

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

**Council Meeting March 17, 2026, 7:30 p.m.**

Present: Fred Cross, Rob Siddall, Karen Lumley, Bill Craddock, Glenn Neufeld, Deanne Bennet, Dave Collins, Loralie Friesen, Heather Kozak

Regrets: Heather Ragot

Guests: Ruth Mckenzie

**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. Devotional: (Loralie)**

**3. Approval of February 17, 2026 Meeting Minutes**

Moved: Rob

Seconded: Glenn

\*No success on locating another Prairie to Pine delegate (update from Glenn)

**4. Church Groups:**

- Presentation - Worship (Ruth)
  - See attached report.
  - Additional information not in report:
    - The worship group will be decorating for Easter service with flowers; they are also working on an initiative to deliver flowers to shut-ins during the Easter period.
    - Easter and summer services will be shared with Westworth - July at St. Andrew's and August at Westworth.
    - The worship group is looking at revising policies on weddings and funerals - will delay review until a new minister is in place.
    - Westworth will be coming to St. Andrews for Affirming (Pride) Sunday, and we will go to Westworth for Conference Sunday.
    - The group is open to additional members, especially those from the general congregation (as members of the choir are already well-represented).
- Other Group Liaison Updates
  - Not moving forward with quarterly written reports from every committee/working group.
- April Presentation – Ministry and Personnel
  - Lisa will attend April's council meeting.

- A representative from M&P attends each meeting, so moving forward it will likely not be a recurring agenda point.
- M&P is still actively recruiting, but it is an ongoing struggle to add members (as is the case for many volunteer organizations across the country).

## **5. Election of Treasurer and Council Secretary**

- Motion to nominate a treasurer: Rob moves to nominate Bill, Glenn seconds, all in favour.
- Motion to nominate a council secretary: Glenn moves to nominate Loralie, Bill seconds, all in favour.

## **6. Correspondence**

- Email from Ellen Bruneau with suggestions for the AGM:
  - Asked if the slate of nominated names (and years of service) could be put on a one-sheet summary at the AGM, and placed on the tables, as well as added to the Annual Report. Also suggested that we have current members and retired members stand up during the meeting and be recognized. Council is unanimous in adopting these practices.
- Boiler:
  - Email from Gord: sent a request for quotation to 8 firms and heard from 5; 1 declined to bid due to availability. Others have made site visits to look at project specs. As of March 7th 3 have not responded. One received quote has already come in.
  - Fundraising Structure: Fred would like to have a meeting with Stewardship in order to develop a scope of work for fundraising for the boiler.
    - Bill compares the fundraising structure to fundraising for the roof and the piano - a somewhat ad-hoc process...
    - The roof was a 4-year campaign; ultimately the fundraiser did not meet its' goal and the remainder was provided through the budget.
    - We have approximately \$36, 000 from the last 7.5 years from money set aside in the budget.
    - Bill and Glenn will take the task of creating a formal fundraising structure to the Stewardship Committee, with the goal of kicking off the campaign once the bids are received and evaluated.
    - Heather will look into potential contacts for grants from Efficiency Manitoba, and provide contact information to Fred. The daycare may also support a grant application (Tyler would be a potential resource).

## **7. Minister's Report (Karen)**

- Letter read by Fred Cross on Sunday, March 15th announcing her resignation effective April 30, 2027.
- Karen is hopeful that the church will find a new minister that can bring new ideas and rejuvenation, and continue the good work that already goes on at St. Andrews.

## **8. Ministry & Personnel Committee (Heather)**

- Nothing to add beyond the previous update.

## **9. 2026-Devotional and Congregational Update Scheduling**

- See attached schedule.

## **10. Toward 2035 Update**

- Encouraged to watch the moderator's video (found on the Toward 2035 website) - the video brings some welcome positivity to the report.
- The report may be shared with the congregation post-Easter (in a less-formal, downstairs service) - planning in the works by Karen and Fred.
- The attendance numbers were collated by Charlotte and graphed by Fred, and there is a trend towards growth - something that we want to celebrate with our congregation.
- Downtown churches are struggling (maintaining large buildings with shrinking congregations), and have created a group to discuss potential solutions and collaborations (Gathering of the Central Winnipeg United Churches and Adjacent). St. Andrews was invited to attend their meetings as adjacent to the downtown churches - Linda Paul, Karen, and Rob attended the first meeting, and Linda and Fred attended the second meeting in February 2026. Linda and Fred will attend the next meeting in April.

## **11. Community of Faith Profile Group (Fred)**

- This is now a more timely issue given Karen's resignation notice. Completing this profile is the first step in the process of finding a new minister, and provides a wide overview of information on the church to prospective candidates.
- Fred spoke with Judy Harris and there is a workshop this Saturday, as well as likely one in September or October of 2026.
- Once the document is completed, it goes to the region (Judy) for evaluation. A review of our operating governance will likely not be met with approval from the region (no vice-chair of council, no chair of M&P, etc.), so this is a critical and time-sensitive issue to overcome prior to the submission of the Community of Faith Profile.
- Fred had previously signed up to attend this workshop, and will send around the link to Council if anyone else would be interested in attending. If we have a few people that have been through the workshop, we can initiate a Community of Faith Profile Group and begin the process of completing our profile earlier than September.
- If there are others in the congregation (not on Council) that are good candidates to attend this workshop, they should be made aware of the upcoming Saturday workshop as soon as possible.

## **12. Treasurer's Report (Bill)**

- See attached report.
- Other notable comments:
  - Revenue to paid for the boiler will need to be money outside of that already allocated in the 2026 budget (although the boiler costs will flow through the budget).

## **13. Other Business**

- April post-service coffee: Loralie (will inform Betty)

- March Report to Congregation: Fred
- Update to Church Group Liaisons: Loralie Worship Group; Glenn Stewardship; Bill Finance, Foundation, and P&A; Deanne Outreach; David Fellowship; Heather CE.
  - Jan would like to move the CE presentation to Council to later in the year - will move to April.

**14. Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 at 7:30pm**

**15. Adjournment**

## **Worship Group Report to St. Andrew's River Heights United Church Council**

March 17, 2026

Chair and council members:

The Worship Group each Sunday helps the minister, organist and choir director, as needed, to prepare the sanctuary for worship and to have helpers on hand for greeting, handing out bulletins, reading Scripture, collecting offering, and putting things away after the service. We appreciate the support of congregation members who help out with these activities. In addition, the worship group takes the lead for decorating the church for special Sundays and seasons. We are also responsible for policy on weddings and funerals.

Last year, around this time, we were involved in planning for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Church of Canada. This also coincided with a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the Anna Blair Circle. A choir concert and a worship service were shared with Westworth and these services were well received. Money raised for the choir concert was shared between Westworth and St. Andrew's and both churches contributed to the funding of the lunch following the joint worship service.

This Easter, we are again sharing services with Westworth; the Maundy Thursday service will be at St. Andrew's and the Good Friday service will be at Westworth. And we will split the summer services between St. Andrew's and Westworth.

In past summers, several of the United Churches in the city have banded together to do Church-O-Rama, where services rotate between the group. Worship members will be attending meetings on this as we may wish to join in coming years.

We strongly support cooperation with Westworth and other congregations as a way of sharing and celebrating together in the spirit of a united and uniting church.