

Humbercrest United Church  
Minutes of Church Council Meeting  
June 24th 2025  
(commenced 7:00 pm.)

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Attendance: Dianna Seth, Marg Garrie, Linda Steggles, Rev. Diane Mugambi, Charlie Evans, Barbara Pattison, Aileen McGregor, Brian Packham

Regrets : Howard, Dorothy

**Gathering, Land Acknowledgement, Welcome**

Welcome and land acknowledgement by Rev. Diane

**Inclusivity check list Linda**

**Prayer :** Charlie Evans

*1. Administrative Ministry of the Church*

**Motion: Brian/Barbara**

That Council Approve the Minutes of May 27th Council Meeting

**CARRIED**

**Motion : Dianna/Aileen**

That the Agenda for the meeting be approved as circulated

**CARRIED**

**Correspondence:**

**Chair Report Linda**

Report to Council, June 2025

June has been busy. 100th Anniversary celebrations for the UCC, cake and then Pizza together watching the national centenary service from Gower St. UC in St. John's on the 9th.

Then Trinity Sunday and Indigenous People's Day service, followed by Pride Sunday on the 22nd, where we had the privilege of welcoming and being challenged by the Rev. Dr. Rob Oliphant, MP.

Thanks to the Worship Team, Rev. Diane and Kento, as well as the Choir, Brian, Vince and Donna, our Affirm Group, for planning meaningful services. Much gratitude goes to Barb P. supported by Fern, Marg P., Aileen, Dorothy and Donna for planning the sharing

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of food, connected to these special services and events, including the Annual Strawberry Social, which we all have enjoyed.

Two items I was to look into - Communications (see separate item) and UCC grants.

Grants for Children and Anti-Poverty initiatives or general grants tend to be start up funds. The expectation is that they would be sustained through other means once begun.

Here's the link to some of the grants available:

<https://unitedchurchfoundation.ca/grants/seeds-of-hope/>

Feel free to peruse to see whether you think that anything might apply to something we might undertake.

## **Follow up and New Business**

### **1. Pastor AI Trial Rev. Diane**

- Video Content: Local landmarks, sermon clips, weekly messages updating social media platforms weekly.
- Branding: Friendly, faith-centered, consistent
- Pastor.AI: Auto-generates clips, subtitles, study guides for daily devotions.
- Pastor.AI pricing pending (cost vs. manual effort) - Isaac is volunteering to do this without pay and we can use the free trials on Pastors.AI if in future it is something we would consider paying for then we can budget according to the prices set.
- Advertising is costly; prioritize organic growth through the already set platforms and our website without incurring any cost.
- Approve a 3-month pilot phase for digital content strategy
- Explore Pastor.AI or similar tools
- Allocate small marketing and tech budget
- Approve a 3-month pilot phase for digital content strategy
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- Allocate small marketing and tech budget
- A timely, low-risk plan to build deeper relationships inside and outside the church.
- We welcome the Council's input and support.

### **2. Isaac's proposal re E-Outreach**

This summer Isaac will assist the Rev Diane to create short clips to post on social media and then in the Fall the content will be taken from our Youtube posted Worship Services.

Motion Rev Diane/Dianna

Carried

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### **3. Communication Strategies Update Linda**

HUC Communication Strategy Draft

General Communication:

Ways to introduce new Worship Team and general activities.

Direct Mail letter in the Fall from Minister and Council Chair to members and adherents. (\$120 approx)

Direct Mail post card through Canada Post - early September or January - gets emailed out generally by postal code i.e. M6S (about \$700)

Issac's proposal re communication of Worship using YT feed and SM accounts. (TBD)

BIA Events

Specific Events:

Electronic:

E-lawn sign. I have spoken with St. James UC Etobicoke and Runnymede UC and have some info and two sign companies' names. Not cheap but might be the most effective.

#### **Paper:**

Must have notice. 6- 8 weeks to meet publication due dates.

Create an attractive poster for e-distribution and paper.

If in colour, there is a cost for printing at Staples. Another idea is to buy a cheap colour printer.

Shining Waters, Neighbour Magazine, Whole Note (online free section) and our social media accounts.

Perhaps Metroland online publications. Libraries, if the event is free.

Communicating with other churches.

Our front lawn sign.

Sign board on Jane St. hanging extension.

Black and White half sheets for area home delivery - Groups of gr. 9 or 10 students wanting volunteer hours?

Best is Fall and early Spring.

What would be the criteria for paying for an announcement, such as to Whole Note magazine and what budget would it come from? (Used to be about \$300).

Who would be responsible for each of the above?

### **Stewardship of our Resources Charlie**

**Motion : Charlie/Dianna**

**Carried**

That the financial reports and cheque register for the month of May 2025 be approved as circulated.

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Charlie reported that there is still \$3400 needed to complete the funds needed for the roof and eavetroughs.

## **Our Shared Ministries**

### **Community Team Barb**

BOOK CLUB: Has stopped for the summer and will resume in October.

YOUNG AT HEART - SENIOR'S LUNCHEON.

Sharon and her team, Barb K. Dorothy, Heather, Marg G, Marillyn, welcomed 36 diners to the Young at Heart - Senior's Lunch on Monday, June 9th. By Sharon's account in the Beacon June 12, and from those that attended, it was a huge success!- food, fun fellowship and a great program! Many former Humbercresters attended. Thank you all.

