

## 10 19 2023 Brechin United Church Council MEETING MINUTES

**Thursday, October 19, 2023 10:00 am**

**ATTENDANCE:** Rob Russell (chair), Rev. Tif McNaughton, Keith Allen, Linda Braid, Lynn Burrows, Darlene Darby, Anne Manikel, Gloria LeGal (Vice Chair), Val Neilson, Blaine Wilkins, Bruce Wilson, Linda Wilson, Christine Robertson.

**REGRETS:** Marilyn Huffman, Grace Skomorowski, Kathy Torhjem (Past Chair), Eileen Carolan, Susan Ward.

**WELCOME:** by Rob Russell, Council Chair, who called the meeting to order at 10: 00 a.m.

**DEVOTIONAL:** By Gloria Le Gal.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Additions to agenda:

Art Posters

Loaves and Fishes schedule

**Motion: M/S** Linda Braid / Darlene Darby that the agenda is approved as amended. **Carried.**

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES: M/S** Lynn Burrows/ Linda Braid that minutes of September 21, 2023 meeting are adopted. **Carried.**

### **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

- Peter Sinclair to Rob Russell Oct. 10 & 11 re: ProVision application

### **CORRESPONDENCE SENT:**

- Rob Russell replied to Joanie Bell, Sept. 22
- Rob Russell replied to Lily Grinnell, Sept. 22
- Rob Russell replied to Linda Wilson and Peggy Jensen, Sept. 22
- Rob Russell replied to Level Ground coffee, Oct. 5
- Rob Russell replied to Peter Sinclair, Oct. 10
- Rob Russell replied to Grant Lawson, Oct. 10
- Rob Russell replied to Blaine Wilkins, Oct. 10

### **Minister's Report – Rev Tif McNaughton**

She was on Continuing Education time so she will provide an official report covering October and November at the November meeting. Her Con-Ed topic was “How to Lead When You Don’t Know Where You’re Going”.

### **Financial Report – Blaine Wilkins (see attached)**

Our expenses have been \$4,000.00 over our income every month. The current budget for 2024 is a very rough draft. The next one should be more accurate. Income from the installation of

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cell phone equipment on the roof is not likely. The annuity which we expected to get from PMR, and the housing is not likely to be available, either.

**Pacific Mountain Region (PMRC)** - Val Neilson and Susan Ward (see attached)

The next townhall meeting will include information and discussion regarding the Remit.

**Motion:** That the above reports be accepted as presented. **M/S** Darlene Darby/Keith Allen  
**Carried.**

### OLD BUSINESS:

- † ProVision Application: This is currently in process. Who and What will be decided in the future.
- † Council Book Study: Tif is hoping to get this started fairly soon. The booklets will be available shortly. There are seven chapters so there will be seven sessions.
- † Welcome to Linda and Bruce Wilson: Welcome to Council as co-chairs of our new Fellowship Team.
- † Tim Weger to contact the organ person: Tim has contacted him but hasn't heard back.
- † Food Services permit: The permit will be coming soon. Many thanks to Kathy Torhjem for her work on this. The inspector was quite satisfied with the kitchen.
- † New Brechin adherent directory: It was recommended that we create a legacy yearbook with current members / adherents – 'Who We Are' – with photos and questions which would be conversation triggers. Contact information can be obtained from the office.
- † Replacement of Zoom with Teams: Microsoft Teams is better as the security is better than Zoom. Teams must be set up on the church computer and paid for with a credit card. Darlene Darby offered to use her credit card.
- † First Level Ground Coffee: The first order was received on October 10.
- † Women's Retreat: The retreat went well.

### Motions: by email since last meeting

- † **Motion:** That Council approve a quote by Mazzei Electric to install heaters in Cindy's office and the Chapel for an estimated cost of \$1,680.00. September 28, 2023  
**M/S:** Keith Allen / Rob Russell. **Carried**

### NEW BUSINESS:

- † Vice Chair: As Rob Russell's term as Chair is ending, Gloria Le Gal will be the new Chair, and a new Vice Chair is needed. Blaine Wilkins is staying on. A new alternate representative for Pacific Mountain Region is needed.

