

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

Council Meeting Tuesday, September 22, 2026, 7:30 p.m.

Present: Fred Cross, Karen Lumley, Bill Craddock, Karen Lumley, Deanne Bennett, Linda Paul, Rob Siddall

Regrets: Heather Ragot, Dave Collins

Guest: Gord Shawcross

AGENDA

1. Call to Order: Greetings/Vision Statement

- a. 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: Fred

3. Approval of June 16, 2026 Meeting Minutes

- a. Bill moves, Rob seconds, all in favour.

4. Property & Administration Working Group: Gord Shawcross

- a. The new floor installation in the basement continues!
- b. The Community Fair will take place in the Narthex on Sunday, as the auditorium will not be ready yet.
- c. The boiler is in place, and the contractors are working to get it up and running.
- d. The construction in the back lane is estimated to be mostly completed by the end of this week, which will make the installation process easier for the contractors.

5. Correspondence and Updates:

- a. Thank you to those that attended the first of the Sunday recitals! We enjoyed a wonderful program of organ music from Wes, Linda, and Anne-Marie.
- b. Glenn called Fred in late August to formally resign from council due to his health. Fred thanked him on behalf of council and the full congregation to thank him for his many years of dedicated service to St. Andrews.
- c. Fred attended another 'downtown church' meeting (St. Andrew's is an 'adjacent' church, so we attend as observers). The downtown churches have been holding Church-o-Rama periodically to share duties and encourage community.
 - i. There was discussion at that meeting regarding a website that the Guelph United Churches use to share events and community updates, and that the downtown churches may look to implement something similar.
 - ii. Council agrees that we can do a better job of sharing what is happening in our church with the larger community. Linda will provide Charlotte with updates on upcoming events at St. Andrew's in order to pass along to the Prairie to Pine newsletter.

- d. M&P still needs a chair and several more members, and there is still no one in place to take the role of Council chair. Fred met with Judy Hare (Personnel Minister for the Prairie to Pine Region) to discuss the processes we will go through in the coming months. Judy noted that it seems unlikely that we will fill the role of minister prior to Karen's departure on April 30th. However, despite the challenges, she has confidence that St. Andrew's can rise to the occasion.
 - i. The logistics of completing the Community of Faith profile, organizing a search committee, etc. are well within reach of completion prior to Karen's departure. However, given the various approvals required by the Region and the need for ministers to provide 90 days notice to their current congregations, there is a possibility that we may not fill the role prior to April 30th.
 - ii. Once Karen is gone and if we have not filled the minister role, Judy will assign a 'supervisory minister' to ensure that our governance practices can continue. The supervisory minister is not an 'interim minister' (i.e. does not provide pulpit supply or act as a short-term interim minister). Unlike previous changes in ministerial staff, we do not have a team minister for continuity. We will have to make arrangements for pulpit supply and pastoral care.
 - iii. Fred will be discussing these needs with Stewardship, including the urgent need for volunteers. Fred will also provide a feature for the e-news to share with households that may not always be in the building regularly.
 - iv. Linda suggests that Council asks Fred to extend his term until the time that the church makes a call to a new minister, as well as having a candidate step into the vice-chair role immediately. Once the call has been made, Fred would step down, and the vice-chair would finish the remainder of the chair's term (ending at the 2028 AGM). This model would only work if we can immediately fill the vice-chair role.
 - v. Council discussed the possibility of reviewing the governance structure regarding the setup and length of terms for council members. Given the difficulty in recruiting new members, this could potentially help address some of the concerns of congregants when considering whether to volunteer their time. Discussion tabled until October.

6. Follow Up on Discussion

- a. Regarding the request from RH Daycare for use of choir room space (as discussed in the June council meeting):
 - i. Council acknowledges and supports the daycare's temporary use of the choir room during the extensive downstairs remediation work. The main discussion considered the daycare's request for permanent use of the choir room.

- ii. Betty (Fellowship), Heather Mian (ABC), and Katy (Choir) all agreed that they thought their groups could work around the daycare if needed.
- iii. Tyler (daycare liaison) has expressed that the daycare is very willing to work around the church's schedule for the use of that room.
- iv. Bill moves that we decline the request to allow the daycare to use the choir room on a permanent basis, but allow them to use it during the auditorium construction process. Linda seconds. Council acknowledges the partnership that we have with the daycare and the desire to be supportive as they are a part of our community; however, during the discussion it became clear that there are too many groups that require regular use of the choir room. Several of these requirements are during the day, when the daycare would like to use the space exclusively. As a result, Council feels that there would be too many complications to effectively share the space with the daycare. Motion passes; Fred will advise Tyler at the daycare.

7. Minister's Report (Karen)

- a. Karen has been busy visiting those that are sick and performing funerals.

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

- a. Update: the group is setup, and their first in-person meeting will be October 4th.
There is work already happening to start the updating of the profile.

9. Treasurer's Report (Bill)

- a. See attached.

10. Other Business:

- a. October Devotional: Loralie
- b. September Report to Congregation: Loralie
- c. Post-Service Coffee (October): volunteer to switch with Dave for October 4; Rob volunteers.
- d. October Working Group Presentation: Christian Education

11. Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 20, 2026 at 7:30pm

12. Adjournment