

# Humbercrest United Church

## Approved Minutes of Church Council Meeting

May 27th 2025

(commenced 7:00 pm.)

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

### **Gathering, Land Acknowledgement, Welcome**

Welcome and land acknowledgement by Rev. Diane

### **Inclusivity check list Linda**

**Prayer :** Barb Pattison

### *1. Administrative Ministry of the Church*

#### **Motion: Howard/Dorothy**

That Council Approve the Minutes of April 22nd, Council Meeting

**CARRIED**

#### **Motion : Brian/Marg**

That the Agenda for the meeting be approved as circulated

**CARRIED**

### **Correspondence: request for a Communication Strategy (see 3 below)**

### **Chair Report Linda**

I was saddened to learn of the passing of Lenore Strathy and Ruth Cornish. Please remember their families in your prayers.

Wendy Hurst has requested a transfer of her membership to Metropolitan UC.

Moccasin Identifier Project letters letting schools know about these kits and the curriculum materials has been sent to Humbercrest, St. James, Warren Park and King George. I suggest we do our own activity in September/October around the time of Orange Shirt Day or the day of the Truth and Reconciliation Service if there will be one. I put some thought into the interest expressed in re-setting priorities/strategic direction. I concluded that we have done lots of thinking and talking and so moved ahead and considered the many successes we have had and then focussed on areas of growth for us identified by the Transition Team and fleshed out in the Living Our Mission survey of 2022. Please see Agenda item #3.

7/2/25

Many thanks to Amanda Currell and Stephanie Bergman for giving of their time and expertise, a gift to our community, as well as to Barb Pattison and Chris for planning and supporting the Hearing Loss Workshop (May 26).

Much gratitude goes to Kento for connecting us with the Great Lakes Philharmonic Orchestra and for the beautiful Concert May 11. Many thanks to Dorothy and the Choir for handling entries at the doors. It couldn't have happened without your help.

## **Follow up and New Business**

### **1.Update on UCC Anniversary plans**

This will be held on June 8<sup>th</sup> with a celebration. This to be planned.

### **2. Sound update**

Howard reported that there was not much to update but Sean was working on this project.

### **3. Resetting of Humbercrest priorities**

Transition Team Goals (Spring 2022)

- 1). Become a more relevant presence in our own and in the larger community, by building partnerships, including with other faith communities.
- 2). Work on issues that have led to conflict and develop healthier ways of resolving these.
- 3). Reach financial stability (developing partnerships with long- and short-term renters).

We have achieved many successes, especially in goals 2 and 3. This year, with Rev. Diane and Kento's leadership, along with congregational leaders, we have created some fledgling partnerships with other faith communities, and we have further developed opportunities for fellowship and faith development, but it remains the main area of growth for us.

In the Living our Mission Survey (Fall 2022) we identified what goal 1 might look like:

Communication:

- a) Be more visible through advertising, our signage, sponsoring community events, participating in community events (Baby It's Cold for example). Get the word out about what we do offer.
- b). Offer what is of interest to our community and community organizations. (Do we assume we know this or try to find out?)

Outreach:

c). Find (partner?) organizations that can provide a service that the community can use – reading program, kids drop-in centre

d) Invite community to help us not just us trying to help them

Suggested Priority Reset:

A). A Communication Strategy

B). Outreach

C). Succession Planning

Rationale:

A). Communication: What we do support, we want to be as successful as possible, reaching the greatest audience possible.

B). Outreach: We want to be responsive to reasonable and achievable offers from our community as these help us to become more relevant to our neighbourhood.

This year, we have been blessed with offers from a congregant, Amanda and her employer as well as Kento and the GLPO.

Urgently, Katherine Stevens and Robin McDonald, have offered to help us organize participation in “Baby It’s Cold Outside”, a doors open event by the local BIA, and a Teens’ Craft Show at the Fall Sale.

After discussion Howard said that Cheryl had volunteered to connect with Katherine and Robin regarding Baby its Cold Outside and that Marg and Natalie would connect with them regarding the Teens Craft Sale at our Fall sale

This has stalled owing to lack of interested or available leadership. Rev. Diane has reached out. Ideally two people would take this on: perhaps but not necessarily a Council member and an interested congregant. (Two - more fun.). We do not want to squander this opportunity.

C). Succession Planning: We value our volunteers and understand that we need to share the load to remain a viable congregation.

Two or three members of Council will be stepping down in 2026, that I know of at this point.

Much progress has been made in two of the three transition team goals. Areas of growth for us still to work on:

Communication strategy

Outreach

Succession planning

7/2/25

#### **4. Letter to MPP and Committee to amend Bill 5**

It was decided that this would be an individual, personal letter from those interested.

Linda will write a letter on behalf of Council, based on the one from Rev. Tina Conlon, President of Region.

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

**Motion : Charlie/Dorothy**

**Carried**

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

#### **Our Shared Ministries**

##### **Community Team Barb**

Book Club: Barb Gilmour reported “it’s bubbling along”.

Care and Welcoming: Please note the Seniors Lunch June 9th at 12 noon. See the Beacon for more details.

Congregational Life Committee: There will be 2 special coffee and teatimes after the a.m. services on – June 8, celebrating the UCC’s 100th anniversary and June 22, celebrating Affirm and having our Strawberry Social. Details will be in the Beacon.

Regarding individual coffee and teatime hosting: thank you to Marg Garrie and David Gilmour for doing that. There will be more opportunities in the fall I’m sure.

