

Humbercrest UC Council
Draft Minutes
April 28, 2026, 7:00 pm via Zoom

Attendees: Aileen, Barb, Dorothy, Howard, Linda, Marg, Vince, Charlie, Libbie,
Rev. Diane

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement - Rev. Diane

Inclusivity Checklist - Linda

Prayer - Howard

Administrative Ministry of the Church - (5 min.)

Motion: Barb/Aileen.

Carried

That Council approve the minutes of the March 24, 2026 meeting.

Motion: Dorothy/Marg

Carried

That the Agenda be approved as circulated.

Chair's Report - Howard

All children are welcome at HUC. We believe that the sound of kids (quiet voices and loud) is welcome. We want parents to know that if their child makes noise during church, they are not bothering us, they are blessing us.

Minister's Report - Rev. Diane

Rev. Diane shared a short video on a United Church of Canada plan called **Toward 2035**. God is doing a new thing. Can we perceive it? united-church.ca/toward2035

Minister's Report: April Council Meeting

- 1. Kenyan Kigocho Service Report:** The Kenyan Kigocho service held on Sunday the 5th was a vibrant and joyful gathering, marked by strong attendance and a rich sense of community. The event brought together people from five nationalities, Kenya (the majority), Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, and the United States, reflecting a beautiful diversity of cultures united in worship and celebration. Participants travelled from various locations including Oshtawa, Mississauga, Hamilton, and across Toronto, demonstrating the wide reach and appeal of the event. Overall, the Kigocho service was a meaningful and fun-filled occasion that strengthened community bonds and celebrated cultural expression in worship.

2. 40 Days of Lenten Devotions Survey: This survey was conducted to gather feedback on the *40 Days of Lenten Devotions* and to assess their effectiveness in supporting the spiritual lives of participants. The objective of the study was to evaluate the effectiveness and impact of the devotions, with particular attention to engagement levels, clarity of content, and overall participant experience, in order to inform improvements for future devotional initiatives.

A total of nine participants responded to the online survey. While the sample size is limited, the responses provide meaningful insight into how the devotions were received and experienced.

The findings indicate that the devotions had a strong spiritual impact. All respondents described the devotions as either meaningful or very meaningful, and the majority reported that the reflections influenced their daily lives, either significantly or to some extent. This suggests that the content itself was effective in fostering spiritual reflection and engagement.

In addition, the devotions were widely regarded as clear and accessible. Participants found the material easy to follow and well-structured, indicating that communication and presentation were not barriers to engagement. However, consistency of participation emerged as a key challenge. Only a portion of respondents engaged with the devotions daily, while others participated intermittently. This suggests that while the content was valued, sustaining a daily spiritual discipline proved difficult for some participants. The issue, therefore, is not the quality of the material but the pattern of engagement.

Overall, participants described their experience in positive terms, noting that the journey was meaningful, engaging, uplifting, and reflective. These responses point to a resource that resonates well spiritually, even if it is not consistently practiced.

The survey highlights an important insight: the effectiveness of the devotions is clear, but future efforts should focus on improving accessibility and consistency of engagement. To address this, it is recommended that more flexible formats be considered, such as shorter reflections or weekly summaries, alongside exploring additional methods of delivery beyond email. Creating opportunities for optional group reflection may also help strengthen participation and deepen community connection. There is also strong potential to extend similar devotional resources into other seasons, such as Advent.

In conclusion, the 40 Days of Lenten Devotions were a meaningful and impactful initiative. With modest adjustments aimed at supporting sustained engagement, this approach has the potential to become a regular and formative part of the congregation's spiritual life.

- 3. Report on Engagement with Regional & National Consultation on Children ministry:** I had the opportunity to participate in a Regional and National consultation involving a small cohort of twelve participants. The gathering provided a focused and meaningful space for reflection, sharing, and collaborative learning around key aspects of ministry within our communities of faith. A central theme of the consultation was "**My Community of Faith**", with particular attention given to **practices of ministry with children**. The discussion challenged us to move beyond traditional models and to intentionally consider ministry **to, for, with, and by children**. This framework emphasized a shift from seeing children as passive recipients to recognizing them as active participants and contributors in the life of the church.

We explored different relational approaches, including **multigenerational, cross-generational, & intergenerational ministry**. While these terms are often used interchangeably, the consultation helped clarify their distinctions:

- *Multigenerational* focuses on the presence of different age groups within the same space.
- *Cross-generational* encourages interaction between age groups in specific activities.
- *Intergenerational* goes deeper, fostering shared experiences, mutual learning, and meaningful relationships across generations.

The conversation highlighted that thriving communities of faith are those that intentionally create space for these deeper intergenerational connections, rather than simply gathering different age groups together.

