

# Humbercrest United Church

## Approved Minutes of Church Council Meeting

October 28 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, Howard Gaskin, Dorothy Lothian

Invited Guest: Cheryl Gaskin

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

Welcome and land acknowledgement by Rev. Diane

### **Inclusivity check list Linda**

**Prayer :** Howard Gaskin

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

#### **Motion: Barbara/Aileen**

That Council Approve the Minutes of September 23rd Council Meeting **CARRIED**

#### **Motion : Dianna/ Howard**

That the Agenda for the meeting be approved **CARRIED**

### **Correspondence:**

### **Chair Report Linda**

This month, Rev. Diane and I met with Lea Wilkening, and Janet and Liz Brewer, neighbours and long-time members, at Runnymede Pres. Following this, Rev. Diane and I met by Zoom with Rev. Diane Matheson-Jimenez and Rev. Rob Smith, Shining Waters/ Canadian Shield Regions. Several opportunities and thoughts were shared regarding this collaboration.

Thank you, Rev. Diane, for your leadership at the community meeting Oct. 19 and to all those who stayed and who spoke up. Next, action.

Many thanks also to Eve Marouchou for her meditative leadership that same Sunday and for Rev. Diane, Greg Walshaw and the Devotion Team for guiding us through a special

2/3/26

worship experience. Thanks also to Community Life, Barb P., with help from Aileen for the Tea and Coffee Time bridge that Sunday. It was wonderful to welcome our new Music Director, Greg Walshaw.

Gratitude also goes to those who helped coordinate the various pieces of Oct. 19 including the physical set up and take down of the black chairs. Note that the teal chairs have arms, so a switcheroo had to happen in order to support the Yoga portion

## **Follow up and New Business**

### **1.Update re E sign for Lawn Cheryl**

#### **Motion Dianna/Dorothy**

**CARRIED**

That based on the research and report by Cheryl we request the Trustees to consider providing funding for a new electronic sign

Objectives Today: I am providing an update for awareness on information I have acquired over the last month, and I am seeking direction/decision from Council:

1. Do you support continuing to progress this New Sign project based on scope, project elements, costs and timelines?
2. If yes, how/who would you like involved in details on design, mechanical and communication decisions, and how would you like to be regularly updated?

#### **Background Context**

At the September Council meeting, Council endorsed progressing proposals for a new outdoor sign (scope, design, cost and timelines) to serve our mission to grow the HUC community, to connect us to the wider community and to help us to communicate more impactfully the vast array of vibrant activities that are occurring at HUC. A new sign is not in itself a standalone activity; rather, it is one vehicle among many. A commitment was made to update Council in October.

#### **Proposals:**

Three companies were approached who have worked on mixed-media church signs locally and more broadly within the GTA (VanWinkle, Greentak and NewStyle).

#### **Elements of proposals included:**

1. Design and layout
2. Mechanical drawings, City of Toronto permit bylaw fees and management, engineering seal

3. Sign frame, shatterproof, steel + aluminum structure with church name & logo
4. LED Sign 2-sided up to 6-12'W x 3' H, wireless, software training, part & labour warranty
5. Installation service, excavation, footings, power connection, testing, engineering seal

All proposals submitted are between \$30,000-\$40,000 and whilst these are not yet negotiated quotes, I expect the end cost to be \$25,000-\$30,000. The key cost driver are the LED screens.

We can expect this project to take until Spring 2026. HUC sits within a Heritage Conservation District in a local neighbourhood, and whilst I have been reassured that the permitting has a very high probability of success, it will take time.

Proposals strongly favour either VanWinkle or Greentak as the preferred partner based on depth/expertise of proposal, value-added education offered in discussions, project management and communication, timeliness of proposal submissions and a made-in-Canada solution.

Next steps, if Council approves, is to convene a small group to bring a final proposal with firm design, costs and timelines to Council in November.

