September 30, 2025 be accepted as amended to include approval of the Minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting held on September 21, 2025.
   CARRIED

4. **Approval of Minutes:**
   Moved by: Janice Neumann **Seconded by:** Denise Jones
   that minutes of the Council meeting of June 24, 2025 be accepted as circulated.
   CARRIED

5. **Business arising from the minutes:**
   a) Update from 75th Anniversary Celebration Community Block Party held Sept 6, 2025. Final report to be presented at the October Council meeting. Expenses were approximately seven hundred dollars ($700.00). Donations to date were eight hundred ninety dollars ($890.00). Suggestions re making this an annual event, street closure, games and attractions will be given to Sharon Stanley (Community Care).

   b) 100 Tables: Picnic table purchased with the $250 Gift card from United Church of Canada 100 Tables initiative. Westworth soft-launched the 100 Tables Project at the Block Party by handing out star words to guide intentions to the end of the year, but we are also required to do an official news release and launch of our 100 Tables planned programming. We have also received "Place at the Table" postcards to help promote the initiative.
      Discussion involved several ideas. Tea and Bannock around a fire pit, making snowmen or Christmas decorations, etc. A coordinator will be necessary to organize events. For the first event, in October, we will focus on families and

return to a past Westworth tradition -- we will offer hot chocolate and candy on Halloween night.

c) Seniors Supporting Seniors has successfully launched the first of six in the speaker series. This programming is funded by the New Horizons for Seniors Program and is being promoted under the Westworth Centre banner.

d) Westworth Self-Assessment process is complete and the report was forwarded to Prairie to Pine on Sept. 25, 2025 following the Community of Faith review throughout the summer and Special Congregational Meeting on September 21, 2025.

6. **Correspondence:**

a) The Winnipeg Foundation community grant submitted by the Visioning Committee was rejected. Visioning Chair Bruce Tefft advises he has met with the Winnipeg Foundation and received valuable verbal feedback. Visioning Committee plans to submit another application by Oct. 31, 2025 deadline.

b) The "From the Ground Up" granting application submitted by the Visioning Committee has been approved for $100,000 — letter attached dated Sept. 16, 2025.

c) Westworth, along with other area United Churches, has received a request to host a youth retreat in February 2026. This request has been declined. (See CE report).

d) The Sept. 17, 2025 weekly newsletter from Prairie to Pine Regional Council announced that the United Church float entered in Winnipeg's Pride Parade in June won the *Size and Support Award*. Eight Winnipeg churches participated, including Westworth. Westworth's participation included a banner along with about a dozen participants walking the route. Well done!

7. **Ministry Team and Ad Hoc Committee Reports (liaisons in parentheses):**

Team/Committee	Council Member (or Liason)	Report status	Business Arising Reference
Affirming	(Kathy McPhail)	Attached	
Archives	(Jan McIlroy)	Attached	
Chair & Vice-Chair	Rhea Yates/Kathy McPhail	Attached	e), f)

Team/Committee	Council Member (or Liason)	Report status	Business Arising Reference
Choir (Senior Choir Executive)	(Nancy Williamson)	Attached	
	(Vacant)	Attached	c), d)
Communications	(Jan McIlroy)	Attached	
Community Care	(Nancy Williamson)	Attached	
Finance	Denise Jones	Attached	a), b)
Minister	Tricia Gerhard	Attached	
Ministry & Personnel	Janice Neumann/Margaret Newbury Jones	Attached	i)
Property	(Nancy Williamson)	Attached	
Regional representatives	(Jan McIlroy)	Attached	
SAEJ	(Kathy McPhail)	Attached	
Trustees	(Kathy McPhail)	Attached	
United Church Women	(Jan McIlroy)	Attached	
Visioning	(Rhea Yates)	Attached	
Worship	(Vacant)	Attached	g), h)

Moved by: Denise Jones **Seconded by**: Nancy Williamson
that the reports be accepted as circulated.
CARRIED

8. **Business arising from reports:**

a) **Moved by:** Denise Jones **Seconded by:** Nancy Williamson
that since the Interfaith Studies program concluded and the remaining money in the Interfaith Fund, $2,097.84 as of 31 Aug 2025, is no longer required for its original purpose, all remaining money in the Interfaith Fund be transferred to the Memorial Fund, per Council's Memorial Fund policy.
CARRIED

ACTION: Denise Jones has advised Christine Strike, Team Lead of SAEJ of this, and will follow up with an email as well.

