

Wesley United Church
 Council Meeting in person at Wesley United Church
 June 28, 2023
 Minutes

Wesley United Church, located on Treaty 4 land, is an Affirming Ministry of Jesus Christ, nurturing spiritual exploration and growth. We advocate for justice and social action. We love and care for ourselves and our neighbours throughout the world.

Present:

	Name	Position on Council
X	Wayne Clarke	President
X	Stephanie Dove	Past President
X	Lenore Bewcyk	Vice-President
X	Al Goudie	Secretary
R	Jim Chernick	Treasurer
R	Jim Chernick	Admin & Finance Division Coordinator
X	Frances Goudie	Christian Education Division Coordinator
X	Carolyn McBean	Pastoral Care Division Coordinator
X	Tessa Whyte	Ministry & Personnel Division Coordinator
R	Sheila Roske	Worship Division Coordinator
X	Carolyn Woodall	Intentional Interim Minister
X	Kent Stewart	Transition Team Representative
R	Linda Gunningham	Regional Council Representative
X	Brenda Patton	Regional Council Representative
R	Dave Towers	Sunset United Church Representative
X	Catherine Maloney	Board of Trustees

R = Regrets P = Partial

1. Call to order – President Wayne called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.
2. Opening reflection – Frances Goudie: Active Hope – how to face the mess we're in without going crazy.
3. Approval of agenda

Motion 2023-89: That the agenda be approved as amended. M/S Lenore Bewcyk/Frances Goudie – carried.

4. Approval of minutes from the Council meeting of May 23, 2023.

Motion 2023-90: That the minutes of the meeting of May 23, 2023 be adopted. M/S Al Goudie/Kent Stewart – carried.

Carolyn McBean suggested that we go around the room and check in, which we did.

5. Reports

5.1. Minister. Report attached.

5.2. President. Thank you Rev. Carolyn for all your efforts.

5.3. Vice President. Report attached.

5.4. Treasurer. In Jim's absence, Lenore asked for approval of the financial statements.

Motion 2023-91: That the financial statements for the month end May 31, 2023 be approved. M/S Kent Stewart/Catherine Maloney – carried.

5.5. Administration and Finance. Minutes and report attached. Lenore reported that notices for end of terms have been delivered by Kent to UCAS and Darwin to I Discover Playschool. There is an ongoing problem is how Daughters Of Africa (DOA) should be treated.

Kent responded. He has had discussions with Christine and we differ. DOA is a completely different organization in Kent's opinion. DOA should be treated as a renter, signing a rental agreement and paying fees. There is still an issue of liability insurance. Given that DOA is a separate organization they have agreed to explore insurance options. Al suggested that it is an absolute policy that renters provide proof of insurance and if they fail to do so they should be denied access to the building. Kent suggests that we treat DOA as a separate entity for the purpose of rentals

Motion 2023-92: That Daughters Of Africa be treated as a separate organization for rental purposes and that they be required to sign a rental agreement and provide proof of liability insurance before access is allowed. M/S Brenda Patton/Lenore Bewcyk – carried.

Lenore said that at the last Administration & Finance meeting it was recommended that the caretaker's hours continue to June 30, 2024.

MOTION 2023-93: That our caretaker's hours (25 hours/week) will continue to June 30, 2024, subject to review pending the potential sale of the property and the associated timing. M/S Lenore Bewcyk/Carolyn McBean – carried.

Lenore reported that considering that the Wesley congregation will be worshipping utilizing ministry services at Sunset starting in September the Administration & Finance committee recommends that Wesley contribute \$4,000 per month to Sunset.

MOTION 2023-94: To assist with the costs associated with Wesley United Church sharing services at Sunset United Church, effective September 15, 2023 Wesley United Church will contribute \$4,000 per month to Sunset United Church. This will be evaluated and adjusted if necessary by 2023 December 1, 2023. M/S Lenore Bewcyk/Al Goudie – carried.

Lenore circulated a roof, furnace and ductwork update and detailed cost analysis.

Darwin Roske had an inquiry about moving the handbells to Sunset for storage starting in the fall. Darwin called Wesley's insurance provider and was given some options. Darwin recommended using an existing rider clause in Wesley's current policy, which provides coverage of up to \$50,000 for items and property taken and stored temporarily elsewhere or in an unnamed place. Council members indicated support for Darwin's recommendation and Council instructed Darwin to proceed accordingly.

5.6 Christian Education. No report. Rev. Carolyn noted that the Study Group had a lovely luncheon and treated her to lunch. She also said that we tried really hard to do Christian Education for all ages.