Another key area of discussion was the **role of the Region** in supporting communities of faith. Participants reflected on how Regions can accompany congregations through stages of **building, growing, and thriving**. This includes offering resources, mentorship, training opportunities, and spaces for shared learning, while also recognizing the unique contexts and capacities of each community. Overall, the consultation was both insightful and challenging. It invited a reimagining of ministry practices, particularly in relation to children and intergenerational engagement, and underscored the importance of intentional

support structures from the wider church. The insights gained will be valuable in shaping ongoing ministry and strengthening the life of our community of faith.

4. Disciplined Priorities: After meaningful discussions on disciplined priorities, we recognized the need to be intentional about where we focus our energy. Rather than trying to do everything, we chose to discern what matters most in this particular moment of our life together. This led us to identify four core priorities, areas that are not new to us, but essential to who we are and who we are becoming. What follows are the four priorities we have committed to focus on in this season. Each one invites participation, clarity of purpose, and a willingness to move from ideas into intentional action:

- ***Children & Intergenerational Ministry,***
- ***Worship,***
- ***Pastoral Care,***
- ***Mission outreaches & Community Engagement***

MOTION: I would like to propose that, as part of our disciplined prioritization, we adopt a simple and consistent way of tracking our ministry priorities using a one-page Council Action Sheet for each core area, worship, pastoral care, children's ministry, and mission and community engagement. This process would be champion-led, meaning that each priority area will have a designated champion who takes responsibility for completing a brief monthly update. The purpose is not to create lengthy reports, but to ensure clarity around what has been done, who has been reached, what impact we are seeing, and what the next step should be.

Council's role would be to review these updates briefly, ask clarifying questions where needed, and affirm the direction, whether to continue, adjust, or pause a particular initiative. This allows Council to focus on oversight and alignment, rather than getting drawn into operational detail. This approach will help us stay grounded in our guiding principle: that we are not trying to do more, but to do what is sustainable, shared, and faithful. It will also support better stewardship of our time and energy, ensuring that what we do strengthens our core priorities rather than competing with them. I therefore move that Council adopt this approach for an initial trial period, with a review of its **effectiveness on October 25, 2026.**

Council Action Sheet – Monthly Ministry Priorities

Priority Area: _____

(Worship / Pastoral Care / Children's Ministry / Mission & Community Engagement)

Champion: _____

Support Team (2–3 people):

1. 90-Day Focus Goal- *(Be specific and realistic)*

2. This Month's Actions- *(What actually happened – keep it brief)*

- _____
- _____
- _____

3. Who Did We Reach? *(Members / Non-members / New connections)*

- a)
- b)
- c)

4. One Story of Impact *(Keep it real and simple)*

5. Sustainability Check

- Number of volunteers involved: _____
- Are the same people carrying the work? Yes / No
- Any partnerships supporting this? _____

6. What Is Not Working? *(Be honest – this is critical)*

7. Monthly Summary (One Sentence)

This month, this ministry area is: **Growing / Steady / Limited** because....

8. Decision for Next Month

- Continue as is
- Adjust approach
- Pause / Release

9. Next Step (Only One)-(*What is the immediate action?*)

Decision Rule: If this initiative does not strengthen one of these core areas, it will be paused or released.

Council Note:

Motion: Rev. Diane/Dorothy

Carried

That Council approve the implementation of the Council Action Sheet for each of the Ministry Priorities.

Follow-Up and New Business (30 min.)

1. Disciplined Prioritization – Mission & Outreach - Rev. Diane

Info was provided on this first of four core priorities to be reviewed. See motion above.

Action: Diane will circulate the action plan intended to be used by the “champions”. Provide feedback by May 8. Reply to all please.

2. Funeral Guide: - Dorothy/Vince

Objective: To seek Council’s input on whether the guide should be more secular and adaptable to other faiths. Is the document as it reads inclusive?

Action: Review to allow for inclusivity similar to our Wedding policy. Council suggested that a memorial service be aligned with our Mission values.

3. Honoraria for upcoming Guest Speakers - Vince

Objective: To seek guidance from Council on honoraria discussions for guest ministers and to seek input from Council on possible guest speakers for Pride Month and their role in the service.

Guest Speaker June 7th potentially to Kick off Pride Month

Action: Guest Preacher “thank you” honorarium - Aileen will contact Pastoral Relations Minister for their advice regarding appropriate amounts.

4. **Spring Sale Update** – Marg - Planning is ongoing.

5. **Purchase Ionizer** - Howard

Objective: To gain Council approval for purchase and installation of new Ionizer.

Action: Ionizer cost has already been included in this year's budget. B & G to go ahead.

6. **Purchase of new AED vs replace batteries** – Howard

Objective: To gain Council approval for replacing the battery vs replacing the entire AED (see B&G report for information)

Action: - B & G buy replacement battery, defer purchase of new AED
Request Chris find out about AED training on our model. Perhaps a video could be offered after church.

Motion: Charlie/Marg

Carried

Council approved the Treasurer's financial statements as circulated.

Our Shared Ministries

Community Team Report - Barb P.

