

Westworth United Church
#296 Council Meeting Minutes APPROVED
TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2026, 7 pm
Lower Classroom

1. **Call to Order:**

a) Present: Rev. Tricia Gerhard, Tannis Hewitt (Finance), Margaret Newbury Jones (M&P), Barb Magarrell (Member at Large), Jan McIlroy (Secretary), Kathy McPhail (Chair), Nancy Williamson (Member at Large), Rhea Yates (Past Chair)

b) Regrets: None

2. **Opening:** Prayer Rev. Gerhard

3. **Approval of Agenda:**

Moved by Tannis Hewitt

Seconded by Nancy Williamson

that the agenda for May 26, 2026, be amended to include a verbal report from Finance.
CARRIED

4. **Approval of Minutes:**

Moved by Rhea Yates

Seconded by Margaret Newbury Jones

that the Minutes of the Council meeting of April 28, 2026, be accepted as circulated.
CARRIED

5. **Minutes of Special Meeting of Council April 24th, 2026**

Moved by Rhea Yates

Seconded by Nancy Williamson

that minutes of the Special Council meeting of April 24th, 2026, be accepted, with the following amendment, removing the word "agenda".
CARRIED

6. **Attached for Council's information Minutes of Community of Faith special meeting, April 26th, 2026.**

7. **Business arising from the minutes of April 28th, 2026:**

a) Although Council asked Rhea Yates to proceed with arranging a comprehensive assessment of the sound system, Chair of the Property Team has asked that this be delayed until the fall.

b) Cont'd from last meeting: Planning for the year ahead (i.e., Block Party??, Halloween? Engaging Children, Youth & families? Fall Leadership Retreat?) Refer to REVISED document created from Feb 8th meeting discussing "Towards 2035". Discussion was held about how to share this information with the Community of

Faith. It was decided that liaisons should raise with their teams and committees as appropriate. It was noted that Westworth is seeing good engagement with younger members of the Community of Faith and attracting new adherents in recent months. Discussion was also held about how to be intentional in increasing our use of the outdoor picnic table. A suggestion was made to use the table in photographs to convey community engagement, with the upcoming Thankoffering service with John Longhurst used as a potential example. Barb Magerrell will follow up.

8. Correspondence:

- a) Letter to Community of Faith from the Finance & Stewardship Committee re “Raise the Roof” Fundraiser (for information)
- b) Emails from Andrea Firth & Heather Robbins re ticket prices at Westworth (arising in new business)
- c) Westworth Centre update submitted by Sharon Stanley:

“Westworth Centre continues to offer numerous activities (fitness related such as chair yoga, regular and chair tai chi, line dancing, Argentinian tango) as well as introductory and intermediate guitar classes, and coffee with games and conversation. There are a few additional activities that we are working on for the fall and once confirmed, we will post the new activities in the Westworth Weekly. Rachael Doerr prepares the weekly announcements for our Weekly as well as the website and connects regularly with the leaders of each activity.

New and recently confirmed will be the addition of flu and covid immunization clinics in the fall and winter. Providing services to all within our community, we anticipate that the dates and spaces will be filled by our congregation as well as everyone who lives within our catchment.

We have several grant proposals to prepare, the first of which is the Healthy Together Now grant, which we will prepare and follow the guidelines regarding Grant Funding in the Westworth manual. Submission needs to be submitted between August 24th and September 18th. Securing grant funding is essential for the survival and growth of programming that is offered.” Council agreed to watch for emails throughout the summer related to required grants to necessitate timely approvals.

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

Team/Committee	Council Member (or Liaison)	Report status	
Affirming	(Barb Magarrell)	Nothing to Report	
Archives	(Jan McIlroy)	Nothing to Report	No longer a chairperson
Chair	(Kathy McPhail)	Report attached	Updated Grant Status document Fundraiser Ticket Prices
Choir (Senior Choir Executive)	(Nancy Williamson)	Nothing to Report	
Christian Education	(Barb Magarrell)	Report attached	
Community Care	(Nancy Williamson)	Report attached	
Finance	(Allan Baker/Tannis Hewitt)	Verbal Report	Planning Fundraiser Concert
Minister	(Tricia Gerhard)	Report attached	
Ministry & Personnel	(Margaret Newbury Jones)	Report attached	
Property	(Nancy Williamson)	Report attached	LED Light replacement in the gym
Regional representatives (Prairie to Pine)	(Jan McIlroy)	Nothing to report	