5.7 Ministry and Personnel. M&P and July house will organize a potluck lunch on July 9 in honour of Rev. Carolyn's and Lee Stubbe's contributions to Wesley.

- 5.8 Pastoral Care. No report. Tessa announced that former member Olive McDonald died. A Service will be taken by Russell Mitchell-Walker at Knox Metropolitan Church on July 4, 2023.
- 5.9 Worship. No report.
- 5.10 WUC/UCAS Liaison Committee. Report attached.
- 5.11 Transition Team. Kent reported that the Transition Team has wrapped up. Members are asked to provide feedback on Rev. Carolyn to Glenn by June 30. The deconsecrating service for Rev. Carolyn on July 9 will include a release of the Transition Team.
- 5.12 Sunset United Representative. No report.
- 5.13 Joint Amalgamation Team. The Team met today. An update will be on the website, in the announcements and by hard copy at church on July 9.

Motion 2023-95: That the reports be received. M/S Lenore Bewcyk/Stephanie Dove – carried.

6 Business Arising.

- 6.1 Delivery of notices of termination to I Discover Playschool and UCAS. Covered in the Administration & Finance report.
- 6.2 Status of Daughters of Africa in relation to UCAS' liability insurance. Covered in the Administration & Finance report.

7. New Business

- 7.1 Change of signing authorities

Motion 2023-96: That the President, Lenore Bewcyk, Past President, Wayne Clarke, Treasurer, Jim Chernick, Secretary, Stephanie Dove and Accounting Convenor, Glenn Schmuland shall have signing authority, any two thereof.

Signing authority is to be removed for Al Goudie and June Blau.

M/S Al Goudie/Kent Stewart – carried.

- 7.2 Category 3 Remit: Remit 1 – creation of an autonomous National Indigenous Organization within the United Church.

Rev. Carolyn circulated the attached information piece titled **Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization** which was reviewed and discussed.

Motion 2023-97: That Wesley United Church Council agrees to vote on Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization. M/S Kent Stewart/Frances Goudie – carried.

The question was read:

“Does the regional council/pastoral charge agree to amend the Basis of Union to reflect:

That the United Church of Canada will be organized as follows: (1) a three-council structure, consisting of communities of faith, regional councils and a Denominational Council; and (2) an autonomous National Indigenous Organization; and

That once the new autonomous National Indigenous Organization is established within The United Church of Canada, it will have its own mechanisms to make any future changes to its structure and processes, and, therefore will not be subject to the remit process under section 7.4.1 of the Basis of Union; and

The changes required for the establishment of the autonomous National Indigenous Organization.”

The vote by Council on Remit 1: Yes 10. No 0.

7.3 Next steps from June 18, 2023 congregational meeting.

Catherine Maloney reported that there are a few glitches. Regional Council needs to give permission to list the property. The form involves the Trustees passing a specific motion with the terms of the listing agreement. The trustees will be meeting to consider a listing agreement with CIR Commercial Realty Inc. Catherine will consult with a commercial real estate lawyer for assistance.

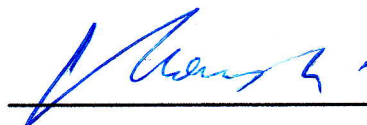
UCAS asked for a right of first refusal on the property sale. Catherine feels that since we are contemplating a listing and going to the market giving an organization a first refusal would muddy the waters and undermine our process. Given the condition of the building we really need to move forward on the sale.

Rev. Carolyn believes that we do not have the right to grant UCAS the right of first refusal. The building is not ours, it belongs to the United Church of Canada.

8. Correspondence. None
9. Volunteer for reflection for next meeting – Lenore
10. Next meeting of Council: Tentatively August 17, 2023.
11. Benediction – Rev. Carolyn
12. Adjournment at 9:57 pm.



Wayne Clarke, President



Al Goudie, Secretary

REPORTS

5.1 Minister

IIM Report to Wesley Church Council

June 28, 2023

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to live and work among you here in Regina these last two years. Thank you for your welcome, for your energy, for your openness to the changes that have impacted on our goals and decision-making.

I have felt well supported here. I hope that the curiosity I have seen in you, and your commitment to living your discipleship through volunteering, and through passionate support of ministries across the city, the Church and the world will continue to be strong as you move to shared work with Sunset.

May I encourage you not to fear the grief that you are experiencing right now. You are strong and faithful, and you do not walk alone. May it be a sign to you of the great depth of love you have shared with one another, and that you continue to feel. I hope that love can empower you for the next steps in your journey. I am grateful that I have been a witness to this great love. It is a gift.

