

**Attendance:** Keith Allen, Kathryn Baverstock, Linda Braid, Lynn Burrows, Eileen Carolan (Secretary), Darlene Darby (Vice-Chair), Rev. Maggie Enwright (via Zoom), Marilyn Huffman, Lee Mason, Rob Russell, Grace Skomorowski, Susan Ward, Blaine Wilkins, Linda Wilson

**Regrets:** Rev. Katherine Brittain, John Bullas, Gloria Le Gal (Chair),

**Welcome** and call to order by Darlene Darby at 9:59 am

**Devotional:** by Linda Braid. Read from "To Bless the Space Between Us" by John O'Donohue.

**Approval of Agenda as amended. M/S Linda Braid/Grace Skomorowski. Carried.**

Added to old business: gift bags for Brechin Hill Residents

Added to new business: Live and Silent Auction

**Adoption of Minutes:**

**Motion:** That minutes of the May 21, 2025 Council meeting be approved as amended.

**M/S Marilyn Huffman/ Lynn Burrows. Carried.**

Note that Mary Thompson Boyd replaced Marilyn Huffman as Team leader for Pastoral Care while she was away.

**Correspondence received** -none

**Correspondence sent** – Glover Wellness

The UCC Structural Change Survey was completed and submitted.

**Minister's Report** – no report. Rev. Katherine Brittain is on leave.

**Financial Report:** see attached

- It was noted that we continue to be in a deficit position
- Fundraising is needed.

**PMR report:**

- Council expressed thanks for the report
- Brechin members were well represented at the AGM and pre meeting workshops.
- Members found the proceedings worthwhile and inspiring
- *Congratulations to Val Neilson on her election to PMR Executive Council.*

**Motion:** to accept above reports - **M/S Linda Braid/ Keith Allen. Carried.**

**Old Business**

**1. Centennial Celebration – September 7, 2025**

- Linda Wilson reported that the theme for dinner is a 60's potluck/ BBQ
- Since the next council meeting is not until September a special meeting, to review plans for the celebration is scheduled for August 27 at 10 AM. Darlene Darby will book the Arbutus Room.

## **2. Growth and Visibility Working Group**

- Parking Lot Sign – Darlene will ask Doug to contact Thomas (Unity) to see if they would bring sign into the building after their service/ events?
- Return-it fundraiser – tax receipts will not be issued. Anyone who wants a tax receipt should return bottles and donate money as part of their offering.
- Congregational meeting to discuss sign/ mural on Brechin Hill facing wall- Deferred to September meeting for discussion.

## **3. Brechin Hil Resident gift bags**

- Plastic water bottles will be replaced with juice boxes

**Motion:** Council supports continued provision of gift bags to new residents. **M/S** Marilyn Huffman/ Linda Braid. **Carried.**

## **New Business**

### **1. Lay Leadership Workshops – a few things we learned**

- Governance – Minutes will now be posted in draft form until they are approved at the following meeting.
- M and P – Council must approve new members. If individuals act as contacts for certain staff, use caution that they stay objective.
- Trustees – at least one trustee must be on Council (currently 3 Trustees are on Council) Trustees are legally responsible for investments and need to be involved in the process. Working with a credit union has made the process more challenging because the rules are different than for a chartered bank.

### **2. 100 tables – Consensus to take part in 100 tables initiative agreed to via email June 15, 2025. Discussion deferred to September Council Meeting.**

### **3. Brechin Sign-** Darlene will contact gentleman who has the sign to request the sign dimension and ask if he can continue to store it for the time being. Discussion of where to put it. All agreed that it should go on the Brechin Road side of the building. Darlene will contact Terri Donaldson re: need for a city permits.

### **4. Live and Silent Auction-** Linda Braid, Val Neilson and Kathy Torhjelm met to begin the planning process.

- The auction will be held on Friday September 13 from 2 – 430.
- Auctioneers: Rob Russell and Lee Mason
- There will be door prizes and desserts
- Information handout will be available this Sunday at the Welcome Table
- Donations will be received 2 Sundays prior to the event. – No large pictures or paintings.

## **Leadership Team Reports**

### **Spiritual Formation:**

- The Team expects to be active again by September

### **Ministry and Personnel:** see attached.

- Our thanks to Doug Cochrane for the work he is doing to support Cindy with the new computer system. Darlene Darby will send a card of thanks on behalf of the Council.
- Christine Robertson will continue to provide office support within the hours approved at last meeting. This has been delayed due to the computer issues.

### **Brechin 4 Action:** see attached.

- The Youth Colab will go ahead in cooperation with School District 68. It will be held at John Barsby High School in mid October. Blaine Wilkins will confirm if the matching funds have been received. Reminder that criminal records checks are required for adults participating in the program.