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- † Women's Friendship Group: The group has been disbanded. In its place will be "Lunch with Librarian"
- † Loaves and Fishes: They are wanting to extend their hours over December from 12 noon to 3:30 pm on December 5th, 12th, and 19th. The schedule will return to the regular time on December 26th. There will be the regular hampers for distribution and extra hampers. Linda Braid will book the church from 11:00 – 4:00 for the extra time.
- † Audio Visual Team: Matt Haapala is looking for more people who would be interested in forming a team to look after the AV and PowerPoint presentations on Sunday mornings. It was recommended that an announcement be made on a Sunday, and an introductory session be planned for after church one Sunday before Advent. Rob Russell will contact Matt and Rev. Tif will look after the introductory session.
- † Art Posters: Heather Herbison has offered to make posters for upcoming events, i.e., the Cookie Walk. She can do them in various sizes as appropriate.
- † Men's Group: Which Team does it fit into? It should be under the umbrella of the Fellowship Team

### **LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS**

**Faith Formation and Spiritual Development** - Darlene Darby – no report.

**Ministry & Personnel** – Linda Braid (see attached)

Tim Weger's responsibilities include Sunday services, Prep for Sunday services, Choir practices on Thursdays, and special events.

**Brechin 4 ACTION** – Lynn Burrows (see attached)

The workshop went well. A donation of \$195 was received

Lynn is looking to step down as the chair of the team. It was suggested that the chair responsibilities be rotated through the team. Rev. Tif will talk to her about it.

The church space worked well for the workshop.

**Pastoral Care** – Marilyn Huffman (see attached)

It was recommended that the term 'policeman' be replaced with 'police officer' as one of the workshop speakers.

**Property** – Keith Allen (see attached)

Heaters – Mazzei has not provided a date for installing the heating units.

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Deficiencies – They are down to a single page!

Castors – Black locking castors have been installed on the oak table as it is extremely heavy. They were installed to appropriately to keep the table level.

HVAC - the system by Cindy's office is not functioning properly. It is under warranty.

The filtering system downstairs – There are no pre-filters installed, and the 'sock' filters are plugged solid.

Meetings – If a member of Brechin wishes to book meeting space, please check the calendar to see if the preferred time is available. Complete an official application for Cindy.

Hospice is wanting to book space for their AGM, preferably in December. There was discussion about the rent for them.

### **Stewardship & Finance** Anne Manikel (see attached)

Stewardship packages have been sent out to 84 people. We need more people in our donor base, and we need to increase our rental income.

The 13<sup>th</sup> month request is helpful, but a special letter will not be sent out.

A letter needs to be sent to the PMRC.

Anne is requesting a special meeting of Council on Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> in person and via zoom for brainstorming and planning.

### **Worship** – Grace Skomorowski (see attached)

### **Fellowship Team** – Linda and Bruce Wilson (see attached)

Thanks to Val for her assistance with the Terms of Reference.

They will send their plans to the Council secretary for distribution to the Council members.

Anne Harris Freed is working on a plan for a Christmas Sing-along with the possibility of a dinner at a restaurant to follow. The Sing-Along will be by donation, with a donation to Tim Weger.

An upcoming Faith Focus time can be made available to let the congregation know of the new team.

Some of their suggested activities include a movie night, and Soup and bun lunch after church.

**Motion: M/S** Blaine Wilkins / Linda Braid that Leadership team reports be accepted. **Carried.**

### **INTENTIONAL COMMUNICATION:**

† Rob will contact Matt about the AV team suggestions.

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- † Darlene will contact Matt about the Teams.
- † Keith will contact Mazzei about the heaters and Archie Johnstone about the HVAC and filter equipment.
- † Blaine will let Cindy know about the Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- † Rev. Tif will set up Zoom for Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>.
- † Linda Braid will contact Ann H.F. and confirm with Loaves and Fishes that the extended hours were accepted.
- † Rev. Tif and Lynn will discuss the rotating chair possibilities.
- † All Council members are to consider people who might be suitable for the Vice Chair position and team positions.

