

St. Andrew's River Heights United Church

255 Oak Street

Council Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2025

Present: Rob Siddall, Karen Lumley, Bill Craddock, Loralie Friesen, Heather Ragot, Glenn Neufeld, Leigh Harris-Carlson

Guests: Ruth McKenzie, Gord Shawcross

1. Call to Order: Greetings/Vision Statement:

To live as Christ would have us live, in love, with compassion and seeking justice, by sharing God's grace, learning from scripture, growing through the Spirit and being transformed by faith.

2. Devotion: Loralie

3. Approval of June 17, 2025, and September 16, 2025, minutes: Leigh moved that the minutes be approved; seconded by Glenn. All in favour.

4. Request by Worship - Ruth:

a) The lighting of the large stained-glass windows at the front of the chancel is no longer possible as the wiring of the outdoor floodlights needs to be replaced due to their lengthy exposure to the elements. An initial quote for the work to be done is approximately \$4500 and this expense is outside of this year's budget. Council approved the worship committee to make an immediate appeal to the congregation to fundraise this project, and it is hopeful that the full amount can be raised, and work can be performed, in time for the Christmas services.

b) It has been requested and decided that Council will take on the role of Greeters in the month of December with each member taking a Sunday.

5. Landscaping Proposal from P&A – Gord: The P&A Group have been approached with a proposal of a beautification project for landscaping along the Kingsway ramp and along the Oak Street side of the church. The estimate is \$4000-5000 and suggestions to pay for the project could include adding this in the 2026 budget, have a fundraising appeal to the congregation or look into possible Foundation gains. Further discussion has been deferred to November.

6. Church Groups:

a) Ministry & Personnel: Deferred to November after the M&P Group meets and it is hoped they will be able to attend Council to make a presentation at that time.

b) Choir - Loralie: Choir will not wear their name tags on stage but appreciate the importance of wearing them and being recognized as Choir members when they are sitting amongst the Congregation. It has also been announced that the Choir show will return the first week of March with a tentative theme of The Great Canadian Songbook and more details will come. There will also be Sunday afternoon concerts performed by the Section Leads throughout the coming months with the first to be held on November 16th.

c) Stewardship – Glenn: The Harvest Supper scheduled for November 2 is approaching quickly and the organizers are still hoping to have more volunteers to help but ticket sales are going very well. This is always a very exciting event and is very important to build fellowship and community. See Treasurer’s report below regarding the Aaron Hutton concert but it was clearly a success.

November Presentation: Stewardship

7. Minister’s Report – Karen: Karen has been very busy as of late with visiting and funerals; her study leave is being broken up to the weekend of October 18-19 and then the final week of October.

8. Succession Planning – Rob: Council continued its discussion regarding the structure of the Treasurer’s role when Bill eventually retires and then agreed that the matter should be referred to the Finance Group for further consideration. Regarding the 2026-2027 Council, Rob advised that there will be a number of vacancies to be filled, and that by filling those vacancies we can bring new perspectives, thoughts and ideas to our Church Council. It was pointed out that we all have certain God-given gifts and talents, and that members of the Congregation should be encouraged to consider joining the Council thereby sharing those gifts and talents with the rest of us.

9. Visioning – All: Karen was unable to find resources or current info offered by The United Church of Canada; Loralie will approach Westworth to see what they may have done recently. Suggestions of a survey, a focus group or another “Let’s Talk Church” event were discussed. It is agreed that we need to invigorate, grow and celebrate our strategies and determine what we would like to see happen in and outside St. Andrew’s walls in the next 5-10 years i.e. we hope to thrive not just survive.

10. Treasurer’s Report – Bill:

a) The Aaron Hutton concert sold 183 tickets plus there was a \$100 donation made; there was a net profit of \$2600.

b) The Music Endowment was not awarded in 2024 or 2025; it has continued to steadily grow through investments and so it was decided that we go ahead and award 3 gifts of \$600 (\$1800 total) as soon as possible instead of waiting until spring 2026.

c) We have seen a decrease in PAR numbers since January but there have been a few new givers, and it is noted that open collections are up since we have restarted to pass the collection plate. The spare change jar is notably down as no one seems to have pocket change anymore.

d) Building repairs are approximately \$10000 above budget as those we anticipated have come in higher than projected and there have been some surprise repairs we were not expecting.

e) Rentals are down slightly but the coming weekends are busy, and we are entering the busy holiday season.

f) The campaign for giving updates is behind schedule but will be coming in the next few weeks.

11. Other Business:

October report to Congregation – Leigh

November post-service coffee – Loralie

12. Next Meeting:

Tuesday November 18, 2025, at 7 :30

Devotion: Bill

Report to Congregation: Loralie

13. Adjournment