**Trinity United Church**

**Collingwood, ON**

**In-Person Board Meeting**

**Thursday, September 18, 2025, 7:00 p.m**.

Present: Betty Hancey, Barbara Downie, Rev. Beth Kerr, Danielle York (Chair), Joy Barr, Ruth Crittenden, David Saunders, John Brown, and Beth Theis from the Affirming Committee

Absent: Ray Piercy, Patti Watson, Lori Forsythe

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer: Danielle York

Danielle warmly welcomed our new minister, Rev. Beth Kerr and our new Trustee chair, David Saunders.

1. Thoughts, Prayers and any Deaths to be recorded

Each meeting the Board reflects on those in need of our thoughts and prayers. Our thoughts are with the family of the late Airlie Suutari. The Historic Roll will be updated. We hold in our prayers Saundra Lake and family on the death of Saundra’s husband, Allan.

1. **MOTION**: to approve the agenda, David Saunders and Barbara Downie. Motion carried.
2. a) **MOTION** to accept the minutes of June 19, 2025, with the below noted omission with regard to the Outreach and Social Action Report:

*Under Outreach, approval was given by the Board regarding Betty’s suggestion of Trinity participating in the Global Coin Solutions collecting of foreign currency. The program invites people to donate leftover foreign currency to small donation kettles in various locations in town. Global then collects it, sorts it by hand and repatriates it to the country of origin. They receive the funds and through a transparent accounting system send us 70% of what was collected.*

*Please use the kettle at Trinity rather than in another location, as the funds donated here will not need to be shared with other participating partners.*

Ruth Crittenden and Betty Hancey. Motion carried.

1. b) **MOTION** to accept the minutes of the July Board meeting held July 21, 2025, with the addition of Barbara Downie as being present at the meeting.

Ruth Crittenden and Barbara Downie. Motion carried.

1. c) Emailed motions noted and movers named:
2. **from July 23 2025**

**MOTION:**  to transfer $49,600 from the trustee account to cover deposits on the HVAC project.

Mover: Danielle York

Seconder: David Saunders, motion carried.

1. **from July 23 2025**

**MOTION:** - that excess funds raised from the current campaign (30k goal) be used for other capital projects.

Mover: Danielle York

Seconder: Ruth Crittenden, motion carried.

1. **Correspondence**:

Ruth noted that the response to our Capital Campaign, ‘Cool Comfort, Warm Hearts’ has been quick and generous. All donations are greatly appreciated. One note that came with a donation sums up what most donors have been feeling:

*“With so many church and community members benefiting from this beautiful building, may they be comfortable within its walls.”*

1. **Affirming Committee Update**, Beth Theis and attached.

Highlights:

* we need a new vision statement (Action)
* feedback was gathered from board members on how best to incorporate a workshop-type learning session(s) and discussion amongst congregants and to invite some of the congregation to speak on the issue in order that we get a sense of the thoughts and ideas of others.
* the Affirming Committee will drop the use of the word ‘Exploration’ in their title.

Beth was commended on her patience, dedication, and hard work on the Affirming Committee. Not an easy role. Thank you as well to the entire committee.

* The gender-neutral washroom and the change table signs need some tweaking and will be done. (Action)
* Ruth will add information to the website on our Affirming Process as submitted by Beth Theis. (Action)

**Business Arising from Previous Minutes:** none

**Reports**

1. **Treasurer/Finance Committee Report**: Danielle York and attached.

Highlights:

1. Funds for the Warm Hearts Cool Comfort Campaign match have been received ($100k)
2. Cemetery funds have been transferred and paid to the cemetery board for the installation of the new columbarium
3. Reviewer (Rose Hewitson) to complete review of financial statements before the next board meeting

\*\*Please note: the Treasurer’s 2nd Quarter Report, emailed to us on August 5th 2025, is also attached to these minutes.

