

Westworth United Church
#290 Council Meeting Minutes APPROVED
November 25, 2025 7:00 pm
Upper Classroom

1. **Call to Order:**

- a) Present: Denise Jones (Treasurer), Jan McIlroy (Secretary), Kathy McPhail (Vice Chair), Janice Neumann (M & P), Margaret Newbury Jones (M & P), Nancy Williamson (Member at Large), Rhea Yates (Chair), Rev. Tricia Gerhard, Wendy Moroz (guest)
- b) Regrets: none

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

3. **Approval of Agenda:**

Moved by Denise Jones **Seconded by** Nancy Williamson
that the agenda for November 25, 2025 be accepted as amended, to include 11d) motion from SAEJ; 12b) Council 2026 draft budget; and 13) Gathering of area United Churches on November 22, 2025.
CARRIED

4. **Approval of Minutes:**

Moved by **Seconded by**
that minutes of the Council meeting of October 28, 2025 be accepted as circulated.
Approval DEFERRED until January 2026 meeting.

5. **Business arising from the minutes:**

- a) The "From the Ground Up" grant contract presented for information and discussion at October's Council meeting was signed on November 4, 2025 and returned electronically to the Manitoba government.

6. **Update** from Wendy Moroz (Finance) about the furniture purchases for the Parlour (See attached).

Wendy Moroz informed Council that because Bella Moda went out of business after we ordered two chairs from them, and before they were ready to be picked up, the cost of the chairs, one thousand four hundred and thirty-one dollars (\$1,431.00) is lost to us. She also suggested that because the Parlour is now set up as a welcoming space that is appealing, guidelines should be drafted to help prioritize bookings, minimizing wholesale re-shaping of the room's configuration if at all possible.

Action: Wendy Moroz will draft suggested guidelines for use of the Parlour and share the draft with the Property Committee (through Property liaison Nancy Williamson) for its review and consideration.

7. **Correspondence:** none8. **Ministry Team and Ad Hoc Committee Reports (liaisons in parentheses):**

Team/Committee	Council Member (or Liason)	Report status	Business Arising Reference
Affirming	(Kathy McPhail)	No report	
Archives	(Jan McIlroy)	Attached	
Chair & Vice-Chair	Rhea Yates/Kathy McPhail	Attached	Omission from February minutes, Manitoba Opera collaboration
Choir (Senior Choir Executive)	(Nancy Williamson)	Attached	
Christian Education	(Vacant)	Attached	
Communications	(Jan McIlroy)	Attached	
Community Care	(Nancy Williamson)	Attached	
Finance	Denise Jones	Attached	Budget and pledge overview
Minister	Tricia Gerhard	No report	
Ministry & Personnel	Janice Neumann/Margaret Newbury Jones	Attached	
Property	(Nancy Williamson)	Nothing to report	
Regional representatives (Prairie to Pine)	(Jan McIlroy)	Attached	

Team/Committee	Council Member (or Liason)	Report status	Business Arising Reference
SAEJ	(Kathy McPhail)	Attached	Motion
Trustees	(Kathy McPhail)	Nothing to report	
United Church Women	(Jan McIlroy)	Attached	
Visioning Ad Hoc	(Rhea Yates)	Attached	
Worship	(Vacant)	Attached	
75th Anniversary Ad Hoc	(Kathy McPhail)	Attached	

9. Approval of Reports

Moved by Kathy McPhail

Seconded by Denise Jones

that the reports be accepted as circulated.

CARRIED

Action: Nancy Williamson will speak to Deborah McPhail and Neil Arnason about the need for the choir gowns to be cleaned as mentioned in the Choir report.

10. Electronic motion dealt with by Council on November 4, 2025

Moved by: Jan McIlroy

Seconded by: Kathy McPhail

that Council support signing a contract with the Manitoba Government to receive a \$100,000 grant to support consultant costs for exploration of a potential redevelopment project, whereby Westworth contributes \$7,110 in volunteer labor, \$30,000 in donated goods and services from 546 Architecture and \$23,000 from the Westworth Fund.

CARRIED

11. Business arising from reports:

- a) The Visioning report mentions the intent to apply for a grant from the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba's Community Initiatives program, with a submission deadline of January 1. Council is not aware of what this grant application is to support. Could the recent \$100,000 From the Ground Up grant provide the support instead? Council requests time to review and approve any application before submission.

Action: Council Chair will contact Visioning Committee Chair to follow up and also to discuss a joint meeting between Visioning Committee and Council.

- b) **Moved by:** Jan McIlroy

Seconded by: Denise Jones

that the APPROVED Minutes of February 28, 2025 be amended to include the following information previously omitted at 11c) and 11d), including a motion:

11. c) In camera discussion regarding processes for developing job descriptions, raised by M&P Committee Chair Sharon Stanley.

11. d) Furniture in Parlour

- *Finance had initially discussed replacing the two couches but, upon further examination determined a new coffee table and 2-4 additional upholstered chairs are also needed.*
- *After visiting three stores a great option was located: Manitoba-made couches from Palliser and sold by Bella Moda.*

The store offered a 30% discount if the purchase is made by Tuesday, February 25, 2025. Wendy Moroz is calling them today Monday February 24, 2025 to let them know the Council meeting is not until tomorrow night to persuade them to extend that generous discount by a few more hours to accommodate our decision process. Once ordered, there is a 12 week delivery window.

