

St Andrew's River Heights United Church, 255 Oak Street

Council Meeting April 21, 2026, 7:30 PM

Present: Fred Cross, Bill Craddock, Deanne Bennet, Loralie Friesen, Dave Collins, Lisa Richards, Heather Ragot, Karen Lumley

Regrets: Glenn Neufeld

Guests: Tyler Snell

AGENDA

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. Tyler Snell (River Heights Daycare Liaison)

- a. Day Care Fundraiser: Trivia Night in the auditorium, May 22, 7:00 PM
- b. Any other events that the church would like to make the daycare aware of can be emailed directly to Tyler.

3. Devotional (Fred)

4. Approval of March 17, 2026 Meeting Minutes

- a. Moved: Rob
- b. Seconded: Deanne

5. Correspondence and Updates

- a. Suggestion by Bill Muir regarding council terms to 'overlap' between members (to balance new arrivals and departures).
- b. Updating church title to reflect the current list of trustees.
 - i. Rob has volunteered to take this on.
 - ii. Our bylaws say that we are only required to have 2 trustees on the title, rather than the whole group. Making this change might mean that we would need to update the title less as the group of trustees change, and would potentially avoid trouble when adjusting future documentation (i.e. Bell MTS contract).
 - iii. The church is currently listed under two titles. Rob approximates that the cost of consolidating the titles is \$1500.00. Consolidating both titles is recommended and approved by the council.

- iv. Rob will speak to the lawyer about both the trustee name changes as well as the title consolidation.
- c. M&P Update (Lisa):
 - i. Heather Kozak has resigned from M&P.
 - ii. Melanie Sifton is potentially joining the group, and will plan to join in the fall.
 - iii. Annual Staff Appreciation: M&P is wondering if there would there be funding for something like this in the fall (October is Clergy Appreciation Month). This could potentially be accounted for in next year's budget.
 - iv. Consideration should be given to sharing more about what M&P does with the general congregation.
- d. Worship Liaison Updates (Loralie):
 - i. Worship thanks Finance and Paul Webster for approving the funds for the Portrait Project in the lounge.
 - ii. They would like to request that the minister's honorarium for weddings/funerals be raised to \$300. Approved by Council.
 - iii. The choir is putting on a fundraising concert in November 2026 - the plan is for this to raise funds for church projects.

6. Minister's Report (Karen)

7. Boiler

- a. Update on potential grants:
 - i. Churches do not qualify for Efficiency Manitoba Grants. The Faithful Footprints Grant is only providing funding to replace fossil fuel heating with more 'eco-friendly' options, which we would also not qualify for.
- b. Update on bidding process:
 - i. 2 firms have declined to bid due to availability; 2 bids have been received; 2-3 bids are expected over the next few days. Once all are received, P&A can evaluate the bids and make a recommendation to Council in our May meeting.
- c. Fundraising appeal:
 - i. At least 50% would be required immediately to start work on the boiler. Setting up a 'pledging'-style fundraiser will not be conducive to this.
 - ii. A 1-year PAR contribution is an option for donating funds, or cash up front.
 - iii. The Foundation is preparing for the potential withdrawal of funds for the boiler. If the fundraiser exceeds the goal and the Foundation's donation amount isn't fully used, the remainder will be used as the annual donation to the church.
 - iv. Fundraising Target: \$75,000 (\$36,000 is currently in-hand for this project). Fundraising launch date is May 10th.
 - v. Bill moves that the fundraiser moves ahead as outlined above. Heather seconded and Council approved.

- vi. Council has pre-authorized P&A to move forward with the boiler purchase once the bids have been received and reviewed.

8. Toward 2035 Update (Karen/Fred)

- a. April 26th is the scheduled service to review the 2035 update with the general congregation.

9. Community of Faith Profile Group (Fred/Dave)

- a. Update from the workshop:
 - i. The workshop was very well-done, and ran on time!
 - ii. Council determines who will perform the functions of creating the Community of Faith Profile document (step one in calling a new minister).
 - iii. Once the members have been chosen, they should attend a workshop on creating the document. It's likely that another workshop will be held in the fall.
 - iv. Church Hub (controlled-access web portal where communities of faith post information on the congregation): this is where we would post our document once complete.
 - v. Once the work has been done, we will request a liaison from the region. The liaison does not attend meetings but is available for assistance.
 - vi. There is various documentation (financial and other) that will be required, as well as a position description, some church history, description of governing body, style of worship, etc.
 - vii. Periodic conversations will need to take place with the congregation, to keep all informed and enable a feedback path.
 - viii. Our challenges will be to increase the membership of M&P, as well as locate a Vice-Chair for Council.
- b. Set up a task group to create this document for St. Andrew's:
 - i. Fred and Dave will start the group off, as they have both been through the workshop.
 - ii. Council should send names of recommended members to Fred by May 1st for consideration for the Community of Faith Profile Group.

10. Treasurer's Report (Bill)

- a. See attached report.

11. Other Business

- a. May Devotional: Glenn
- b. Presentation to Congregation: Rob
- c. Post-Service Coffee: Fred
- d. May Church Group Presentation: Fellowship

12. Next Meeting: Tuesday, 19, 2026 at 7:30 PM

13. Adjournment