May God bless and keep you always.

Cordially, Carolyn

5.3 Vice President's Report

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO COUCIL JUNE 28/23

June 4/23 Chaired Annual Program meeting. A new council structure was approved.

June 6/23 Joint Amalgamation Team meeting – will organize grief workshop in fall. Discussion of Sunset's board's view of May 18/23 motion.

June 7/23 Sunset potluck and board meeting. Roof repair more extensive than originally planned. Will be paid for out of contingency fund. Asked JAT for guidance about council/board structure in the fall once we are worshipping together. Asking Jonathon if he is interested in taking on care of Sunset's grounds.

June 11/23 Attended M&P meeting regarding office coordinator's hours and role once Wesley no longer has a minister. Jan has been working with Jacque. They have agreed she will have letter canceling her current contract at the end of August. She will be issued a new one of 6 to 8 hours per week. They will have more discussions in July to fine tune the details. Hours to be re-evaluated once new workload has been in place for awhile.

June 18/23 Chaired congregational meeting, regarding sale of building & land. The motion passed after considerable debate. Council will discuss next steps on June 28.

June 28/23 Joint Amalgamation meeting. Will share Wesley proposed financial contributions.

Lenore Bewcyk, VP Wesley Council

5.5 Administration and Finance

REVISED

WESLEY UNITED CHURCH

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday June 7, 2023* 1015 in person**

- **Call to Order:**

- a. Attending:** Karen, Darwin, Reverend Carolyn, Catherine, Glenn, Linda, Lenore

b. Regrets: Jim

- **Opening prayer** - Carolyn
- **Approval of the Agenda** – addition of 6. d) Role of trustees and property in the sale of the building.
- **Approval of the minutes (May 10/23)**
 - a. Minutes of previous meeting May 10/23 passed unanimously with the following correction – replace Coldwell-Banker with Colliers p. 3 in iv. & v.
 - b. Notice to tenants – letters have been prepared and will be delivered this week **Kent Stewart** to UCAS and **Darwin Roske** to idiscover play school. Both notices are effective June 30, 2024.
- **Reports**
 - a. **Finance & Investments (Schmuland)**
 - Statements circulated yesterday.

MOTION for Council: To accept Financial Statements as circulated.

- Budget as anticipated.
- Important to communicate to the congregation operating costs for our facility ongoing even though we will be worshipping elsewhere in the fall.
- Generous Mens' Club donation of \$5,000.
- Lee Stubbe has given verbal but not written notice of resignation. Expect his last day will be July 9/23 but that has not been confirmed in writing **Glenn** has asked M&P for letter of resignation.
- Decision regarding office coordinator's hours needs be made.
- Carol Chernishenko will continue with handbell choir and is looking forward to recruiting more members in the fall.
- In April redeemed \$25,000 investment from UC Foundation, now in savings. It will be used to manage cash flow.

b. Property and Service (Roske)

- **Darwin** will see that Brittney from idiscover gets the termination of contract letter this week
- DOARC – there has been no clarification of their status as belonging to UCAS or being independent. Kent replied he was working on it but there is confusion if this was in relation to setting up a meeting to give formal letter of notice to discuss their liability insurance which was due May 29, 2023 and has not yet been received. **Darwin** will send **Catherine** the information he has on insurance and she will arrange to meet with Kent and Christine to clarify the matter.
- **Jacque and Darwin need clarification from council if DOARC is part of UCAS on UCAS's insurance or is DOARC a separate rental if so they need to supply the liability insurance with the rental application and UCAS does not have to put them on their certificate.**
- We are uncertain how the changing of UCAS name to include professionals affects the partnership agreement. Waiting further information from **Kent**.
- Two groups have expressed interest in use of Wesley - *River House of Prayer and Redeemer Church of God*. Potential for renters and the first group expressed interest in purchasing the building as they have heard rumors.
- Approximately 20% or more of the office coordinator's time is spent working on rentals. **Darwin** will email Jan Turner to let her know what parts of the job description she does for property & service. **Others round the table who use the office coordinator's time** also to let Jan know what amount of time they expect to need in the fall once we are worshipping at SRUC.
- If we commit Wesley to another church group may need use of church for long time member's funeral.

This need is covered off in our standard rental agreement.

- **Donna Hudson** has agreed to manage the website. She can anticipate the following to feed her information: Darwin, Glenn, Karen, Stephanie, Lenore. The covid information needs to be deleted as it is no longer used in practice.

MOTION TO COUNCIL: That our caretaker's hours (25 hours/week) be guaranteed to June 30, 2024. Subject to review pending the potential sale of the property and the associated timing.

