



Minutes of a meeting of the Council of Kanata United Church (KUC) held over Zoom on Tuesday April 15, 2025, at 7:05 p.m. with Clara Freire as Chair.

Present: Robert Ashton (Co-Chair), Rev. Cindy Casey (Minister), Kathy Beamish (Treasurer), 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 Gelinis (Outreach), 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:** Ed Goodridge (B & G), Kathi Campbell (Trustees representative, nonvoting).

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

Clara welcomed us to this meeting and lit a Christ Candle.

Kathleen's meditation was from Jody Wilson-Raybould's book *True Reconciliation: How to Be a Force for Change*. ... We are always aiming to build and deepen our relationships ... expand our circles ... create greater harmony, love and joy between and among people ... make sense of our present, and build our future by understanding connections to our past.

We agreed on the agenda as circulated.

We Review Past Business

Minutes

Moved by Al, **seconded** by Jan to approve the minutes of the March 18 Council meeting as circulated. **Carried**.

Business Arising from minutes - Clara

- Council Email Update : Steve Free requested more M&P budgeting transparency. M&P replied that it was covered at the AGM. For next year's AGM we will try to add a little more explanation in the annual report to anticipate such questions.
- Flag Etiquette Update - a link to Government of Canada web site was circulated. Council requested an update next month from B&G on a recommended policy.
- Dishwasher Update- it was installed last week and is working well. Fundraising covered the cost plus purchase of some initial supplies.
- Fireside Room Refresh - It will be cleaned up after book fair. Back office being rearranged to include space for Centre 33 (extra rental). Team needed to develop a plan with the hope of doing any necessary work during the summer.

Communications Received - Al

- Steve Free suggested that we have a link on our web site to a UCC call for action. Agreed.
- We received an attractive thank-you note from Alex and Lois McKinnon.
- There was a question about wording of our Vision and Call Statement. Over a year

ago, when it was being added to our web site, a one-word change was made in the introduction to be more theologically correct: we are called by God not by Jesus.

- **Moved** by Kathy and **seconded** by Marilyn that we make this change in the Statement itself and present it to the congregation at the next AGM. **Carried.**

We Grow in Faith and Consider Our Mission - a time for major issues

Minister's Update - Cindy

- There has been discussion on how to manage our church library. As part of our welcoming and outreach, it would be good to allow the community to read and borrow our books, but we need to keep track of them. There will be ongoing discussion including how to maintain contact with anyone who borrows books.
- There has been some tension between the book fair's need for extra space during book collection, and the needs of other users of our space such as Centre 33.
- Cindy is planning a book study around "Hope for the Best and Plan for the Rest", a recent Canadian book about dealing with difficult medical situations. It will be on a Wednesday evening soon, with a possible repeat in the fall.
- There will be special info in various places about the 100th anniversary celebrations.

Quarterly Financial Update -Kathy

- Documents were circulated. Comparing with recent years there were a few new one-time expenses, and a big donation was not repeated so far this year.
- Suggested that we have a Council meeting focussed on Stewardship, in-person and soon after the Book Fair. Possibly on a weekend. Will be organized by email.
- We need separate tracking of our \$20K Growth Challenge.

M & P Update - Jan

We have engaged Thomas Anand as interim organist for most Sundays from Aleesha's return to university at the end of April until the first of September, with others for the remaining Sundays. At RCCO rates, cost is about \$10K for that period. Nick had laid out hymns and anthems until after Pentecost.

Debrief of Congregational Workshops and Next Steps - All

- Format was appreciated. Our leader Mary brought out good comments from many people who are seldom heard, including new people.
- There was a very positive energy, including the message that Mary is using KUC as an example of success for other churches.
- The entire workshop was well organized and kept on time, ending with a priority plan based on the phrase Renew, Create, Invite.
- Her report should be available to us within a week or so, well before our Stewardship meeting.
- Our troubling financial numbers need to be viewed in that positive context.
- Great food too.
- Mary is also available to help us in other areas.

Growth Journey / Stewardship

- It would help to have signs outside the building visible to visitors during the Book Fair. Words like safe space, for example. Send phrases to Cindy.
- There was an action from the AGM to have a discussion of stock donations. We have a person to lead it and will find a date probably in early fall. Perhaps a lunch after church based on one of Shawn's food ideas (make a little money?) and including some other topics not just stock donations.

Review of Shawn's Stewardship Fundraising Ideas - Shawn

- Council's reaction to these ideas was very positive.
- Many of them might raise small amounts of money that won't make a big hole in \$20K, but some such as a Community Fair (September?) could be bigger. If we want it, we need a small team to handle the details.
- Suggested next area to take on could be food nights. We have a good kitchen and lots of places for people to sit. Lots of tables. Low costs with volunteer labour leads to an excellent return on modest expenses.
- Council members volunteered to start two small teams, for Community Fair and food-related events.

We Steward our Ministries – Looking After Our Administrative Details and Financial Health

New Business

- Amelia and Jules who have taken on the youth choir have made an excellent contribution that the kids have really loved. They deserve thanks, recognition, and an appropriate gift.

Quarterly Council Planning and Review - Clara

- May 20, 2025 Chair: Robert Reflection: Jan Chanter
Book Fair review (with reps), Church picnic, workshop report.
- June 8, 2025 *KUC Church Picnic (Council assignments / organizers)*
- June 17, 2025 Chair: Clara Reflection: Kathi Campbell
Fall/Winter planning (potluck at KUC at 6 pm)
- September 16, 2025 Chair: Robert Reflection: Kathy Beamish
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
- February 17, 2026 Chair: Clara Reflection: Sue Davidson

20 /2025

Tuesday April 15, 2025

AGM (final prep)

- *February 22, 2026 AGM*

We Go Out

Cindy led us in closing prayer.

We agreed to end the meeting at 8:45 pm.



Clara Freire (Jun 19, 2025 22:37 EDT)



Alan Quirt (Jun 13, 2025 15:23 EDT)

Chair - Clara Freire

Secretary - Al Quirt











2025-04-15 Council Minutes Draft

Final Audit Report

2025-06-20

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