### **CLOSING PRAYER – By Tif**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:27 on the motion by Bruce Wilson.

Next Council meeting: November 16, 2023

Devotional: Val Neilson

Rob Russell, Chair

Christine Robertson, Secretary

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## Treasurers Report

### Brechin United Church Balance Sheet As at 09/30/2023

#### ASSET

##### Current Assets

Petty Cash	121.40	
Chequing Bank Account	6,886.05	
Total Cash		7,007.45
Investments		184,210.19
GST Receivable	224.84	
Total Receivable		224.84
Prepaid Expenses		499.34
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>191,941.82</b>

##### Capital Assets

Property		347,000.00
<b>Total Capital Assets</b>		<b>347,000.00</b>

#### TOTAL ASSET

538,941.82

#### LIABILITY

##### Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable		-1,218.00
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>-1,218.00</b>

##### Trust Accounts

Building fund	30,037.39
Clear Building fund	-4,037.00
The Spiritual Growth Fund	1,071.94
Clear Spiritual Growth Fund	-500.00
Mission & Service	11,432.00
Clear Mission & Service	-10,179.00
Loaves & Fishes	4,200.00
Clear Loaves & Fishes	-4,200.00
Memorial Funds	4,868.20
The Piemakers' Fund	852.35
Clear The Piemakers' Fund	-439.17
The Legacy Fund	97,115.71
Brechin4Action Fund	7,126.67
Clear Brechin4Action Fund	-2,891.67
Workshops & Events Grants	1,449.00
Nanaimo Community Refugee F	81,273.54
Clear Nanaimo Community Refu	-13,380.00

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Total Trust Funds	203,799.96
<b>Total Current liabilities</b>	<u>203,799.96</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITY</b>	<u>202,581.96</u>
<b>EQUITY</b>	
<b>Retained Earnings</b>	
Retained Earnings - Previous Year	373,391.48
Current Earnings	<u>-37,031.62</u>
<b>Total Retained Earnings</b>	<u>336,359.86</u>
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<u>336,359.86</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<u>538,941.82</u>

### Brechin United Church Income Statement 09/01/2023 to 09/30/2023

#### REVENUE

<b>Revenue</b>	
Local Contributions	8,157.01
Open donations	450.00
NET Weddings and Funerals	-100.00
Special Events & Fundraising	9,652.49
Miscellaneous Revenues	-40.00
Friends of Brechin Wall Fund	100.00
Investment Income	<u>-3,000.00</u>
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<u>15,219.50</u>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<u>15,219.50</u>

#### EXPENSE

<b>Overhead Expenses</b>	
Electricity	214.18
Insurance	6,706.01
Contract Janitorial Services	1,148.00
UCC & Region Assessments	464.36
Telephone & Internet Expense	224.48
Kitchen Supplies	<u>56.50</u>
<b>Total Overhead Expense</b>	<u>8,813.53</u>
<b>Payroll Expenses</b>	
Wages & Salaries	8,453.56
Contracted Music Services	1,500.00
Employee Benefits	<u>2,075.69</u>
<b>Total Payroll Expense</b>	<u>12,029.25</u>
<b>General &amp; Administrative Expenses</b>	
Office Supplies	31.25
Bank Charges	30.00
Fellowship Pastoral Care	23.95
Miscellaneous Expense	290.03
Bookkeeping and Payroll Expenses	<u>130.33</u>
<b>Total General &amp; Administrative</b>	<u>505.56</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<u>21,348.34</u>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<u>-6,128.84</u>

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### Brechin United Church Comparative Income Statement

