

MINUTES
The Church Board
St. Paul's United Church
April. 22, 2026

In Attendance:

Cyndy Raby	Susan Phillips	Lucy Darkey
John Hannam	Ernie Epp	Cyndy Raby

Chair:

Trustees:

Marilyn Marrier-Oborne

Treasurer:

Ray Quinn

Secretary:

Don Macdougall

Recording Secretary:

Kristin Williams

Non-Profit Housing:

Gail Henderson

Minister:

Rev. Desire Tiriwepi

Regional Council:

(12)

Regrets:

Bette Ann Elliotson

Rejean Langlois

Judith Tiriwepi

(3)

Absent:

Scarlett Hanley

Miriam Bangura

Dale Hache

(3)

Guest:

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Subject

Action By

Call to Order	1) <u>Call to Order:</u> Chair – Cyndy Raby – Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. The meeting was held in Lunan Hall.
Declaration of Conflict of Interest	2) <u>Declaration of Conflict of Interest:</u> Cyndy asked if there was any conflict of interest and there was none.
Devotions & Affirming Statement	3) <u>Devotions & Affirming Statement:</u> Ray Quinn read devotions about events in history and how so many good things are happening in the world and Thunder Bay and so many good deeds – God give us free will!
Approval of Agenda	4) <u>Approval of Agenda:</u> Moved by: Marilyn Marrier-Oborne Seconded by: Gail Henderson <i>That the Agenda be approved as amended. CARRIED.</i>
Approval of Previous Minutes	5) <u>Approval of Previous Minutes:</u> Moved by: Kristin Williams Seconded by: Marilyn Marrier-Oborne <i>That the minutes of March 25, 2026, be approved. CARRIED</i>
Business Arising	6) <u>Business Arising from Board Meeting:</u> a) Access to Church through Gym from St. Paul's Place: As Rejean was not at the meeting, it will be deferred to the next meeting. b) Treasurer Position: It was said that it is still in the works and waiting to hear.

7) Correspondence:

Correspondence

a) Cyndy mentioned that she received correspondence from Thunder Pride and it will be held on June 6th at the Friendship Gardens and walking to First Wesley. The are looking for funds – we donated \$350 last year. Cyndy will pass on the request to Diversity & Inclusion.

8) New Business:

New Business

Seeds of Hope – Cyndy mentioned that the grant application has been sent in for the Women’s group to support if they have speakers come in to meet with them.

9) Minister’s Report:

Minister’s Report

- a) We all congratulated Rev. Desire for receiving is Doctorate. He said a party will come to celebrate!
- b) He is excited to have his first wedding coming up on July 11th for Scarlet Hanley and Justin Pucci & Scarlett, then a new young couple, Nicole Johnstone and Bradley Young on July 25th! Also, a new Indian couple who are coming will be getting married in India but then a ceremony here, so Desire is working with them. So good news!
- c) Wanted to highlight that there is going to be a big Thanksgiving potluck dinner in October – invitations will go out and hopes it will be a great success – need to ask our friends. Deb has offered to help with this dinner. It will be the week after Thanksgiving.
- d) He spoke with Susan Lai who has been coming back to church – Bill Shantz hasn’t been well.
- e) Ray asked Susan if they would be getting anything for the couples that are getting married – she said normally they don’t. Susan Phillip said how she used to be the wedding co-ordinator and helped the bride with everything they needed. John mentioned that Scarlet and Justin will be having a small reception after their ceremony in Lunan Hall and will be having cake. A bible was mentioned – Kristin mentioned that she received a “Couples Bible” from someone when she got married. She will look for it and show Ray.
- e) Rev. Desire said that the Region will be giving the grant again for Camp Duncan family camp for \$2500 or so.

10) Chair of the Board Report:

Chair of the Board Report

- As Rejean was not at the meeting, Cyndy read his report.
- i) I am glad to see that the financial statements look like they are in good shape this time, it is a sign that we are doing good things. It is amazing to see all of the events that are happening around the church during the next couple of months including two services with other congregations.
 - ii) I sent a note of thanks to Lizzeth for all she is doing with the Women’s group and Fundraising – it is a joy to see someone with such enthusiasm giving her talents. Let's keep doing good work!

11) Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer’s Report

i) Ray reviewed the Financial Statements ending March 31st. The analysis for the Income for the first three months is at 33% of the budget, those numbers are really encouraging. The actual givings portion of that Income was 26% of the annual budget. St. Paul’s Land Rent was at 26%. Dennis Endowment was at 52% from last year – General Endowments were at 5% - Rental Income was at 44%, which is pretty good. Gym rental 25% - Manse Rental 25%. Still have a way to go – hopefully we are going in the right direction.

12) Trustees Report:

Trustee’s Report

- Marilyn reported on the following items:
- a) Kristin, Cyndy, Gail and I watched a webinar called “Trustees Tune up”. Almost 300 people from 2 Regions attended. There was a very helpful and informative webinar. It talked about our responsibility for identifying risk, process and insurance things we have to be doing. We need to follow up on a few things. The Region is a great support for the Trustees.
 - i) Marilyn sent a note to St. Paul’s Place, Non-profit asking them to check their insurance to see if they are covered or if they need to, for storing e-bikes in the building. We will have to look at the Lease for the Manse – don't think there is anything about e-bikes or electric

vehicles. What coverage do we have in our insurance?