## **2.Update re Proposed Partnership with Runnymede Presbyterian**

We will continue to share informally and closely communicate activities. It is not possible for our Minister to be formally part of Runnymede Presbyterian church but the members of the congregation are invited to watch our service on U Tube

## **3.Update re Mission Priorities conversation Rev. Diane**

There was a good turn out for our special Yoga meditation service. Plans are on going for reengaging with Runnymede Hospital. A Swahili service is being planned. BIC has approached us about a shared Christmas Eve Service or a Carol Sing or service. This was approved by Council

Motion Diane/Charlie

CARRIED

That we collaborate with BIC for a Christmas Eve Service

2/3/26

After the vote Aileen clarified that if we want to give a couple of new teens and families, who will participate in some kind nativity scene or pageant as Rev Diane says, we want the Christmas Eve service to be Humbercrest. It was discussed that a Carol sing or service would be a better thing to share with BIC.

**4.Motion Howard/Aileen**

**CARRIED**

That we purchase the remote Mic researched and recommended by Sean

**5.Christmas or Winter Outreach Brian**

Brian reported that the Devotion Team would be meeting on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**6. Fall Sale Marg**

Fall Sale Report

Volunteers still needed for sorting during the week and especially for take down. Due to a miscommunication the Scout groups and leaders were not here for set up on Sunday. Hopefully they will be available for the take down on Nov.1st. Special thanks to the volunteers who stayed to do as much of the set up as possible and will be in on Monday to finish the job. Chips and pop will be provided for the Scouts and the thirteen Teen craft after the Sale.

**Stewardship of our Resources Charlie**

**Motion : Charlie/Brian**

**Carried**

That the financial reports and cheque register for the months of September 2025 be approved as circulated.

**Stewardship 2026**

A letter is being prepared to be sent to our congregation. Committees need to submit their budgets to Charlie in early December.

**Our Shared Ministries**

**Community Team Barb**

**SENIORS LUNCHEON TEAM**

Sharon reports that they are investigating the possibility of having a luncheon in December 2025.

**CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

Following the Sunday service of October 19, 2025, a wonderful meditation and yoga service, we had a coffee and teatime to welcome our new music director,

Greg Walshaw. It was hosted by Aileen and Barbara P. (Congregational Life). Thank you to all who helped in any way.

### **Devotion Team Brian**

The Devotion Team will be meeting on Sunday November 2, 2025 following the church service in the chapel to do some more planning for November and into 2026.

2. The Affirm Team has been working in collaboration with other Affirming Teams in the Etobicoke area, currently known as Westend Affirm. They are working on a couple of initiatives to support Affirm as a collective group. More details to come.

### **Mission Dianna**

No Report

### **Resources Marg**

#### **Rentals**

Use of Halls

Oct 10 Wedding

Oct 19 Unitarian Church Social Gathering

Oct 21 Young Voices Concert with Estonia Youth Orchestra & Choir (free)

Oct 26 Piano Recital Sanctuary and Reception

### **Facilities Team Howard**

#### **OPEN PROJECTS LIST**

- 1) Centre/Office door lock – replacement ~\$2,315 (paid)
- 2) Boiler system ionizer – formal quote pending ~\$5,800
- 3) East Hall kitchen dishwasher ~\$1,600 (split 50/50 with KEYS) installed but not billed

- 4) Outdoor electronic sign – to be discussed at Council
- 5) Centre door surveillance system (DVR) repair Cost: TBD
- 6) 2013 Canon Printer replacement - TBD

#### **OPEN PROJECTS DETAILS:**

- 1) LOCK: Marg spoke with Thom Oct 21<sup>st</sup>. Thom has been working with Lock Company on the suitability of using the panic bar shipped which is designed for a thicker door. Thom intends to visit manufacturer with all the hardware w/o Oct 20 and promised Marg an update on Oct 27.
- 2) IONIZER: Formal quote still pending
- 3) DISHWASHER: Invoice expected w/o Oct 27
- 4) OUTDOOR SIGN: See attached proposal
- 5) CENTER DOOR CAM: Inexpensive door cam to be purchased and installed
- 6) OFFICE PRINTER: 2013 printer nearing the end of its useful life with \$200 quarterly maintenance fees likely to rise 10-15% per year. Will undertake a needs assessment and explore replacements solutions. Recommendation to Council in November