	Actual 01/01/2023 to 09/30/2023	Actual 01/01/2022 to 09/30/2022
<b>REVENUE</b>		
<b>Revenue</b>		
Local Contributions	83,381.99	78,540.14
Open donations	3,244.75	826.70
NET Weddings and Funerals	821.74	871.52
Special Events & Fundraising	11,415.49	6,503.52
Miscellaneous Revenues	1,485.50	181.45
Friends of Brechin Wall Fund	2,526.96	6,068.39
Restorative Care Program Revenue	0.00	22,830.21
DILOR-RENT	5,720.00	0.00
Investment Income	4,914.06	1,344.31
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<u>113,510.49</u>	<u>117,166.24</u>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<u>113,510.49</u>	<u>117,166.24</u>
<b>EXPENSE</b>		
<b>Overhead Expenses</b>		
Moving & Temporary Space Expense	-201.50	15,269.81
Electricity	2,894.68	1,779.62
Equipment Service & Agreements	254.68	552.68
Insurance	8,821.13	2,462.55
Janitorial Supplies	880.25	27.37
Contract Janitorial Services	10,521.63	480.00
UCC & Region Assessments	3,714.88	4,736.00
Repair & Maintenance General	773.43	0.00
Telephone & Internet Expense	1,016.57	1,722.65
Shared Building Expense	1,950.02	0.00
Kitchen Supplies	403.73	0.00
<b>Total Overhead Expense</b>	<u>31,029.50</u>	<u>27,030.68</u>
<b>Payroll Expenses</b>		
Wages & Salaries	75,824.60	80,216.52
Contracted Music Services	13,100.00	16,669.88
Wedding & Funeral Compensation	200.00	200.00
Minister Travel Expense	856.70	1,077.54
Minister's Continuing Ed & Book Exp	669.88	451.76
Employee Benefits	17,700.82	19,970.21
Pulpit Supply	2,296.00	1,989.00
<b>Total Payroll Expense</b>	<u>110,648.00</u>	<u>120,574.91</u>



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<b>General &amp; Administrative Expenses</b>		
Bulletins, Inserts & Service Suppli	85.92	0.00
Sunday School & Christian Develop't	462.40	0.00
Office Supplies	1,863.47	1,985.29
Bank Charges	331.50	331.50
Service Supplies	225.35	40.65
Broadview Magazine Expense	0.00	-55.00
Fellowship Pastoral Care	60.03	29.81
Redevelopment Team Expense	262.48	0.00
M&P Committee Exp	27.99	13.13
Miscellaneous Expense	3,687.42	1,880.00
Library Expense	206.18	0.00
Music Expense	74.68	0.00
Brechin4Action Committee Expense	130.64	100.00
Subscription Expense	66.46	0.00
Bookkeeping and Payroll Expenses	1,380.09	1,309.68
<b>Total General &amp; Administrative</b>	<b>8,864.61</b>	<b>5,635.06</b>
 <b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	 <b>150,542.11</b>	 <b>153,240.65</b>
 <b>NET INCOME</b>	 <b>-37,031.62</b>	 <b>-36,074.41</b>

Submitted by Blaine Wilkins

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### PMRC Report

I attended the PRMC Townhall Meeting via Zoom on Wednesday October 11th. After a welcome and prayer by President, Deborah Richards, Trena introduced our guest speaker Rev. Jacqui Lewis. Jacqui was the Keynote speaker from the conference that we reported to you about in June this year. She is a very dynamic speaker and many of us at the meeting were excited to be hearing from her again. She started by talking about congregations of [today](#) feeling like they are surviving in the wilderness sometimes, but we need to have compassion for ourselves and know that one person's wilderness is another person's safety. She talked about accepting where people are at, but asking them to join us even if they are not where we are at. Our work can not all be aimed at where they are at.

She also offered prayers for the situation in the Holy Land that occurred on the weekend. Praying for a lasting and just peace between Israel and Palestine and the end to occupation of Palestinian territories. She talked about our need for prayers for those families at home in Canada and the US and concern of threatened violence and protest. Jacqui invited everyone to her Freedom Rising Conference in April in New York.

There is a Leading Through Conflict Workshop coming up on [Oct 27-28](#) through Leadership.

The next Townhall meeting will be held on [Nov 8th](#) with the focus on the Remit.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Ward

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### M+P Report

A few words from our Music Director. Tim Weger...

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Brechin United's choir and music ministry continues to be a tremendously rewarding experience for me. I tell the choir they are leading the congregation in worship in every way and not just by singing a song. They are the leaders. I provide the leadership and accompaniment but the congregation responds the way the choir leads them.

There are 28 members in the choir (not including myself and Richard on drums). We have become a family, a very close knit group that ministers to one another in various ways. When there are those who become ill, we pitch in to provide care and encouragement.

