

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 :** Dianna Seth

1. *Administrative Ministry of the Church*

**Motion: Barbara/Marg**

That Council Approve the Minutes of June 24th Council Meeting

**CARRIED**

**Motion : Dianna/ Howard**

That the Agenda for the meeting be approved as amended with the added two motions.

**CARRIED**

**Correspondence:** Conversation with Runnymede Presbyterian Interim Minister

**Motion Dianna/Brian**

That Rev. Diane and Linda explore a collaborative ministry with Runnymede Presbyterian church and report back to Council in October

**CARRIED**

**Chair Report Linda**

I have spent time this summer working with the Music Director search team and secondly pondering what a new team needs to be successful. The Worship Committee or the Devotion Team will soon need a new Chair or Co-Chairs. I have been puzzling about that and talking to committee members. In order for it to function well, it needs to provide

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timely feedback to Rev. Diane and the new Music Director's ideas. This means it must meet frequently, for instance, once a month. So, October, and November, then again in January for instance. Brian has increased the frequency of meetings as he recognizes that this is critical as well.

Many thanks to Aileen Cheryl, Brian and Marg Parsons for their time and effort in finding our new Music Director. I am very heartened that such a skilled and experienced candidate is interested in HUC.

I also have communicated with Lea Wilkening Executive Director of Runnymede Presbyterian. (Like and Interim Minister). She reached out to us through Barb Gilmour, who hosts a pastoral chat mid-week on-line and is wondering whether we would be interested in an Inter-denominational Partnership. That means, sharing staff basically in a 2 point charge. This has only been discussed with their Session, not the congregation as a whole as yet. I explained that we would need to undergo a reassessment of needs and that for now, suggested that we share mission and community events with each other. We already share similar Outreach projects such as The Sharing Place and Kindred Kitchen. Lea agreed. Rev. Diane thinks that this idea is worth exploring.

The Council Executive approved one e-motion this summer:

1. July 11 to approve a Search Committee for Music Director based on news from Aileen that Kento Stratford would not be continuing at HUC, to be comprised of Aileen McGregor and/or Cheryl Gaskin, Brian Packham, Marg Parsons, Linda Steggles. Moved by Dianna, Seconded by Charlie, approved.

The whole Council approved the following:

2. Sept. 3 to approve a Ballroom Dance workshop offered by Dan Lee, Sept. 26, 7 pm, donations going to Na-Me-Res, and that Sept. 28 at 2 pm be the Moccasin Identifier Project date. Moved by Dorothy, seconded by Charlie. Approved by all.

### **Follow up and New Business**

1. Pastor A1 Trial Rev. Diane

Rev Diane reported that she will use an AI platform to create appropriate devotions while being mindful that the interpretation and language need to be reviewed for alignment with United Church theology. These devotions will be available in the Beacon.

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

Development of some video clips for e-outreach with Isaac's generous help is being worked on.

3. **Motion Aileen/Barb**

**CARRIED**

That Greg Walshaw be offered the position of Music Director at Humbercrest effective 1<sup>st</sup> 2025, to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2027 at the rate of \$35,400 annually.

#### **4. Fall Sale Marg**

- 250 newly designed flyers ready to be delivered to Thornhill, Brummell, Raymond, Humbercrest and Baby Pt.
- More to be printed for user group distribution.
- New flyers are available for store fronts. Plastic sleeves will be added for those lampposts. They will be removed after the sale.
- Scouting and guiding groups will meet off site during set up week prior to sale.
- All user groups will be accommodated with alternate space.
- The Scouting group and leaders will help for set up and take down.
- Katherine Stevens, Robin MacDonald and the Humbercrest P.S. Parent Assoc. will asking the senior students to join us by renting a table to sell crafts or baking or whatever they wish. The students will keep their profits.
- We will also contact Runneymede P.S to see if there is any interest in participating.
- Donations are starting now, Mon-Thursday 9 to 3pm and 7 – 9pm.
- Volunteers are needed for sorting and selling.

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

**Motion : Charlie/Dianna**

**Carried**

That the financial reports and cheque register for the months of June, July and August 2025 be approved as circulated.

**Community Team Barb**

#### **Congregational Life:**

On Sunday, July 27, 2025, a Special Goodbye Coffee and Tea Time was held for Kento Stratford, our Music Director, hosted by Aileen McGregor and Barb Pattison. Although it was summer, there was a good turnout, and everyone enjoyed themselves. Thank you to Dorothy and all who helped with cleanup. On Sunday September 21, 2025, a lovely coffee and teatime was hosted by Dianna Seth and Cheryl Gaskin. Their homemade goodies were a treat! Thank you, Cheryl and Dianna,

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### **Devotion Team Brian**

A worship schedule with special services has been planned up to end of November by Rev, Diane and the devotion team.