Danielle will check to see if there is an obvious number-value reason for the increase in our National Assessment fee this year. (Action)

1. **Building and Grounds Report:** submitted by Danielle and attached

Some upcoming capital projects include: flat roof – repair or replace with sloped; parking lot lighting; brick repointing, concrete replacement; sanctuary ceiling lights; glass upgrade to entrance doors.

\*The new heating and cooling system is moving forward despite some unexpected delays.

1. **Spiritual Committee**: no report
2. **Outreach and Social Action**, submitted by Betty Hancey and attached.

\*Please start thinking about helping to plan, orchestrate, and man a float for the Christmas Parade; this year’s theme is “Christmas in Canada”.

1. **Minister’s Report:** submitted by Rev. Beth Kerr and attached.
2. **Trustee’s Report**: submitted by David Saunders and attached

David updated the attached 2nd quarter report with some figures that were recent.

1. **UCW Report:** Joy Barr
* there was a good turnout at the first fall meeting where Rev. Beth was a guest.
* September 23 and 24th will be busy preparing and serving lunch to a Probus group of 69.
* Six from Collingwood will respond to Meaford’s UCW invite for the 25th
* $5000 (five thousand) has been donated to the Heating and Cooling Campaign,
1. **Ministry and Personnel Committee:** no report
* Ray sent an update on our custodial staff arrangements.
1. **Office Report:** no report
2. **Western Ontario Waterways Regional Representative Report:** submitted by Ruth Crittenden, and attached.
* have we submitted our annual Self- Assessment to Region? (possible Action required?)
1. **MOTION** to accept all the reports, Barbara Downie and Joy Barr. Motion carried.

**New Business**

1. Historic Roll: Ruth Crittenden
* deferred the update on members to next meeting (Action)
* The following have asked for the transfer of their memberships to other churches:
* Elizabeth Stinson to Kanata United Church
* Colin and Marlene Estabrook to Shediac New Brunswick United Church.

Next steps: Lori can update us as to the status of their transfer certificates. (Action)

1. Donation Program costs will be increasing next year to an annual $239.00 + tax. (two hundred and thirty-nine) and will now be based on the number of donors on our list.
2. Organ Access: Danielle

A request has come to the Board for access to playing our organ.

Next steps: set up a meeting with the concerned parties and Paul Sloan, if possible. (Action: Danielle)

1. Finance Committee Structure: The treasurer will submit statements to the Board on a quarterly basis and the Finance Committee will meet at least twice per year, one being during budget season.
* The Trustees will have a meeting in the near future to discuss the investments.
1. Funds from the Organ Campaign

The bells will need considerable repair and upkeep over the near future. It is suggested that our organ investment fund be broaden to include the organ, piano and bell repairs as all are musical instrument related. Without broadening the use of the remaining organ funds to include music-related expenses, we will always have a surplus in that fund and have no access other than for organ repairs. This will be addressed either at a congregational meeting or at the Annual Meeting in 2026.

1. VAM (Volunteer Associate Minister) Rev. Beth

We have received two applications for VAM positions at Trinity United Church, Collingwood.

**MOTION:** To approve the VAM application from Rev. Mary Elizabeth Piercy, Rev. Beth Kerr and Ruth Crittenden. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** To approve the VAM application from Rev. Sarah Bruer, Barbara Downie and Betty Hancey. Motion carried.

1. Communication report: submitted by John Brown and attached.
2. Trinity News deadline is the day of the Board Meeting.

**MOTION** to adjourn, David Saunders.

Next meeting date: October 16, 2025

Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Action Items** from these minutes, summarized.

Danielle York

1. Attention to the new signage for the washroom.
2. Check our increased figure for National Assessment
3. Set up a meeting with Paul Sloan and the parties involved in the request for access to playing our organ.

Ray Piercy

1. Self-Assessment – do we need to look at this and submit for 2025d?

Ruth Crittenden

1. Add Affirming Profile to our website.
2. Bring deferred possible Historic Roll changes to the October meeting.

Lori Forsythe

* 3 transfers of members sent?

David Saunders:

1. set a Trustee meeting date