We meet for practice every Thursday evening to work on Sunday's music as well as any future anthems. It's been a stretch for all of us as I'm not familiar with reading music but the choir members have embraced a new style, singing from the heart, with feeling and passion as praise onto God, deserving of our heartfelt praise.

We look forward to our fund raising concert, with decadent desserts, in late April 2024. Join us for a fun afternoon featuring old hymns, some secular sing-a-long songs and specials we've enjoyed over the past year. ☺

Rev Tif will be back in the office this week after a successful CON Ed study period preparing for a book study and for future worship services. Please read her report carefully for all the details.

As our Office Administrator, Cindy, has five remaining days to schedule for holidays, Council approved the following Mondays off for her: October 23, 30, November 20, December 4 +11.

M+P would like to thank all those who contributed their time, talents and/or donations at our very successful Live and Silent Dessert Auction event.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Braid

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### Brechin 4 ACTION Team

#### I. Change of B4A Meeting Dates and/or Times and ZOOM Platform

To solve our zoom conflict issue on Friday we decided to still meet on Friday for the month of November but from **9:30 to 11:00** am. In December, our team will go back to meeting on Thursdays at 10:00 am likely just by Zoom (or Microsoft Teams)

#### Truth & Reconciliation

1. 2023 Reconciliation Workshops and other actions in 2023 and beyond.

##### (a) Building Bridges Workshop – Wed. Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>

- 20 Registrants as of Oct 17th. Elder Daniel Elliot will be assisting Kathi. 7 press/news releases were sent out with no response.
- Elder support will be again offered by Tsow-Tum Le Lum Society

##### (b) Fall and Future Indigenous Workshops: Kathi Camilleri suggests two ideas:

Hosting an event with Tsow-Tum Le Lum to honour the work of the cultural support team and hosting an event to show the documentary "Winds of Change" by Daniel. We will follow-up with Kathi, as well as Daniel to garner further concrete information and details on how we can develop these plans successfully. We will still investigate other workshops as well.

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### II. Social Justice (SJ)

1. Anti-Racism National Action Plan – 40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism – discussion on hold with the hope of promoting Advocacy Workshop(s)
2. Diversity/Inclusiveness – will be kept on the agenda.
3. Hope Lutheran Church – Their Social Justice Programs – we are in touch with the men's group at Hope Lutheran. An event to Newcastle Island (Saysutshun) hosted by our BUC Men's Group with Dave Bodaly was cancelled on Sept. 25th due to very poor weather. (To be rescheduled spring 2024).

### III. Climate Change/Climate Action

1. Nanaimo Green Faith Circle (NGFC) – time now of needed rest for team players. Next spring, they will plan for Earth Day celebrations.
2. Climate Action Plan (CAP) for Brechin – John, Shelley & Vickeri reporting:
  - a) **Workshop #3 “Build A Better Future”** The workshop on Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> went well. But NO REAL CONCRETE ways were determined to move forward. It was agreed that Individual Action is not enough.
  - b) Theme Time or sometimes called Faith Focus Time – It was generally felt that September's theme time was well presented and received.
  - c) Car-Pooling Project – Shelley has posted the Car-Pooling Map & pins on the bulletin board. She will post the related GHG emissions info sheet ASAP.
3. Church Solar Panels – John contacted Keith on the property team, who in turn will contact Don Evans. (i.e., the ability of the roof to handle solar panels? Is there conduit for it?)
4. We are trying to connect with the First Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo's Climate Advocacy Group.
5. RDN Busing: A letter is awaiting Tif's OK and signature expressing our appreciation for their action taken on improving bus service/route by BUC & Brechin Hill apartments.
6. Climate Workshops with Other Congregations in the North – to keep in mind.
7. “Conversations from a Church Perspective” - an interesting resource

### IV. Other Business

1. Worship Themes – we continue with 'Minute for Mission' on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month.
2. Diversity: Shalema Gantt has decided not to join our team currently due to her being busy enough as is. She may be able to help on specific projects around diversity/inclusiveness.
3. Palestine/Israel – John continues to update our team (he will be “out of commission” for a few weeks due to an eye operation Oct 17<sup>th</sup>)
4. Our B4A page on BUC Website – Doug Cochrane continues to assist us with this, as needed.
5. BUC banking with RBC Blaine will revisit this at Thursday's Council meeting.
6. City of Nanaimo grants for Environmental Sustainability Projects in Nanaimo. Recognized religious groups will be one of the eligible groups to apply for up to \$5,000 for a project/year. The program has a total fund of \$30,000. There will be 6 grants of \$5,000 each. We are being kept updated. We are thinking this might assist with the cost of solar panels if they are possible at Brechin.
7. Our team's letter of support for Brechin's grant application for Provision funding was emailed to Rob & Gloria in good time.