### **Pastoral Care:** see attached.

**Motion:** Council approves that the Pastoral Care Team organize a Pastoral Care Workshop and provide speaker honorariums of up to a total of \$500. **M/S:** Grace Skomorowski/ Marilyn Huffman. **Carried**

- Council approved the idea of small group coffee and tea gathering.

### **Property:** see attached

- Thank you for the folks who stepped up while Keith was not able to spend as much time at the church
- Keith will confirm that our liability insurance will cover those participating in the tree chipping event off stie
- There is now have a local contact to support Saltos issues.
- Carpet, for under the piano, is at the church. It will have to be cut to fit and the edges my need to be bound. Lee Mason has offered to cover the cost if binding is needed. The carpet was donated by End of the Roll.

### **Worship:** see attached.

- Rev. Katherine Brittain is keen to add a 4 pm Sunday service once a month.
- Charlotte Richardson is comparing One License and Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI)
- Pulpit Supply – July 6 will now be filled by Grace Skomorowski.
- A thank you card was sent to Doris Toms to express our thanks for the beautiful Centennial Banner.

**Stewardship and Finance:** no report

**Fellowship:** see report

- Pro-vision grant has been approved and 75% of the \$1,500 has been received.
- Hot Diggity Dog raised \$295

**Motion** to accept the Leadership Team reports **M/S** Marily Huffman/ Kathryn Baverstock.  
**Carried**

### **Intentional Communication**

**Keith Allen**

- Confirm insurance will cover participants in the tree chipping event (off stie)

**Linda Braid**

- Speak to Rev. Katherine Brittain about plans for a congregational meeting to discuss options for signage/ mural etc. on the Brechin Road facing outside wall.
- Announce plans for the Silent/Live Auction

**Lynn Burrows**

– Announce this Sunday that the Youth Colab is going ahead

**Darlene Darby**

- Book Arbutus Room for Council Meeting August 27 at 10 AM
- Ask Doug to speak to Thomas (Unity) about use and retrieval of the parking sign
- Contact gentleman who has the old Brechin Sign to ask for dimensions and ask him to continue to store it for a while.
- Contact Terri for input on need for/ process to access permission from the City of Nanaimo to put old sign up.
- Send card of thanks to Doug for his efforts with new computer system.

**Marilyn Huffman**

- Contact possible facilitators for Pastoral Care Workshop

**Special Council Meeting:** at 10:00 am August 27, 2025

Regular Council Meeting: 10:00 am September 24, 2025

Devotional: Marilyn Huffman

Adjournment of Business Meeting at 11:45 on a motion by Lynn Burrows.

Darlene Darby ,Vice- Chair

Eileen Carolan, Secretary

## Financial Reports

## Brechin United Church Balance Sheet As at 05/31/2025

**ASSET****Current Assets**

Petty Cash	187.11	
CCCU Chequing Bank account	<u>9,138.46</u>	
Total Cash		9,325.57
Investments		227,500.00
GST Receivable	<u>545.00</u>	
Total Receivable		<u>545.00</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b><u>237,370.57</u></b>

**Capital Assets**

Office Furniture & Equipment	288,636.00	
Accum. Amort. -Furn. & Equip.	<u>-288,636.00</u>	
Church Building	2,098,149.38	
Accum Amortization Bulding	<u>-2,098,149.38</u>	
Property		<u>347,000.00</u>
<b>Total Capital Assets</b>		<b><u>347,000.00</u></b>

<b>TOTAL ASSET</b>		<b><u>584,370.57</u></b>
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**LIABILITY**

**Trust Accounts**

Building fund	21,013.63	
Clear Building fund	-4,365.55	
The Spiritual Growth Fund	800.00	
Clear Spiritual Growth Fund	-702.55	
Mission & Service	6,685.00	
Clear Mission & Service	-6,685.00	
Loaves & Fishes	1,885.00	
Clear Loaves & Fishes	-1,885.00	
Memorial Funds	5,143.20	
Clear Memorial Funds	-1,357.47	
The Legacy Fund	63,205.82	
B4A Youth Reconciliation Fund	6,728.00	
Brechin4Action Fund	337.26	
Workshops & Events Grants	4,413.45	
Clear Workshops & Events Grants	-577.48	
Women's Friendship Group Fund	214.75	
Clear Women's Friendship Group Fund	-351.98	
Nanaimo Community Refugee Fund	94,190.19	
Clear Nanaimo Community Refugee Fnd	-42,812.46	
Total Trust Funds		<u>145,878.81</u>
<b>Total Current liabilities</b>		<u>145,878.81</u>

<b>TOTAL LIABILITY</b>	<u>145,878.81</u>
 <b>EQUITY</b>	
 <b>Retained Earnings</b>	
Retained Earnings - Previous Year	416,360.73
Current Earnings	<u>22,131.03</u>
<b>Total Retained Earnings</b>	<u>438,491.76</u>
 <b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	 <u>438,491.76</u>
 <b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	 <u>584,370.57</u>