- **Carol** confirmed at JAT she is looking forward to an expanded bell choir in the fall at SRUC.
- **Kiera** hopes to be in Regina in the fall and is willing to assist with A/V as needed when she is available.
- **Lenore** to contact Jan to ask for a proposal from M&P June 28 meeting for office coordinator's hours. This will give opportunity for notice or planning if the decrease in hours does not meet Jacque's needs.
- Optimum Roofing and Regina Plumbing and Heating – Optimum to provide a quote to redo the remaining roof area and replacing the chapel venting. Regina P&H to provide a quote on replacing the Chapel venting and furnace units.
- The correct estimate of roof and furnace repair is \$360,000 not \$500,000 as some are quoting.
- Have sold off some items no longer in use – piano, bench, bookshelves, chairs from kitchen lounge. May sell some of the chairs in rougher shape to make space.
- Best time to sell the building and property before snow flies. September allows them time to arrange publicity, photos, etc. Need to have confirmed accurate listing of trustees. **Catherine** will follow up with Kenda Richards who works in a legal firm that is very familiar with this process.

- Glenn from Colliers provided a suggested sale list price.
- Need own lawyer approximate cost \$10,000.
- **Linda** will contact region person for clarification about archives and what support they can offer considering their shortage of people.

c. Stewardship(Gunningham)

- Need to figure out a plan of how to share the information.
- Sunset has a different concept of Stewardship. It is not simply cash resources.
- Make an announcement on July 9 service and into the fall so all members of SRUC are aware Wesley is giving financial support not just showing up empty handed. Also, we continue to have expenses for caretaker, office coordinator, building, etc.
- Will do some sort of stewardship program in the fall for SRUC.
- Linda would like to have Jacque to mail stewardship letter out separate from the announcements.

d. Revenue (Stoddart)

- Statements will go out in July to remind where they are in our giving commitment.
- Sunset does not handle M&S like we do.
- Glenn will try to get June financials to include a highly summarized projection.
- Karen will send out statements.

6. Other Business:

i) Wesley's Share of Sunset's expenses in the fall.

Proposal for Wesley Contribution to Sunset United Church

Motion for Wesley Council review and approval.

- **To assist with the costs associated with Wesley United Church sharing services at Sunset United Church, effective 2023 September 15, Wesley will contribute \$4,000 per**

month to Sunset United Church. This will be evaluated and adjusted if necessary by 2023 December 1.

- The following analysis provides the rationale for the suggested amount.

Proposal for Wesley Contribution to Joint Services

Pastoral Care Workshop	\$ 300.00	If and as necessary.		
Sunset Budget	2023 Year	Month	Wesley Monthly Share % \$	
	\$	\$		
Minister	71,295.00	5,941.25	0.5	\$ 2,970.63
	\$	\$		\$
Con Ed	1,500.00	125.00	-	
	\$	\$		\$
Youth Minister	7,500.00	625.00	0.25	156.25
	\$	\$		\$
Con Ed	750.00	62.50	-	
	\$	\$		\$
Music Leaders	11,500.00	958.33	0.25	239.58
	\$	\$		\$
Custodian	8,000.00	666.67	0	-
	\$	\$		\$
Benefits 18%	12,833.10	1,069.43	0.4	427.77
	\$	\$		\$
Utilities	9,700.00	808.33	0	-
	\$	\$		\$
Programming	5,700.00	475.00	0.4	190.00
				\$ 3,984.23

Wesley would continue to pay the Wesley staff: caretaker, office coordinator, handbell director, and tech supply.

as well as building maintenance, insurance and utilities.

This is proposed for remainder of 2023 starting Sep 15.

We need the remainder of 2023 to see how Wesley community will respond to remaining with the SRUC, and then % can be adjusted.

Wesley would maintain direct donation to M&S till amalgamation occurs.

Wesley community giving would be handled by Wesley.

ii) Role of Trustees and Property

- Trustees offer oversight and do not interfere with operations unless they see something that is untoward.
- Trustees are fine with Darwin and Gordon continuing on their communication with Colliers as they have a good relationship and a wealth of knowledge.
- An opinion of value is adequate for our purposes so no funds need to be spent
- Darwin has a sample contract from Colliers and a list of comparable church property sales
- Trustee membership need to be current. The motion from the June 4, 2023 Annual program meeting contains the current list.
- Catherine to contact Kenda Richards for the legal process.
- Glen felt there is no need to update Wesley Council's signing authority at this time.

Next meeting August 17, 2023 at 7 PM in the kitchen lounge.