REPORT TO COUNCIL MAY 27, 2025, RE:  
INFO SESSION ON HEARING AND THE EFFECTS OF  
AGING - MAY 26, 2025 - FRIENDSHIP ROOM

There were 15 guests, plus the presenter, Stephanie Bergman and her assistant, our congregant, Amanda Currell. We could feel their passion and commitment to their work. We learned so much valuable information from Stephanie’s powerpoint presentation, handouts prepared by Amanda and the question and answer part. We enjoyed refreshments and fellowship following the presentation when attendees still had an opportunity to ask questions. I have received very positive feedback.

7/2/25

I want to especially thank Linda Steggles for her hands-on support throughout the entire process; and Amanda Currell, Chris Higgins, Rev. Diane and Howard Gaskin, for their very valuable assistance in making the event successful. Thank you to everyone from HUC who attended.

### **Devotion**

A Planning meeting was held with the Worship Team recently. Devotion team meeting will take place shortly.

### **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:**

- New centre door lock in-house. Thomas has not yet committed to an installation date despite repeated requests.
- Heat Pump/AC installation in East Hall began on May 21. A second visit to finish outside work is required but the pumps are up and running. Will develop a pre-set schedule as the warmer weather appears.
- Boiler 1 heat exchanger replacement pending shutdown of heat for the season
- Flush kits for Boilers 2&3 ordered with date to do the work pending arrival of the kits
- KEYS will purchase at their expense a new built-in dishwasher and HUC/KEYS to share cost of installation (plumbing, cabinetry work)
- Exploring secondary markets to purchase a used DVR.

#### **Miscellany**

- Many thanks to Barb G, Cheryl G, Marg G (+ two grandchildren) for the major garden clean up on May 17<sup>th</sup> and David G for ongoing dandelion duel – current score David 230, dandelions (retreating & regrouping)

7/2/25

- **David G** dawned scuba gear and released the 3” water buildup last week on the flat roof caused by maple key/leaf buildup in the drain.

**Mission Dianna**

**No Report**

**Resources Marg**

**Rentals for May**

**May 11 Great Lake Philharmonic concert**

**May 12 Recording - opera singer**

**May 31 Medieval Festival on lawn + east & west Hall & Heritage Hall. All day and evening event.**

**Resources Report**

**The Unitarian Church group have decided to rent Room 15 as office space and not include the library at this time. They have not yet responded to our rental rate. This would be considered a lease for access anytime during the day or evening, the same as the other balcony rooms.**

**The Fall Sale committee will meet on May 26 to discuss plans for Nov. 1 which is our usual date.**

**We have been offered a donation by Natalie Cakebread of her upright Heinzman piano which is in her home. This piano is not suitable for the Friendship room (too large) or the Heritage Hall (not moveable) but possible replacement for the East Hall old upright. It would need to have someone inspect it. It is a Council decision whether this is needed. After discussion it was decided that we gratefully decline the offer. Marg will let Natalie know.**

**Trustees Howard**

**No report**

**Ministry and Personnel Aileen**

**No Report**

**Minister's Report**

**Minister's Report**

1. Thank the worship team for arranging to cover during the time i was away on Leave/Vacation

7/2/25

2. Before the Vacation, I attended a conference for three days at Alderwood. Content covered,
  - a. Evangelism
  - b. Collaboration
  - c. Thriving in Multi Vocational Ministry
  - d. Using AI for Forming Disciples

## **Proposal: Leveraging AI Tools and Social Media Platforms for Evangelism at Humbercrest United Church**

### **Introduction**

As we continue to explore meaningful ways to live out our mission in a rapidly changing world, this proposal invites Humbercrest United Church Council to embrace digital innovation by integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools and social media platforms into our evangelism and outreach strategies.

### **Purpose**

To enhance our capacity for community engagement, spiritual formation, and outreach by using AI tools and social media platforms that align with our church's values and vision of inclusive, progressive ministry.

### **Objectives**

1. **Expand Our Reach:** Use social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, TikTok) to share sermons, devotionals, events, and community stories with a wider audience.
2. **Enhance Content Creation:** Utilize AI tools to assist in creating engaging, relevant content such as sermon summaries, daily reflections, posters, and newsletters.
3. **Improve Engagement:** Use AI-driven analytics to understand audience engagement and tailor our communication strategies accordingly.
4. **Support Faith Formation:** Offer AI-assisted tools like chat-based Bible study companions, interactive prayer guides, and accessible theological content.

### **Implementation Plan**

- **Phase 1:** Form a small digital ministry team to explore and manage content across platforms. See Isaac's presentation.
- **Phase 2:** Learn and use AI tools to support content development. [Pastors.AI](#)- Meeting scheduled for 25 June to learn more.
- **Phase 3:** Launch a pilot campaign highlighting our weekly themes, sermon series, and community activities online.- I can give a sample from my last sermon

### **Benefits**

- Increased visibility in the local and online community.
- Greater participation from younger demographics and those unable to attend in person.

- Streamlined content creation, reducing administrative burden on staff and volunteers.
- Opportunity to embody innovation while remaining rooted in our Christian witness.

### **Conclusion**

This proposal seeks council's support to move forward with a digital evangelism initiative that honors our tradition while embracing the tools of today. A modest investment of time and creativity can bear significant fruit for our ministry and mission in the 21st century.

Rev Diane will make a trial run of the free version for the next month.

We will also be presented in June with an outreach project related to social media and our YT Channel that Isaac, who does our live streaming, and Rev Diane have been discussing.

Meeting adjourned at 9.05 pm

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**The next meeting of Council is June 24 at 7 pm in person in the Friendship Room**

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*L. Steggles – Council Chair*

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*D Seth – Secretary*