CARE, WELCOMING AND VISITATION COMMITTEE

April 5 - Easter Sunday - 28 tulip plants with cards were distributed/delivered (extras are always ordered "31"). In addition, 12 cards were mailed or hand-delivered.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE

April 5 - Easter Sunday - the committee hosted a celebratory coffee and tea time. Many thanks to all who helped.

Devotion Team Report – Dorothy/Vince Co-Chairs

1. We held a committee meeting on April 12, 2026, discussing planning of events, the worship calendar and considered a request for favourite hymns to be included in our services. Barb Gilmour has asked the congregation to make suggestions with a form she prepared. **(Devotion Planning Document as circulated.)**
2. The Coffee House event was held with a decent turnout and a terrific performance by Greg. We collected \$432.00.

3. The film “Prayers for Bobby” was well attended and a collection of \$155 was received. Many thanks to Vince for his work on this.
4. Planning for the Gospel Extravaganza is on-going.
5. Attached is a draft of a new Funeral Policy for us. **(As circulated.)** Updated by Cheryl with input from Greg, Rev Diane and Devotion Team members. This is a Christian oriented document for services held in the sanctuary. We have been questioned on this orientation: should it be more secular or adaptable to other faiths? Is it inclusive?
6. Another debate in our team has concerned the designation of Mother’s Day and Father’s Day. Lots of replacement suggestions but no consensus. We will leave these upcoming Sundays to Rev Diane to deal with as she sees fit.

Gospel Extravaganza - Rev. Diane reported that the total budget is \$1,550.00.

Action: Howard will buy a card to thank Greg for the PB & J and for the funds raised.

Council thanked Vince for the Affirm Group’s Film Series; “Prayers for Bobby” in particular.

Facilities Team Report - Howard

OPEN PROJECTS LIST

- 1) Outdoor electronic sign – minor electrical variance to be approved May 3.
- 2) Boiler system ionizer – quote of \$3,672.50 (taxes in) received 27Apr26
- 3) BIC request for 30 additional black vinyl stacking chairs (\$75 - \$100 if new)
- 4) AED purchase vs replace battery only
- 5) Elevator door sticking and external woodwork in state of disrepair due to water damage
- 6) Roofing – winter storm repairs - spring
- 7) 2013 Canon Printer replacement – proposal being revised
- 8) Lock

OPEN PROJECTS DETAILS:

- 1) OUTDOOR SIGN: BP Heritage District has approved the project. City of Toronto required a minor electrical variance that will be reviewed on May 3rd. Then construction will begin. Electrician tentatively lined up for mid June. Installation end of June.
- 2) **IONIZER: Following a site visit April 13, BISS is proposing a lower cost option by attaching the ionizer to the outflow of the hot water tank. ~\$5,800 \$3,672.50**
- 3) 20 vinyl stacking chairs of a different design were purchased on FB Marketplace @\$35 – (listed @ \$40) put in sanctuary chapel. Original 23 from chapel that match East Hall chairs were moved to East Hall

- 4) AED vs battery only replacement. Our Cardiac Science Powerheart G3 AED was discontinued March 2021 and the battery is due to be replaced in June 2026. Replacement batteries for our model will be fully discontinued March 31, 2028. Battery replacement cost \$920. Battery good for 4 years from date of installation. New AED \$2600-\$2900.
- 5) Elevator door edge and door frame edge sanded to reduce by not eliminate sticking. More sanding required. If not effective then will have to remove and plane. Manpower and time constraint challenges
- 6) ROOF REPAIRS: South gutters torn down by ice. Leaks in sanctuary & Minister's office closet, Marg met with roofers late January. Quote on repairs pending better weather
- 4) OFFICE PRINTER: Canon is revising proposal and I am seeking a second quote
- 5) LOCK: Thom exploring next steps on thumb latch fix.

ODDS & SODS - April

- 1) Centre doors concrete step repair underway
- 2) During BISS site visit on April 13, all of the east and west wall convector fans were not functioning. BISS will explore during ionizer installation

CLOSED PROJECTS

- 1) Amplifier replacement part purchased and installed \$1,977.50 pd 28Jan26
- 2) KEYS request for a humidifier turned down. KEYS informed.

ODDS & SODS - March

- 1) Accessibility washroom door closer was repaired
- 2) New shutoff valves and connector hoses were installed in Ladies Washroom D.
- 3) Drain on flat roof plugged with leaves led to floods in Rev. Diane's office closet twice – Feb and March.

Resources Report - Marg G.

Use of Halls

April 12 Unitarian Church gathering. Numerous other events took place in April but not rentals.

Sales Report

Sale is progressing well. A large amount of donations have been received so far. We are still looking for volunteers for Saturday. A least three more would be helpful.

Trustees - Libbie - No report

Ministry and Personnel Report - Aileen

In Camera discussion.

Adjourn 8:45 pm.

Next meeting: May 26, 2026 in person in Rev. Diane's office.