### **Facilities Team Howard**

#### **KEY PROJECTS**

#### **KEY PROJECTS - OPEN**

- 1) Centre/Office door lock – replacement ~\$2,315 (paid)
- 2) Boiler 1 – heat exchanger replacement ~\$5,000
- 3) Boiler 2&3 – two flush kits ~\$800 per kit
- 4) Boiler system ionizer – formal quote pending ~\$5,800
- 5) East Hall kitchen dishwasher to support KEYS program ~\$1,600 (split 50/50 with KEYS)
- 6) Outdoor electronic sign – to be discussed briefly at Council
- 7) Camera surveillance system (DVR) repair Cost: TBD

#### **KEY PROJECTS - CLOSED**

- 1) East Hall – Heat pump/AC installation (BISS) ~\$9,900 (split 50/50 with KEYS) paid Jun25
- 2) East Hall – Heat pump/AC electrical prep work (EDCO) ~ \$1,500 (split 50/50 with KEYS) paid Jun25

#### **Key Project Updates:**

- Centre/Office door lock – Thom came again Wed Aug 13. Some woodworking was performed but the lock requires some additional work that Thom must come back to finish.
- Replacement Boiler 1 heat exchanger delivered Sept12, installation booked for Sept26
- Boilers 2&3 will be flushed Sept26

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- Boiler ionizer – best price \$5,800 BISS sending through formal quote w/o Sept22
- KEYS dishwasher installed 7Jul25, waiting for bill from Contractor

Motion **Dianna/Brian**

**Carried**

That Council agrees to Cheryl working towards a new outdoor sign with full plans, including design, cost and timelines reporting back to Council at the October meeting.

Request from Cheryl Gaskin

My objective is to secure Council endorsement to progress work towards a new outdoor sign, with a full plan including design options, costs and timelines to Council in October 2025. Said another way, I would like to be confident that Council conceptually supports the idea before initiating a fairly substantial body of work.

Situation:

- One of the key staff goals for 2025/26, in service of our mission, is to grow the HUC community and congregation.
- Council, Rev Diane and Chris have highlighted that communication is an important element of connecting us to the wider community
- Our small congregation today stretches our capacity to invest time in communicating impactfully across multiple media
- The permanent road signage on Baby Point is a communication asset that is not fully realizing its full potential in a modern and digital age

Task:

The ambition is to replace our existing exterior sign at 16 Baby Point with more modern signage that enables contemporary, timely, content-rich communication of HUC activities, inspiring a new generation of congregants to engage with us. A new sign is not in itself a standalone activity; rather, it is one vehicle among many to address the situation described above.

There are many examples of mixed media church signs across the GTA and several vendors with expertise in this area. The undertaking will require initiating a Request for Proposal (RFP) of up to 3 vendors who are experienced in church memorial signage, seeking expertise on:

- 1.Design and cost options for B&G & Council decision

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2. Community engagement and zoning approval
3. Timeline toward January 2026

### **Mission Dianna**

Dianna reported that \$500 has been sent to Roncesvalles UC Kindred Kitchen to support their Thanksgiving dinner

### **Resources Marg**

#### **Rentals**

July & August Toronto Kidz summer camp 8 weeks

July & August KEYS summer program

August

Aug. 10 Baptism (Rental)

Aug. 18 Wedding

September

Sept. 14 West Toronto Unitarian Church Social Gathering

This September Ballet Etobicoke moved to a new location.

The Pop Choir is now renting space in the Heritage Hall Wednesday afternoons from 1 – 3 pm.

### **Trustees Howard**

No report

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

Our Music Director, Kento Stratford decided to not renew his contract with Humbercrest at the end of July 2025. We wish him well in his new venture at culinary school this fall. Much appreciation to Marg Parsons for her incredible piano accompaniment through the extremely hot and humid month of August, always so very impressive!

Many thanks also to David Harrison who has been our interim Music Director for September. We have been blessed with his joyful music filling the sanctuary. Rev. Diane and the choir have been grateful for his support this month.

A Search Committee for a new Music Director was set up in July to begin our search to fill this role at Humbercrest. Many thanks to Linda Steggle, Marg Parsons, Cheryl Gaskin and Brian Packham for their assistance with this job over the summer, particularly while I was on vacation.

Glad to report that we had several applications and after interviews and auditions, we have a candidate of choice with whom we are in contract discussions.

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In Early July, Cheryl and I had an opportunity to meet with both Rev. Diane and Chris Higgins to discuss both successes and learnings from the past 12 months and to identify goals for the next year. This was a very productive meeting and we are **encouraged by** the collaborative teamwork that has developed. We all agreed we were looking forward to our new Music Director joining that team.

**Minister’s Report**

Rev. Diane explored with Council a 3 -5-year plan for Humbercrest. She shared several “Ministry possibilities” for Humbercrest. Council suggested that these be shared with the congregation at a teatime soon to choose some options to start.

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Meeting adjourned at 9.10 pm

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**The next meeting of Council is October 28, 2025, at 7 pm in person**

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*L. Stegges – Council Chair*

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*D Seth – Secretary*