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8. Rapid Approval Process for Requests to our Team was discussed (more conversation needed.)

Respectively, Lynn Burrows

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### Pastoral Care Team Report

We will be attending Wexford again October 18th. While few residents attend, those who do are very appreciative and, in the absence of Rev Tif, enjoy doing more singing of their favourite hymns led by Tim and our group.

Having our two greeters collecting the offering is working well and seems to be much smoother. Thanks to Linda Braid for her suggestion.

While Dr. Holly Smith has now declined to take part due to health concerns, we have begun planning our community series of workshops with different speakers. The dates we are suggesting are: March 20th, April 10th, and 24th, and May 8th with a possibility of one more added, date not yet determined. So far, the suggestions we have are a Minister (Rev Tif), a Funeral Director, a Lawyer, a Policeman.

We are very pleased that Linda and Bruce Wilson have agreed to be the Fellowship Coordinators.

Clarifications regarding the kitchen and passing the inspection was good news indeed! Thanks to Kathy Torhjelm for the hard work and time put in to get that happening. After more discussions, our team has decided that food for Memorial Teas must be prepared by approved places, i.e.: Thrifty's or other places like them.

I will be away until October 23 but I'm sure if there are any, Gloria and Linda would answer any questions arising from this report.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Huffman

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### Property Team update

- Mazzei Electric has been contracted to install baseboard heaters in the Chapel and Admin Office. We are awaiting word on scheduling this installation.
- Tim Weger responded to the organ technician regarding Council's decision to sell the organ. No response has been received from him.
- Members of the Redevelopment Team have updated the deficiencies list for TL Housing as we approach the one year warranty anniversary.
- Sound and live streaming seem to be working well.
- It has been suggested that casters be installed on the live edge oak table used for communion to facilitate moving it around in the building. Matt H. Is willing to help with the installation. Suitable casters are available at minimal cost.
- Keith has requested information from AJPH regarding cost of having a service agreement for maintenance of the HVAC system for the church.
- We receive community usage requests on a regular basis and we are doing our best to accommodate users. Brechin is a busy place and scheduling users takes up a lot of Cindy's time.

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We have requested through the bulletin announcements that requests for meeting space be made on the forms provided to help facilitate the scheduling. Team leaders can check the church calendar to see open dates and times when requesting meeting times.

Submitted by Keith Allen

### Brechin AV Report to Council

1. AV systems are fully functional and available on all screens
2. A system operational instruction manual is completed and updated
3. Sanctuary PowerPoint is available with wireless remote
4. Live Streaming via You Tube is working
5. 3 wireless microphones and 1 handheld are available at multiple locations
6. Foyer announcements are available separately
7. Listen everywhere system (2 current users)
8. Wireless device access is available to all screens

Where do we go from here?

1. It is obvious to me, that efficient and effective utilization of this high quality equipment and functionality requires at a minimum, the following:
  - Recognition, acceptance, and commitment by the church council of the desire and need for live streaming, and to
  - encourage innovative use of the various systems for all church committees groups and individuals
  - Evaluate other current streaming formats and make recommendations to enhance Brechin's online image
  - Appoint a functioning team of interested individuals willing and able to initiate and maintain the functionality of the system on a day to day basis, and train effective system users,
  - Organize a team of individuals willing and able to operate the various systems on a weekly basis
  - Resolve overlapping job functions to make it easier for all operators
3. Without this full understanding, support, coordination, and operation, the Audio Visual program will simply fade into obscurity.
4. I encourage council members to critically watch, and listen, to Brechin's and other on line church live streams. Observe what is missing from many including the effective pickup of ambient sound from the congregation. Microphones pick up the relevant speakers, however congregational response and singing is sadly missing.
5. Several other churches have similar new digital systems. I have contacted Como Lake and Oakridge United looking for a contact person willing to discuss and exchange setup and operational information. However, I have yet to receive a reply! I have viewed the Peninsula, Oakridge, Como Lake, and Golden Ears united churches and several other streaming files and found they are live streaming - but all with very different layouts and formats, and sound qualities.
5. I am willing and able to begin basic training for members wishing to have an understanding of the