8. Closing Prayer - Lenore

5.10 WUC/UCAS Liaison Committee

WUC/UCAS Liaison Committee

Report to Council

June 28, 2023

1. On June 6, 2023, a letter was provided to Christine Lwanga, Executive Director, UCAS and ADPA invoking Article 4 of the *Partnership Agreement*, giving notice of termination of the Agreement effective June 30, 2024. She was grateful for the notice that provides significant time to consider their options.

Kent Stewart - Chair

7.2 Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization

Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization

*The **remit video** responds to some questions we've received. You can download a transcript of the video from the same page.*

The 44th General Council met virtually between February 2022 and August 2022.

At that meeting, the General Council approved an amendment to the Basis of Union in *The Manual of The United Church of Canada* to establish an autonomous National Indigenous Organization. It also authorized a Category 3 Remit to test the will of the church with respect to this change.

The General Council's decision was in response to proposal **NIC-01: Restructuring of the Indigenous Church** from the National Indigenous Council, which named its vision of the two parts of the church (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) working side-by-side, and recommending the identification and removal of "all the structural barriers to developing and sustaining an autonomous Indigenous Church within The United Church of Canada". The way to remove these "structural barriers" is named in a proposal from the General Secretary, **GS-10: Living into Reconciliation**, which asks the church to give pre-emptive remit approval for whatever the Indigenous Church determines in the future as the place it will have in the United Church, guided by the *Calls to the Church*—and without the need for further remit approvals.

This is a Category 3 Remit, and so requires a vote by every regional council and each pastoral charge's governing body. If a regional council or a pastoral charge does not register a vote, that is considered a vote against the proposal.

There is one question to be voted on, as follows.

Does the regional council/pastoral charge agree to amend the Basis of Union to reflect:

That The United Church of Canada will be organized as follows: (1) a three-council structure, consisting of communities of faith, regional councils and a Denominational Council*; and (2) an autonomous National Indigenous Organization; and

That once the new autonomous National Indigenous Organization is established within The United Church of Canada, it will have its own mechanisms to make any future changes to its structure and processes, and, therefore will not be subject to the remit process under section 7.4.1 of the Basis of Union**; and

The changes required for the establishment of the autonomous National Indigenous Organization. Below are the remit and response forms. The response form must be signed and returned to the General Council Office to the address set out on the form.

Thank you for your participation in this important work of the church.

Michael Blair
General Secretary, General Council

* The "Denominational Council" and the "General Council" are often used interchangeably.

** The detailed proposed changes in the Basis of Union are listed in a chart on page 5 of the Study Guide, under the section heading "Frequently Asked Questions".

RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS ABOUT REMIT 1: ESTABLISHING AN AUTONOMOUS INDIGENOUS ORGANIZATION

Posted on: May 5, 2023
by Claudia K

Since launching the remit about restructuring the Indigenous Church in March 2023, we have received a number of questions about the remit process, as well as about the remit itself.

Some of these questions have asked: What is this remit about? Where did this remit come from? Why is a remit process needed? What is the voting process? What will the new Indigenous Church look like? How will it be funded? How will this Indigenous organization be in relationship with the regional councils and wider United Church?

In this video, Adele Halliday, Anti-Racism and Equity Lead, and Sara Stratton, Reconciliation and Indigenous Justice Animator, of the General Council Office respond to these questions and others that have been raised about the current Category 3 Remit on establishing an autonomous National Indigenous Organization within The United Church of Canada.

We hope that this video offers you additional information to help your regional council or your pastoral charge's governing body to make a decision on the remit question by the deadline of March 31, 2024.

If this remit is approved, it would not immediately create a new Indigenous Church. Rather, the remit asks for the removal of barriers in order to give Indigenous people in the church the time and space they need to define their own future in relationship with the United Church.

In the meantime, some of the details about policy, practices, and overall function remain unknown. Some questions, such as those about finances and many of the other issues, will not have answers until the process and the accompanying conversations take place.

Though there is uncertainty about some of these details, there is certainty and clarity about one important aspect: being in relationship.

The proposal to the 44th General Council in 2023 from the National Indigenous Council clarifies that the request for the removal of structural barriers does not mean that the relationship between the Indigenous Church and the rest of the United Church is ending. The proposal describes the long relationship between the church and Indigenous peoples, and expresses the desire to set aside the notion of "mission" to Indigenous peoples and to truly move toward "being partners in God's call to all the Earth."

The video about the remit can be viewed and downloaded on YouTube.

For background information about this remit, a study guide, and more, please read **[Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization](#)**. Questions can be e-mailed to **remit1@united-church.ca**.