- *Ideally, furniture would be purchased by Property through the Building Reserve Fund; however, considering the upcoming work Property has planned with that Fund, Finance recommends using the Memorial Fund to cover the costs. The balance for the Memorial Fund is healthy and can support the expense without being depleted.*
- *The custodian and the Property team lead were consulted and neither of them have concerns with the proposed purchase in terms of upkeep.*

Moved by: Denise Jones

Seconded by: Dianne Sjoberg

that council approve up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) from the Memorial Fund to purchase a coffee table and 2-4 upholstered chairs for the Parlour from Palliser Furniture and sold by Bella Moda taking advantage of a 30% discount.

CARRIED

- b) Discussion about Manitoba Opera collaboration opportunities.

Action: Rhea Yates will follow up with Manitoba Opera to clarify what “behind the scenes” means in terms of the invitation to go “behind the scenes”, including how many people could participate, whether the viewing area is accessible, and whether the location is the Centennial Concert Hall or Westworth United Church. Otherwise, Council enthusiastically supports all collaboration opportunities identified, with the sole exception being the backstage tour for 20 or so members/adherents.

- c) The Council Chair presented a draft Council budget for 2026. After discussion, Council decided to submit a budget request of \$850 (Eight hundred fifty dollars) to the Treasurer.

- d) Motion from SAEJ regarding donation from Memorial Fund.

Moved by: Kathy McPhail

Seconded by: Denise Jones

That Westworth Memorial Fund donate \$2,097 (Two thousand ninety-seven) to Women Wage Peace to support the interfaith event at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights on April 26, 2026; contingent on confirmation that the group has a charitable donation number.

CARRIED

- e) The Treasurer spoke about developing ideas for fundraising connected to the 75th anniversary and gave an update on the annual Stewardship campaign.
- f) M&P Co-Chairs provided an update on the hiring of a Children and Youth Coordinator, with another applicant to be interviewed. M&P is in the midst of clarifying processes in cases when a signature is needed from the Property Team, as the Property Team Lead has moved outside of Winnipeg.

12. Old Business:

- a) Programming at The Table needs formal planning. Ideas from September meeting included bannock, tea, at a fire pit, natural crafts, "Carols at the Table", "Cider at the Table", filling the yard with snowmen.

Action: Rhea Yates will approach several COF members who might be willing to host "Carols Around the Table" in December.

Action: Margaret Newbury Jones will follow up with a family member who may be able to facilitate some minor repairs to the table.

13. Other/New Business:

- a) Gathering of area United Churches at Young United on Nov. 22, 2025 attended by Chair, Vice-Chair and Minister. Area United Churches met with Jordan Cantwell (United Church of Canada Growth Animator), by Zoom. All churches in attendance have been asked to host individual workshops with their own Communities of Faith in January, aided by a resource that will soon be posted on ChurchX (*Towards 2035*).

14. Important Dates:

- a) Upcoming Council dates: Jan. 28, 2026 (NOTE DATE CHANGE), Feb. 24, 2026 and March 24, 2026
- b) Nov. 30, 2025 Lunch and Learn "Jubilee & Lite"
- c) Dec. 5, 2025 Westworth Centre Potluck
- d) Dec. 7, 2025, Christmas Crafts and Potluck
- e) Dec. 7, 2025, 75th anniversary kick-off celebrations with, hymns, cake, coffee, and archival photo display.

- f) Dec. 10, 2025, actual day of 75th anniversary of Westworth United Church
- g) Dec. 14, 2025 Lessons and Carols
- h) Jan. 18, 2026, Pre Worship Video viewing of “Our Roots” an overview of our history as well as Kim O’Grady’s video of Volunteering @ Westworth during worship, and special anniversary music.
- i) Jan. 25, 2026, Pre Worship Video viewing of 60th Anniversary “We Were Young”
- j) Feb. 1, 2026, Pre Worship Video viewing of 50th Anniversary “The Spirit is Alive”
- k) March 7, 2026, overlay 75th anniversary advertising with Samedi Swing advertising.
- l) March 22, 2026 Westworth AGM
- m) April 28, 2026, overlay 75th anniversary advertising with Senior Choir Spring Concert.
- n) May 2, 2026: 75th COF Dinner & Old Time Variety Concert
- o) May 24, 2026 (tentatively) 75th People’s Pentecost Party
- p) May 27, 2026 Thank you for one-on-one visitors

15. Communications to Liaisons:

- a) Please ask Teams/Committees to share any ideas about programming we could offer the wider community as part of “Meet Me at the Picnic Table” initiative. Could a Team/Committee help execute one idea? If so, please share with your liaison or Council Chair (CouncilChair@Westworth.ca).

16. Closing Prayer: Led by Rev. Tricia Gerhard

17. Motion for adjournment: By Denise Jones at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Rhea Yates
Council Chair

Jan McIlroy
Council Secretary

