



**MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Thursday, February 3, 2026**  
Held in the Fellowship Hall

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**Council Members** Deb Gill (Chair), Roger Hyatt (Vice-Chair), Mary McFadden (Council Secretary), Brenda Heath (Christian Development), Lois Gill (Fellowship & Outreach), Lori Hyatt – (Finance/Treasurer), Peter Challen & Trish Challen (Acting Chairs of Fundraising & Stewardship), Janice Sinker (Grand Bend Place), Rev. Nancy Knowles (Minister), Bill Weber (Ministry & Personnel & Stewardship), Christine Wilde (Office Administration) Debbie Procter (Property Management), Glen Miller (Trustees), Karen Etherington (Worship & Music), Roger Hyatt (Acting Chair for WOW Representative),

**Present:** Deb Gill, Roger Hyatt, Mary McFadden, Brenda Heath, Lois Gill, Lori Hyatt, Janice Sinker, Bill Weber, Debbie Procter, Glen Miller, Peter Challen, Trish Challen, Karen Etherington, Nancy Knowles, Christine Wilde

**Quorum Present - yes**

**AGENDA**

**1. DEVOTIONAL - Nancy Knowles**

**2. CALL TO ORDER – Deb Gill : 1:10 p.m.**

**3. APPOINT AN EQUITY MONITOR – Janice Sinker**

**4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERRITORY (read aloud by council)**

**5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

- **MOTION to approve agenda as amended. Moved, seconded and carried.**
  - **Under New Business the below topics were added**
    - Grants - Roger
    - Performance Facility Agreements – Janice
    - Pantry Agreement Update – Deb
    - Letter request – Nancy
    - Proposed motion – in camera – Janice

**6. ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE**

- **Lois Gill – The World Day of Prayer** service will be held on Sunday, March 1. Normally Lois and Karen volunteer. They will both be away. There will be an announcement verbally, in Shorelines and on the PowerPoint slides asking for volunteers.

**7. REVIEW & APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- **MOTION to approve the January 8, 2026 minutes as distributed. Moved, seconded and carried.**

**8. BUSINESS ARISING**

- **Living Faith Story – Roger:** This conversation is not recorded.
- **Council Retreat update – Nancy:** After speaking with a representative from Riverwalk Commons in St. Mary's, Nancy felt that it was too expensive. The Medical Centre has offered us to use their space at no charge. Nancy will follow up with dates.
- **Pantry charitable status update – Debbie Procter:** Clarification was given that Food Pantry using our charitable status presents no problem.

**9. NEW BUSINESS – Deb Gill**

- **Summer service start time:** A discussion around the table of what the all-around best time for our summer services to start, two time were discussed – 9:00 or 9:30 a.m. Both times had advantages and disadvantages. The discussion wrapped up with all agreeing to 9:00 a.m. for several valid reasons.
  - **MOTION that our Summer Services commence at 9:00 a.m. from May 15 to September 15, 2026, with hopes of getting parking passes. Moved, seconded and carried.**  
**Brief discussion –** once again due to valid reasons, there will be no service on the Civic or Labour Day weekends.
- **Summer Parking Passes:** Deb will inquire about obtaining summer parking passes from the Municipality commencing on May 15 to September 15, 2026 with a time allotment of up to 11:00 a.m. She will also try to get the passes for Wednesday's choir practice from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- **Voting privileges –** many organizations have a "rule" that employees cannot vote during committee meetings. After some clarification, the below motion was made.
  - **MOTION that employees of Huron Shores United Church, with exception of the minister, have voting privileges at all meetings unless there is direct conflict of interest. Moved, seconded and carried.**
- **ACM format –** The Annual Congregational Meeting will commence directly after the service. At the completion of the ACM, there will be a finger food potluck lunch in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Sensitivity around Stewardship and Fundraising –** Deb requested that any fundraising initiatives go through Peter and Trish first to ensure that overlap doesn't occur.
- **Cancellations due to weather –** It has been a lot of winter storms. Sometimes there is little warning. Sometimes it's much worse than in Grand Bend. The decision to cancel church is not taken lightly. It was stressed that decision is for the safety of everyone. It was mentioned that if there is enough notice, we could do Zoom or record a service.

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- **Council Meetings Schedule (9:00 a.m.)** Along with the dates and 9:00 a.m. time, it was decided to only have coffee and tea available. **Meeting dates are:**
  - Mar 19
  - April 23
  - May 21
  - June 18
- **Grants – Roger Hyatt:** There are a couple opportunities. A discussion concentrated on the Trillium Grant. GBP is proposing to apply in the hopes of purchasing a portable stage that is accessible with multiple set up features. It would be custom built. They are also including some type of storage facility. This grant comes with the approval of Stewardship & Fundraising.
  - **MOTION that Grand Bend Place apply for a Trillium grant for a custom-built stage, technology equipment and a storage facility. Moved, seconded and carried.**
- **Other grants in the works:** GBP is applying for the Lampton County Futures Grant and Lois is applying for the Student Grant.
- **Sanctuary set up – Debbie Procter** – the set-up of the sanctuary chairs comes with guidelines – fire safety and accessibility as examples. The chairs are hinged together for a reason and they need to stay that way. It was requested that the chairs are not changed for other usages.
- **Performance Facility Agreements – Janice:** referred to a children’s event during the Winter Carnival on Saturday, February 14. This involves a performance. Janice expressed concern as to all the details that need to be put in place. After a discussion on using our facility for “outside” events, a separate document with a list of requirements from the renter will be generated. It was agreed that the damage deposit needs to be received before our facility is booked. GBP will be in charge of any “outside performance” and will clarify the definition of “outside performance”.
- **Pantry Agreement Update** – Deb explained that the Pantry has grown since opening and utility costs have risen. The Pantry has been asked to adjust their money transfers to cover the increase of usage. It was commented that the Pantry organization has always been very cooperative.
- **Letter requesting a parking space – Nancy:** Read a very well written letter from a resident (living close to the church) requesting to use one of our parking spaces. A very thoughtful discussion took place with a lot of empathy toward this individual. Due to others being denied in the past, it was felt that we needed to be consistent, therefore this request was denied. Deb will respond in writing to this individual.
- **Request to go in camera – Janice:**
  - **MOTION to go in camera at 2:40 p.m. Moved, seconded and carried.**
  - **MOTION to come out of camera at 2:55 p.m. Moved, seconded and carried**

**10. TEAM REPORTS – attachment #1. Only added comments are shown.**

- **FINANCE – Lori Hyatt:** Deb complimented Lori on all her work in putting together the Finance Package for the ACM.
  
- **STEWARDSHIP & FUNDRAISING – Peter & Trish Challen:**
  - **Stewardship & Fundraising Letter** - referred to the recent letter handed out to the congregation on Sunday, February 1. Explained the reasoning of asking for a 20 % increase in givings. Complimented the expertise of all the individuals that assisted in the writing this letter. Everyone attending church received their letter – that’s a first! Both Peter and Trish are very happy with the response.
  - **Donor Recognition Display** – commented that seven individuals went up a category and that there are two new Donors.
  - **Doug Procter** - an apology was extended to Doug for any misunderstanding and commented that the S&F team understands Doug’s request to step down from the team. Doug feels that the management of the Grocery gift cards keeps him busy enough!

**11. EQUITY MONITOR** – we did wonderfully!

**12. NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

**13. REFRESHMENTS:** Roger and Glen – coffee and tea

**14. MOTION** to adjourn at 3:05 p.m.

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**Deb Gill,  
Council Chair**

**Mary McFadden  
Council Secretary**