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workings and potential of this system and for those that are willing to be a part of fulfilling this need within the church. However, without the understanding and support of the church leaders to identify with the need, and the authorization to proceed, further progress will fail.

Submitted by Matt Haapala

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### Stewardship/ Finance Team Report

\_ At our meeting on Tuesday, we evaluated our Stewardship Campaign and were generally happy with the 3 Skits ("Thankful", "Legacy Giving", "PAR") which were well received. The Stewardship Packages went out to 84 donating households and hopefully the "Financial Reality Check" was read and taken to heart. The Stewardship Service was also well received and we recommend that such a worship focus should happen more often than every six years.

In comparing our phoning list of households to the Stewardship Packages sent, there were over 60 names on our phoning list who are not currently donating to Brechin. I would like to pass along a list of names to the Pastoral Care Team in the hope that they might consider sending a special letter of invitation to these former Brechin folk. This would have no financial request whatsoever but would simply be intended to encourage greater connection and attendance at church.

In the Stewardship letter we spelled out the significant deficit which Brechin is running month after month. Surprisingly, this was news to many people who spoke to us. In the letter we asked for everyone's help in tackling this problem, including Council and the congregation. There are two major answers to the problem: increasing our donor base and increasing our rental income. We would like to suggest that Council spend time on brainstorming ways in which these may happen, including assigning sub-teams to work on them.

To this end, we are requesting a special meeting of Council, via Zoom, on Thursday, Nov. 9 at 10:00. At this meeting the Treasurer and past Treasurer would be presenting a preliminary budget which would spell out the dire financial forecast for Brechin. The whole of Council would then begin working on a plan to ensure the Church's survival beyond mid-2025. A Projected Cash Operating Flow will be presented at this Thursday's Council meeting.

Respectfully Submitted by Anne Manikel, Team Leader

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### Worship Team Report

The Worship Team met September 27, 2023 in the Library at Brechin United Church, 2020 Estevan.

Rev. Tif offered the idea of an accessibility Bulletin Board. This is an excellent idea, which will be initiated. Star Dust events in November and December will have a Liturgical Theme. Rev. Tif also wants

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us to bring casserole recipes with historical importance to our families. Joint Covenanting Service is on November 5<sup>th</sup> and we will also have a joint service with Cedar on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

Music continues to be a very important part of our services.

Backpack Sunday and fall picnic were very well attended. We will probably have a similar Sunday in 2024 but we are going to rename it "Welcome Back Sunday".

October 1<sup>st</sup>, Worldwide Communion Sunday – we decided to continue with grapes and crackers. With the return of and the increase in viral infections we decided it was the safest way for us to share.

Val informed us that October 22<sup>nd</sup> service will include a discussion on the Remit about the establishment of the autonomous National Indigenous Organization.

United Church Calendars are being ordered.

We are in the process of upgrading some church guides and brochures. Cindy will begin by changing addresses.

Anne Harris-Freed asked me to present the possibility of a Carol Sing Along on December 1<sup>st</sup> followed by going out for dinner. I directed her to the new Fellowship Committee.

Respectfully Submitted, Grace Skomorowski

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### **Fellowship Team Report**

The purpose of this leadership team is to initiate and support events which promote fellowship.

#### **Responsibilities:**

- take the lead in suggesting, planning, and organizing events that support our Community of Faith
- recommend events and activities to Council for approval
- prepare and present a budget, should one be required for an event
- ensure booking of the event with the office administrator
- promote planned events through the website, bulletin board and newsletter
- meet monthly as a team
- submit a report and attend Council meetings monthly

Linda and Bruce Wilson

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