b) Legacy giving workshop planned by Finance for Oct. 19, 2025 ties in well with Westworth's 75th, United Church of Canada's 100th, and Westworth's new Gift Acceptance Policy. Please consider supporting Finance with your attendance or a special gift.

c) Note that CE team lead is now Rachael Doerr, as CE volunteer terms start/renew in September. (Previously Rachael was co-lead along with Leslie Rodgers).

d) CE is following up on suggestions related to children and youth from Westworth self-assessment report, including the idea of youth greeters. Lines of communication between other teams will be kept open.

e) 100 tables programming options for the picnic table outdoors.
Discussed at 5b)

f) Discussion about fall leadership retreat date and theme.
Date: November 2, 2025
Theme: Appreciation and celebration of what we do well as a COF. Team leads could discuss this theme with their groups in preparation for November 2.

g) Livestreaming summer services and whether this is possible.
Perhaps in an effort to relieve the strain on our volunteers it is time to hire a person to run the AV equipment to make livestreaming possible year-round. The Power Point that the COF sees on Sunday morning is already prepared in the office. This idea could be presented at the AGM.

h) Ideas about taking part in "Churchorama" in summer of 2026.
This will be explored by Council in January.

i) Budgeting to cover off replacement costs for occasional staff absences from worship (similar to the way "pulpit supply" exists for Ministerial staff)

ACTION: M & P will confirm whether a new budget line to cover off staff absences during worship services will require any contractual or procedural changes

10. **Old Business:**

a) Cropo grant application — revisit at October's Council meeting

b) Westworth 75th anniversary celebration ideas (including note from M. Anderson Corkum

Kathy McPhail offered to work with Tricia Gerhard and Marilyn Anderson Corkum to create an organizing committee for this event.

c) Westworth Centre programming update (new volunteer position, current programming and New Horizons for Seniors programming)

A new volunteer position called Westworth Centre Ambassador has been created to look after programming and communication. Rachael Doer will be the new ambassador.

d) Pickleball equipment, summer trial, and upcoming program plan

Doug Lockart has offered to run a pickle ball program. Likely it will be a drop-in program from 3:00-6:00 on Tuesdays and Saturdays, starting after October 25. Details will be confirmed before then.

11. **New Business:**

a) Current and upcoming vacant positions on Council & Teams (Finance Committee Chair, Property Team Chair, Member-at-Large)

Kathy McPhail, Vice Chair of Council, will be speaking to people interested in filling these positions.

12. **Other:** None

13. **Important Dates:**

a) Upcoming Council dates: ***Oct. 28, Nov. 25, Jan. 27, Feb. 24 and March 24***

b) ***Oct. 5, 2025*** "The Serviceberry" book discussion hosted by SAEJ

c) ***Oct. 8, 2025*** Seniors Supporting Seniors through Fun and Learning, AI for Beginners with David Gerhard at 6 p.m. in the gym. RSVP to programcoordinator@westworth.ca

d) ***Oct. 19*** at 12:15 p.m. "Westworth: Be part of the next 75 years" charitable giving workshop in the Parlour. Guest speakers Eleanor Wiebe, retired Wills and Estates lawyer, and Pam Simmons, fundraising consultant

e) ***Oct. 19*** after worship, CE is holding a Welcome Back Potluck for children, youth and families. Everyone who wants to celebrate with families from Westworth is welcome.
f) ***Oct. 25, 2025*** Timeless Treasures and English Tea Room. Watch for volunteer sign up!
g) ***Nov. 12, 2025***, at 2 p.m. Seniors Supporting Seniors through Fun and Learning "Living in Two Worlds: The Ukrainian Experience in Winnipeg".
h) ***Nov. 23, 2025*** Gathering of Newcomers
i) ***Nov. 30, 2025*** Lunch and Learn "Jubilee & Lite"
j) ***Dec. 10, 2025***, 75th anniversary of Westworth United Church
k) ***March 22, 2026*** Westworth AGM
l) ***May 27, 2026*** Thank you for one-on-one visitors

14. **Communications to Liaisons:**

a) Please share Important Dates (above) with all team members.

b) Leadership Retreat for all team/committee leads

Please mark your calendars for Nov. 2, 2025 for a Leadership Retreat. This will be a chance to celebrate our teams and take time to appreciate what an amazing place Westworth is as we turn 75 in 2025. Council will provide lunch and we will meet after worship ends on the first Sunday in November.

c) Are any teams or individuals interested in using the 100 Tables picnic table for programming? If so, we can get together for a brainstorming meeting about where the neighbourhood needs and our mission and values may intersect.