WEDDING CO-ORDINATORS:

This committee needs a 3rd person. Summer is especially challenging with only two people. If anyone is interested or knows of someone who would be, please speak to Natalie or Claire or Chris in the office.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE:

Sunday, June 8, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the United Church in a couple of ways. After the morning service, we had a special coffee and tea time with celebratory cake. At 5 p.m. we enjoyed a pizza supper together before gathering in the Friendship Room to watch the National Service, from Gower Street United Church in St. John's, NFLD. Much appreciation to all those who helped with both events, including Chris for poster in the beacon and taking the advance pizza orders, Linda for fruit and for ordering from a great pizza place and picking it up, and Aileen for contributing fruit.

### **Devotion Team Brian**

#### **Humbercrest United Church**

#### **Worship Planning Schedule for 2025**

##### **Calendar**

| <b>Date</b>   | <b>Celebrating</b>     | <b>Leading</b>    | <b>Music</b> | <b>Choir</b>   |
|---------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------------|----------------|
| <b>29-Jun</b> | <b>Canada Day</b>      | <b>Rev. Diane</b> | <b>Kento</b> | <b>Soloist</b> |
| <b>6-Jul</b>  | <b>Summer - Chapel</b> | <b>Rev. Diane</b> | <b>Kento</b> | <b>None</b>    |

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|               |                                      |                   |              |             |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------|
| <b>13-Jul</b> | <b>Stained Glass Summer - Chapel</b> | <b>Brian</b>      | <b>Kento</b> | <b>None</b> |
| <b>20-Jul</b> | <b>Stained Glass Summer - Chapel</b> | <b>Rev. Diane</b> | <b>Kento</b> | <b>None</b> |
| <b>27-Jul</b> | <b>Stained Glass Summer - Chapel</b> | <b>Rev. Diane</b> | <b>Kento</b> | <b>None</b> |
| <b>3-Aug</b>  | <b>Stained Glass Summer - Chapel</b> | <b>Rev. Diane</b> | <b>Marg</b>  | <b>None</b> |
| <b>10-Aug</b> | <b>Stained Glass Summer - Chapel</b> | <b>Rev. Diane</b> | <b>Marg</b>  | <b>None</b> |
| <b>17-Aug</b> | <b>Stained Glass Summer - Chapel</b> | <b>Rev. Diane</b> | <b>Marg</b>  | <b>None</b> |
| <b>24-Aug</b> | <b>Stained Glass Summer - Chapel</b> | <b>Rev. Diane</b> | <b>Marg</b>  | <b>None</b> |
| <b>31-Aug</b> | <b>Stained Glass Summer - Chapel</b> | <b>Rev. Diane</b> | <b>Marg</b>  | <b>None</b> |

## **Facilities Team Howard**

### **KEY PROJECTS**

- 1) Centre/Office door lock – replacement ~\$2,315
- 2) East Hall – Heat pump/AC installation ~\$9,900 (split 50/50 with KEYS)
- 3) Boiler 1 – heat exchanger replacement ~\$5,000
- 4) Flush kits for Boilers 2&3 ~\$800 per kit
- 5) Install built-in dishwasher in East Hall kitchen to support KEYS program ~\$800
- 6) Camera surveillance system (DVR) repair Cost: TBD

### **Key Project Updates:**

- Centre/Office door lock – Thom came to install but ordered opposite part. Confirmed with manufacturer that part could be reversed but has been unable to find the time to come back.
- Heat Pump/AC installation complete w/o May 19th. KEYS are thrilled.
- Heating system shut down so Boiler 1 heat exchanger replacement has been scheduled for June 24th
- Flush kits for Boilers 2&3 ordered with date to do the work pending arrival of the kits
- KEYS new dishwasher has been delivered. Installation is being targeted for first week of July

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**Mission Dianna**

Dianna reported that \$805 was collected for the United Church Foundation campaign as of last Sunday

**Resources Marg****Rentals**

June 3 Barwell Scholarship (Mel Hurst)

June 6 Wedding

June 7 Recital

June 8 Piano recital

June 18 To Kidz Training Workshop

June 23 West To BIC training (no fee)

June 24 KEYS AGM evening (no fee)

**Other Rentals**

The Unitarian Fellowship of North West Toronto will be signing a two-year lease for Room 15 (balcony) effective July 15th.

Toronto Kidz camp will be using the West Hall/Stage/Room 9 and Heritage Hall / kitchenette for 8 weeks starting July 2. Set up will be Sunday June 29 afternoon.

KEYS will start their summer program with holidays the first week of July and first week of August.

Rainbow Songs will continue during the summer on the lawn.

Report on the lawn Bell box.

Bell sponsored a program for new artists to paint their phone boxes.

Applications were considered and Bell chose the artist. This was discontinued a couple of years ago.

The box on St John's Road was painted without consulting Bell, the home owner paid the artist of her choice. There have been no comments at all from Bell.

I have also checked the website of Chris and Greg Mitchell. These Room 18 artists are basically fashion designers. I suggest that if we decide to continue, further research be done on what type of design etc.

**Trustees Howard**

No report

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## **Ministry and Personnel Aileen**

Aileen reported that Chris would be taking two days off and coverage would be provided

## **Minister's Report**

See item 1 under follow up and new business

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Meeting adjourned at 8.05 pm

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**The next meeting of Council is September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2025 at 7 pm in person**

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*L. Steggles – Council Chair*

*D Seth – Secretary*