#### **CLOSED PROJECTS**

- 1) Boiler 1 – heat exchanger replacement - \$5,500 + HST paid 14Oct25
- 2) Boiler 2&3 – preventative flush + annual maintenance - \$1,560 + HST paid 14Oct25
- 3) East Hall – Heat pump/AC installation (BISS) ~\$9,900 (split 50/50 with KEYS) paid Jun25
- 4) East Hall – Heat pump/AC electrical prep work (EDCO) ~ \$1,500 (split 50/50 with KEYS) paid Jun25

#### **Trustees Howard**

No report

#### **Ministry and Personnel Aileen/Cheryl**

**No Report**

#### **Minister's Report**

Mission Possibilities: From Vision to Action

Humbercrest United Church, October 28, 2025 Council Meeting

1. Opening Gratitude

“Thank you all for your presence and for supporting the Mission Possibilities conversation we shared after the Yoga and Meditation service last Sunday. It was deeply encouraging to see members participate, reflect, and imagine how our ministry can continue to grow in meaningful and sustainable ways. I am grateful for your openness and ideas and I’m here tonight to share the outcomes and possible next steps.”

## 2. Overview of Outcomes

“The discussion resulted in both long-term ministry directions and short-term community activities. These reflect a balance of continuing what is already working, and stepping into new ways of connecting with our community.”

### Initiative Description Next Step

#### Reconnection with

##### Runnymede Long-

Term Care Renew pastoral care visits, prayer services, and companionship ministry.

Identify contact persons and schedule monthly or bi-monthly visits.

##### Sweet Hour of

##### Prayer/ Enhanced

##### Midweek Virtual

Service Build on the current prayer time and expand it into a 30–40 min midweek worship/reflection on Zoom. Plan format, music, rotation of leadership, and promotion.

##### Kenyan/African

Swahili Service A culturally rooted worship service, possibly monthly or quarterly, to engage the East African community in Toronto. Form a small planning group; explore timing and communication channels.

### **Kids’ After-School**

Program A safe, creative, faith-based space for children —music, crafts, storytelling.

Begin small with a once-a-week pilot; identify volunteers and other logistics.

### Seniors’ Lunch

Continuation Continue and strengthen the existing seniors’ gathering ministry. Maintain a monthly schedule, possibly tie-in with devotion or theme-sharing.

### Ongoing and Long-Term Initiatives/ One-Time or Occasional Community-Building Events

#### Event Purpose Frequency

##### Music Café /

Night Invite local musicians, youth, and congregation members for informal fellowship through music. 1–2 times a year

##### Themed Potluck

Suppers Celebrate cultural diversity (e.g., “Taste of the Nations,” “Soup & Story,” etc.).

Seasonal or linked with church calendar events

##### Other

##### Community

##### Connection

Activities Open to ideas such as art showcases, neighborhood storytelling evenings, or movie nights/group tickets for a match downtown As opportunities arise

4. Emerging Themes

HAND” symbol of service

H – Hospitality- An open table, welcoming all into belonging. A – Accessibility- A path or open door: spiritual inclusion for everyone. N – Neighborliness & Reconnection- Hands reaching toward each other, building caring community. D – Diversity- Many colored hands or leaves unity in difference.

👉 Tagline “Hands that welcome: Hands that serve: Hands that celebrate all.”

👉 Why it works: The hand symbolizes connection, service, and inclusiveness, perfect for your pastoral and outreach vision.

5. Proposed Next Steps

1. Form a small Mission Task Group (3–5 members) to prioritize 2–3 projects for the first half of 2026.

2. Identify volunteers or champions for each initiative.

3. Develop a simple calendar mapping seasonal or one-time events.

4. Explore collaboration opportunities, especially for children’s or seniors’ programs.

5. Closing

Our vision continues to be a caring, open, and Christ-centered community where everyone can find belonging and purpose. These mission possibilities remind us that ministry is alive, creative, and shared. I thank you all for discerning together how we might live this calling at Humbercrest not just in words, but in action.

At HUC we have HANDS-“Hands that welcome: Hands that serve: Hands that celebrate all.”

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Meeting adjourned at 8.55 pm

**The next meeting of Council is November 25, 2025, at 7 pm in person**

**There will be a Council Budget Meeting on January 6<sup>th</sup> 2026.**

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*L. Steggles – Council Chair*

*D Seth – Secretary*