- ii) One of the things that came out recently and people asked the question about what happens when a church closes up what happens to the assets, the money? It is all organized. If it is less than \$200,000, the proceeds just goes. If a church has more than \$200,000, then first of all, the bills need to be paid, any debts are taken care of, then of the remainder – 5% goes to the maintenance of the archives – 5% goes to Mission & Service – 10% goes to Indigenous Ministries & Justice – 20% would go to Initiatives of the Regional Council to support other Communities of Faith and the remaining 60% would go to Priorities of Community of Faith - this is just an FYI
- b) An advance from the Dennis Fund for the 2nd quarter will be provided in the first week of May instead of in June.
- c) The Enduring Endowment has been set up. We transferred some funds and some cash, so it is all set up on its own now. The Judd Elevator account has always been part of the general endowments but we are pulling it out so it has its own identity and are now looking into what we can invest the money so we have a better rate of return.

13) ACTION ITEMS:

a) Finance & Administration:

- i) Ray said there was a new member on the committee named David Ballard and very nice to have him.
- ii) Lizzeth thought it was a good idea to purchase a Square Tap for the rummage sale. There was discussion about different types of card readers and about what bank account these will go to. This would be used for the rummage sale, Christmas tea craft table and other events.

Moved by: Ray Quinn

Seconded by: John Hannam

That the Finance Committee obtain an electronic square reader to facilitate the ease of payment for events. CARRIED

b) Worship:

- a) Cyndy said that Diana & Blessing will be away at Music Matters in Calgary this weekend. Pam Lewis will be playing piano and Kristine will do the sound system.
- b) The Senora Choir from Winnipeg will be coming and performing at our service on Sunday May 17, as well as a concert in the afternoon.
- c) We are going to be attending Harmony United and worshipping with them on June 21st which is Father's Day.

c) M&P:

John said that they have 3 new members on the committee! Chris Todd, Sandy Mertz and Susan Phillips and brought forth the following motions:

Moved by: John Hannam

Seconded by: Ray Quinn

That with respect to the membership of the Ministry & Personnel Committee, we recommend that the Board of St. Paul's United Church approve that Sandy Mertz, Susan Phillips and Christopher Todd be appointed to the Committee – CARRIED

John said he had a request that Deb works way more hours than we pay her and the suggestion was that we add 4 hours a week. Discussion about how much this will impact the budget. It will be \$4850 more per year or so, so less than \$5000 per year. She is paid for 24 hours a week now so this will be 28 hours a week.

Moved by: John Hannam

Seconded by: Ray Quinn

That with respect to the employment agreement of the Office Manager, we recommend that the Board of St. Paul's United Church approve, retroactively, that the hours of work in the agreement be increased by 4 hours per week, effective March 1, 2026 – CARRIED

**Finance &
Administration**

Worship

M&P

John mentioned they were asked to discuss the position of the Tech support. Blessing has just been paid an honorarium; we are going to create a new position for 4 hours a week. The committee revised the job description. Budget impact will not be impacted because in the budget there is \$6000 for honorariums, which included the Tech Support person, a \$1400 difference from what we are paying Blessing now.

Moved by: John Hannam

Seconded by: Marilyn Marrier-Oborne

That with respect to the position of Technical Support we recommend that the Board of St. Paul's United Church approve the position description, as presented to the Board on April 22, 2026; and that an employment agreement for the position be authorized for execution at a starting wage of \$20/hour, and authorize John Hannam, as Chair, to execute the following agreements.

CARRIED

d) Property:

As Rejean was not at the meeting, Cyndy read his report.

i) as you remember, we had a heating problem last month and the result of that is because there is a valve that needs changing in the boiler room that will be done during the summertime shut down. This valve will cost \$2700 plus installation so we can assume a cost of \$4000 - \$5000 to repair.

ii) We received a call from the Health Unit that there was a complaint about the pigeon poop on the gym windows and landing on a tenant's car at St. Paul's Place. Rejean has cleaned it up at the ground level. Ray called Northwest Pest and Toodaloo and both companies will come next Wednesday. They will give an estimate and a report with a solution to deal with the pigeon poop, so we can get it rectified. It was mentioned that the pride flags should be replaced. Deb has the replacement flags – Ray and John will put them up.

Property

**Inclusion &
Diversity Task
Group**

14) SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

a) Inclusion and Diversity Task Group:

No report.

St. Paul's Place

b) St. Paul's Place:

Gail said that all was good and that Ray covered it all about the pigeons.

Camp Duncan

c) Camp Duncan:

Ernie was at the meeting early before it started but had to go to another meeting – he mentioned that he wanted to know if there was a place in the church to store 20 – 30 years of documents from the Camp Duncan board and if the address of St. Paul's also be the mailing address for the Camp Duncan address. We need some more information from Ernie so will defer to the next meeting.

**Kitchen
Committee**

d) Kitchen Committee:

Kristin said she bought a regular coffee maker for decaf.

Youth Group

e) Youth Group:

As Scarlett wasn't at the meeting, Desire reported that Bible study is slowing down and they are getting ready for the Camp Duncan family weekend and getting registration forms ready to go and advertising.

Fundraising Team

f) Fundraising Team:

Ray said that Lizzeth and the committee are getting ready for the upcoming rummage sale that will be in June.

**Canadian Shield
Region Report**

15) INFORMATION ITEMS:

a) Canadian Shield Region Report:

i) Cyndy reported that Bette Ann, Rev Desire, Cyndy, Diana and Blessing are all going to Sault Ste. Marie on Sunday June 7th so Rev. Bert Van Cook will be preaching, still need someone to do the music, so will figure out what to do.

**Questions to
Committees**

16) QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEES:

Special Gifts

17) SPECIAL GIFTS:
None

**Adjournment/
Closing Prayer**

18)ADJOURMENT/CLOSING PRAYER:

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned by Marilyn Marrier-Oborne at 7:53 p.m.

The meeting closed with prayer by Rev. Desire Tiriwepi.

Minutes Approved:

May 27, 2026

Date

_____ **Chair**

_____ **Secretary**

Next Meeting:

May 27, 2026

6:30 pm Lunan Hall

Devotions: Dale Hache