Council is hosting an event at our new picnic table in October. The 100 Tables Initiative is a United Church of Canada initiative to increase engagement with community members around our buildings. We received a $250 gift card to purchase the table and offer programming. For our first event, we will focus on families and return to a past Westworth tradition -- we will offer hot chocolate and candy on Halloween night. Watch for a sign-up sheet if you want to help and aren't already busy with young trick or treaters in the family. Have ideas for future programming "at the table"? Share with any member of Council -- we'd love to hear them all!

d) 75th Anniversary

Plans are underway to implement more 75th anniversary ideas as we get closer to our official anniversary date of December 10, 2025. If you want to join a 75th Anniversary planning group, let us know! This will likely be a small team that will have a big impact over a short period of time and will be looking for volunteers to help with specific tasks.

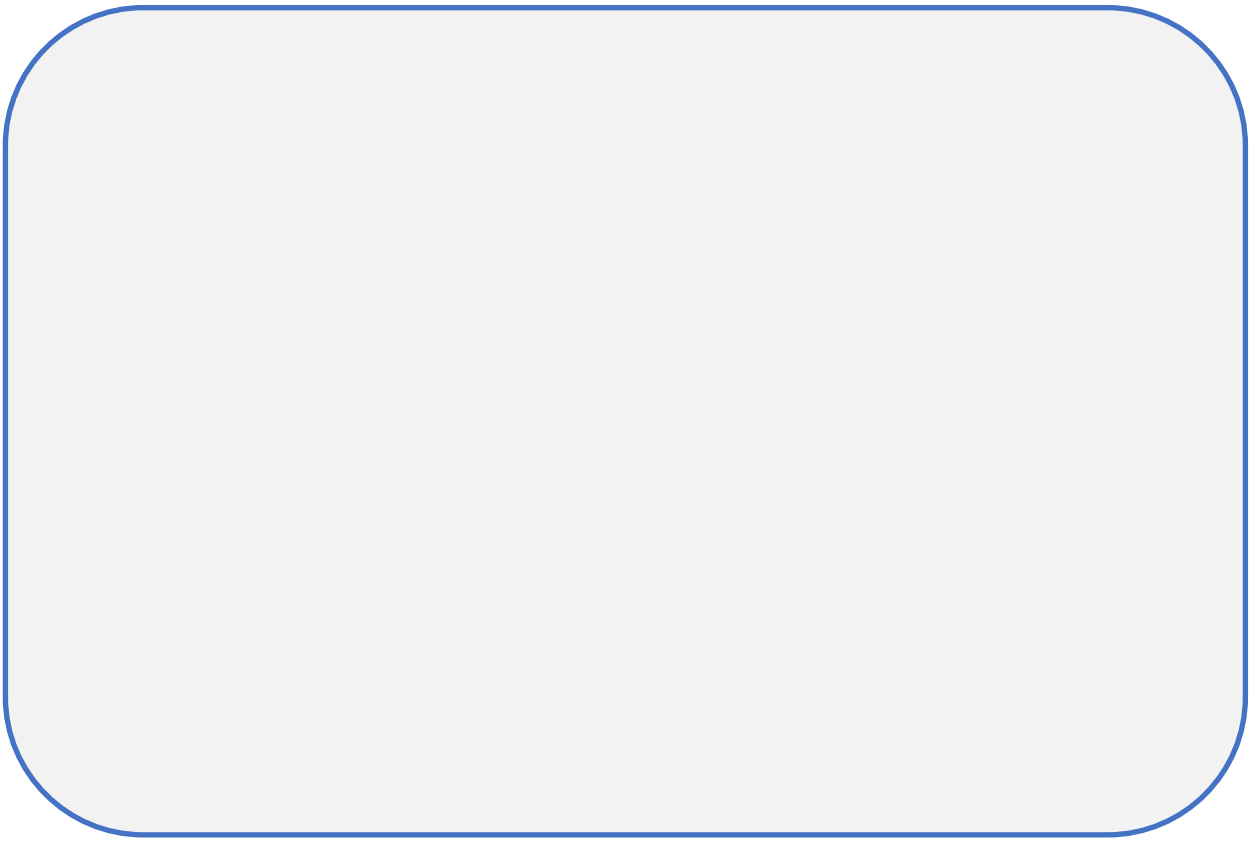
e) Pickleball

Pickleball will start late October or early November. More information to come.

15. **Closing Prayer**: Led by Rev. Tricia Gerhard

16. **Motion for adjournment**: By Denise Jones at 9:29pm

Respectfully submitted by

Rhea Yates
Council Chair

Jan McIlroy
Council Secretary