



Minutes of a meeting of the Council of Kanata United Church (KUC) held over Zoom on Tuesday March 18, 2025, at 7:05 p.m. with Robert Ashton as Chair.

Present: Robert Ashton (Co-Chair), Rev. Cindy Casey (Minister), Jan Chanter (Ministry and Personnel), Sue Davidson (Children Youth and Families), Marilynne Dean-Romanow (B&G), Julia Duffy (Past Chair), Clara Freire (Co-Chair), Penny Gelinas (Outreach), Ed Goodridge (B & G), Shawn Neeson (CYF), Walter Prager (Member at Large), Al Quirt (Secretary), Kathleen Turner (Member at Large), Marilyn Wong (Member at Large). **Corresponding Members:** None. **Regrets:** Kathy Beamish (Treasurer), Kathi Campbell (Trustees representative, nonvoting).

We Gather Together – A Time for Growth/Learning/Team Building

Robert welcomed us to this first meeting of our new Council, with a special welcome for new members.

Al asked each Council member to share one personal reason for gratitude in this season of new beginnings. Common themes were sunshine, warmer weather, and the songs of Cardinals and other returning migratory birds.

We agreed on the agenda adding VAM appointment.

We Review Past Business

Minutes

Moved by Al, **seconded** by Kathleen to approve the minutes of the Feb. 11 Council meeting as circulated. **Carried.**

Business Arising from minutes – Robert

Communications Received – Al

Bob Chanter suggested transfer of some funds from the General Fund to Reserves.

Moved by Marilyn and **seconded** by Julia that, as recommended by Finance, \$80K be moved from General Fund to the Reserve Fund. **Carried.**

An email suggested that KUC display a Canadian flag. Worship not Council has responsibility for the Sanctuary, and there is a long-standing policy at KUC not to display flags there except on special occasions. On the outside of the building, there is an unused flag mounting place. B&G was asked to report to Council on flag etiquette and cost.

An email from the Book Fair Committee outlined new features planned for this year's Book Fair, including modest price increases for most books and a new one-dollar bargain bin for books not meeting usual Book Fair standards. Council expressed strong support for the Book Fair Committee and pleasure that they have already examined ways to improve revenue. The volunteer schedule is now open for us to sign up.

We Grow in Faith and Consider Our Mission - a time for major issues**Minister's Update - Cindy**

- Cindy expressed thanks to the congregation for abundant food and many other forms of support during her convalescence after a fall.

Moved by Kathleen and **seconded** by Julia that Council approves Rev. Eric Hébert-Daly's request to be a KUC Voluntary Associate Minister for the coming year. Carried.

AGM Retrospection – Robert**Review of 2025 Draft AGM Minutes**

Marilyn captured To Do items during the meeting. Two were missing from the minutes (Circulate slides, and transparency on salary increases). The list will be shared with the congregation via KUC This Week and will be a separate annex to the AGM Minutes. Revised AGM Minutes will be circulated and Council agreed to report any other updates needed while the AGM is still fresh in our memory..

Discussion: Action assignments for Council based on AGM To Do list & Email Correspondence**Immediate (Assign Council Ownership)**

- Kitchen renovations / appliances 2027 (B&G)
- Fireside room refresh: We have volunteers to help with immediate cleanup this week. We will create a small team to come up with ideas that could go to B&G after the book fair. This could include sealing the flue of the wood-burning fireplace.
- Music resources including new hymn book: Worship is already working on this. Decisions will be announced in KUC This Week.
- Supervised ministry education: This is a two-year program for student ministers and KUC has participated in the past. With a grant subsidy from UCC this could be beneficial to all. Council agreed to have Cindy prepare an application. There are no current candidates who are specifically looking for CYF experience.
- Climate Change initiatives. We need a small team to move this forward, apply for grants, then start fundraising. Al and Walter will lead and Cindy is aware of a new person who may be interested. The current plan is to start with weatherstripping and insulation upgrades already in the budget, then revisit the two big projects recommended by our Energy Audit - Solar Cells and Heat Pumps.

Roundtable Discussion (all Council) on AGM highlights - Julia

- Strong positive impression by all. New microphone etiquette and green/yellow/red signals kept the meeting moving better than in past years. Elimination of online participation made a big difference.
- The dress rehearsal was extremely helpful in making the process smooth.
- There were more muffins than requested with lots of variety.
- The Parking Lot Questions process worked well.