Team/Committee	Council Member (or Liaison)	Report status	
SAEJ	(Barb Magarrell)	Nothing to report	
Trustees	(Barb Magarrell)	Nothing to report	
United Church Women	(Jan McIlroy)	Report attached	
Visioning Ad Hoc	(Kathy McPhail)	Report attached	MNP engaged through the RFP process for a business plan
Worship	(Rhea Yates)	Report attached	
75th Anniversary Ad Hoc	(Kathy McPhail)	Report attached	

a) Finance verbal report:

- Westworth has overdraft protection with the Assiniboine Credit Union
- Finance has approved the Groovy Things concert as a fundraiser
- Allan Baker is exploring grant opportunities through the Volunteer Manitoba database
- Divine Dramedy netted a profit of approximately three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) which will be divided between the Choir Fund and Westworth General fund.
- Rhea Yates shared Westworth's roof trouble with comedian Lara Rae and Lara asked about doing a comedy concert fundraiser for Westworth. Rhea asked if the church has Lara's email and Rev. Gerhard will investigate.
- Tannis Hewitt will send out to Council the financial statements for April.

b) Rev. Gerhard added to the written report she sent out directly to Council that she is hoping to use this year's homiletics grant from the Galbraith Foundation to attend the Lester Randall Preaching Fellowship in Toronto in September.

10. Approval of Reports

Moved by Nancy Williamson

Seconded by Barb Magarrell

that the reports be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

11. Business arising from reports:

- a) Margaret Newbury Jones clarified that M&P Committee has received deliverables from the recent contract and payment has been made for five thousand two hundred and fifty dollars (\$5250.00). Council will see final documents after M&P has reviewed.
- b) Past Chair Rhea Yates spoke about Westworth's grant document, updated to May 2026, provided for this meeting.

Before Council makes decisions arising from the anticipated business plan, the Council will want to keep at the forefront some of the requirements of grants. For example, the purpose of the Green Municipal Fund Sustainable Affordable Housing (SAH) from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities is to enable affordable housing providers to pursue ambitious reductions in energy consumption.

Some requirements include:

- project must aim for 25% or greater reduction in energy consumption. But, as Westworth United Church is introducing housing for first time, we are considered "new build" and must aim for net-zero energy ready.
- this funding (at least 70%) must be used to support housing (grant funding cannot be used for a daycare-only project, for example).
- at least 30% of the units must have rents at or below 80% of the local median market rent (MMR).

Regarding the Manitoba Government's From the Ground Up grant, the Finance Committee may want to clarify the amount Westworth received. While \$100,000 was approved, Rhea believes \$70,000 was initially received in Westworth accounts.

Regarding the Winnipeg Foundation capital grant, the application was declined on May 31, 2024 (adding the date).

Regarding the Winnipeg Foundation community grant, this item represents two grant applications, one declined and one accepted. The Winnipeg Foundation grant portal will make that clear. In the past, access to that portal has been provided to Westworth representatives such as Visioning Committee Chair, the Minister, the Finance Committee Chair and the Chair of Council.

12. New Business:

- a) Policy re Fundraising Ticket Pricing (see current policy and emails A. Firth & H. Robbins)

The present policy does not apply to rentals, and Council does not anticipate applying this policy as a condition for third-party renters. At the present time, Rev. Gerhard provides free tickets to give to Community of Faith members, as announced at a recent Sunday worship service. However, there was agreement that while this is a longstanding tradition, not everyone will know about it.

ACTION: As Past Chair, Rhea Yates will redraft the policy based on Council discussions and share with the Finance Committee Chair and the Minister for their consideration. The Finance Committee is tasked with bringing a revised policy to Council for its consideration, as Finance is the Committee assigned responsibility for this particular policy.

13. Other:

- a) Additional Trustee nomination process and timing of submission to Land Titles Office. Kathy McPhail will follow up with Trustees to assess timing.
- b) Grant Status updated document (for information)

13. Important Dates:

- a) Upcoming Council dates: **Thursday**, June 25, 2026, September 22, 2026, October 27, 2026; November 24, 2026; January 26, 2027; February 23, 2027; March 23, 2027.
- b) May 27, 2026 Thank you for one-on-one visitors
- c) June 1, 2026 at 7 p.m. UCW Thank offering Service and Dessert Party
- d) June 7, 2026, Pride Parade (worship at St. Andrew's for those unable to parade)
- e) September 13, 2026, Outdoor Worship Service on Westworth Grounds
- f) Oct. 24, 2026, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Timeless Treasures Sale

14. Communications to Liaisons:

All members are encouraged to support the Sunday School pot luck wind up. Wherever possible, teams and committees can think about how to make our projects and activities intergenerational.

15. Closing Prayer: Led by Tricia Gerhard

16. Motion for adjournment: By Nancy Williamson at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Kathy McPhail
Council Chair

Jan McIlroy
Council Secretary