- The budget format helped to make our expenses transparent, for example separating general office expenses from office staff cost.
- One of our goals at the AGM is inclusion. Should we ask specifically before each vote whether anyone wants to speak and has not had a chance yet?
- Could there be other ways for people to present questions, such as an AGM suggestion box for people intimidated by speaking at a microphone?
- For advance questions, we already have a Correspondence to Council email address. This has been an effective way to avoid side conversations on topics that the whole of Council should consider together. We could promote it before each AGM.

Growth Journey / Stewardship:

- Our budget includes a challenging general 5% revenue increase plus a new \$20K growth challenge. Even then we forecast a deficit, though unfilled staff positions will help this year.
- Could the video presented at the AGM be made available more widely as way to promote who we are? General agreement, subject to dealing with potential privacy issues. Maybe start by showing it on the TV in the hallway.
- From CYF discussions, there are many potential ways to bring people together, often involving food. Our kitchen could become a revenue source for commercial food prep at night, and a venue for cooking courses. A Family Fun Fair could involve the neighborhood with food trucks and other draws from bouncy castles to crafts. The potential is much broader than just CYF.
- There is an excellent UCC course on Stewardship that some of us have attended (2 hours for 4 weeks). Well worth the modest fee for more people to attend.

Committee Priorities to June 2025 - All

- CYF top priority is finding a CYF staff person. Our temporary arrangements are working but we need a continuing resource person. Looking at inter-church co-operation. Asking Council to fill out the survey.
- Green Church needs a small team to make progress on climate initiatives.
- B&G has found a commercial dishwasher for about \$7K that has good reviews. Similar features to our old one (wash and sterilize after manual precleaning).
- M&P is developing an improved process for situations when staff or other key members are unable to perform their usual duties.
- Outreach will transfer the \$1000 originally intended for refugee sponsorship to the "Together We Dream" project of the Multifaith Housing Initiative. They plan to have ongoing fundraising for this project.
- On March 29 we will have the Tickle Trunk clothing swap. Need care for babies on the day; can Council help?
- We need to continue the process of updating the Memorial Book.

Moved by Marilyn, **seconded** by Jan that Council authorizes purchase of a commercial dishwasher as chosen by B&G, using up to \$4K from the Memorial Fund to make up any

deficiency after grants and fundraising. **Carried.**

New Business

- Suggested Sunday April 6 for Council covenanting service.
- We need a time to officially thank Alex MacKinnon who was in effect an unpaid staff person for decades. This may also be on April 6.

Quarterly Council Planning and Review - Robert

- *April 13, 2025* *Congregational Workshop (3rd and final one)*
- *April 15, 2025* Chair: Clara Reflection: Kathleen Turner
Strategic Planning for 2025/2026, Quarterly Finance Update
- *May 20, 2025* Chair: Robert Reflection: Kathy Beamish
Book Fair, Church picnic
- *June 8, 2025* *KUC Church Picnic (Council assignments / organizers)*
- *June 17, 2025* Chair: Clara Reflection: Kathi Campbell
Fall/Winter planning (potluck at KUC)
- *September 16, 2025* Chair: Robert Reflection: Jan Chanter
Strategic Planning for 2025/2026, Quarterly Finance Update
- *October 21, 2025* Chair: Clara Reflection: Marilyn Dean-Romanow
- *November 18, 2025* Chair: Robert Reflection: Julia Duffy
M&P salary proposal
- *December 16, 2025* Chair: Clara Reflection: Penny Gelinas
AGM, Budget, Quarterly Finance Update
- *January 20, 2026* Chair: Robert Reflection: Ed Goodridge
AGM, Budget (final), Yearly Recap, 2026 priorities

We Go Out

Cindy led us in closing prayer.

We agreed to end the meeting at 9:15 pm.

Robert Ashton

Robert Ashton (Apr 18, 2025 14:18 EDT)

Chair - Robert Ashton

Al Quint

Al Quint (Apr 26, 2025 10:51 EDT)

Secretary - Al Quint









2025-03-18 Council Minutes Draft

Final Audit Report

2025-04-26

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