**Brechin United Church  
Income Statement 05/01/2025 to 05/31/2025**

**REVENUE**

**Revenue**

Local Contributions	10,641.39
Open donations	375.00
Miscellaneous Revenues	225.00
Unity Church Lease Revenue	2,500.00
DILOR-RENT	<u>1,985.00</u>
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<u>15,726.39</u>

<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<u>15,726.39</u>
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**EXPENSE**

**Overhead Expenses**

Equipment Service & Agreements	-973.90
Insurance	260.26
Janitorial Supplies	43.61
Contract Janitorial Services	2,611.00
UCC & Region Assessments	815.27
Telephone & Internet Expense	132.45
Kitchen Supplies	<u>352.07</u>
<b>Total Overhead Expense</b>	<u>3,240.76</u>

<b>Payroll Expenses</b>	
Wages & Salaries	10,038.90
Contracted Music Services	1,650.00
Minister Travel Expense	123.00
Employee Benefits	2,574.72
Pulpit Supply	254.00
<b>Total Payroll Expense</b>	<u>14,640.62</u>
<b>General &amp; Administrative Expenses</b>	
Promotion & Marketing Expenses	353.61
Office Supplies	152.36
Fellowship Team Expense	77.12
Subscription Expense	1,061.50
Bookkeeping and Payroll Expenses	132.45
<b>Total General &amp; Administrative</b>	<u>1,777.04</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<u>19,658.42</u>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<u><u>-3,932.03</u></u>

## Brechin United Church Comparative Income Statement

	Actual 01/01/2025 to 05/31/2025	Actual 01/01/2024 to 05/31/2024
<b>REVENUE</b>		
<b>Revenue</b>		
Local Contributions	54,970.15	57,422.20
Open donations	1,453.00	1,934.35
NET Weddings and Funerals	0.00	42.53
Special Events & Fundraising	291.36	3,954.95
Miscellaneous Revenues	809.00	767.00
Friends of Brechin Wall Fund	0.00	310.58
Unity Church Lease Revenue	10,000.00	0.00
DILOR-RENT	9,044.50	3,905.00
PMR Support Revenue	35,000.00	0.00
Investment Income	438.27	706.35
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<u>112,006.28</u>	<u>69,042.96</u>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<u>112,006.28</u>	<u>69,042.96</u>

**EXPENSE**

**Overhead Expenses**

Electricity	1,987.42	1,480.39
Equipment Service & Agreements	560.25	2,786.71
Insurance	1,301.30	989.30
Janitorial Supplies	1,104.76	479.16
Contract Janitorial Services	7,490.00	6,314.00
UCC & Region Assessments	3,261.08	2,305.08
Repair & Maintenance General	473.63	376.83
Telephone & Internet Expense	905.09	775.79
Shared Building Expense	1,211.64	2,654.30
Kitchen Supplies	782.22	693.51
<b>Total Overhead Expense</b>	<u>19,077.39</u>	<u>18,855.07</u>

**Payroll Expenses**

Wages & Salaries	46,533.07	39,732.71
Contracted Music Services	8,225.00	7,775.00
Minister Travel Expense	435.67	0.00
Employee Benefits	11,356.33	10,085.51
Pulpit Supply	508.00	1,535.04
<b>Total Payroll Expense</b>	<u>67,058.07</u>	<u>59,128.26</u>

<b>General &amp; Administrative Expenses</b>		
Promotion & Marketing Expenses	353.61	0.00
Website Expense	17.80	0.00
Office Supplies	866.42	1,009.70
Bank Charges	60.00	211.50
Service Supplies	194.47	118.70
Broadview Magazine Expense	-950.00	-880.00
Pastoral Care Team Exp	63.19	0.00
Fellowship Team Expense	77.12	0.00
Miscellaneous Expense	499.75	601.02
Library Expense	0.00	99.05
Music Expense	0.00	27.21
Brechin4Action Committee Expense	0.00	100.00
Subscription Expense	1,433.34	0.00
Bookkeeping and Payroll Expenses	1,124.09	874.75
<b>Total General &amp; Adminstravtive</b>	<b>3,739.79</b>	<b>2,161.93</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>89,875.25</b>	<b>80,145.26</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>22,131.03</b>	<b>-11,102.30</b>

**PMR Report**

PRMC – AGM – MAY 29 TO JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> 2025 – A full recording of the AGM is available on the PRMC website About 12 members of Brechin attended the AGM and 2 workshop days prior to the AGM Meetings which took place at the Nanaimo Conference Centre. A YouTube recording of the conference is available online at: <https://mailchi.mp/united-church.ca/youre-invited-to-our-agm-3169829>

Each day opened with Payer and Mediation, Opening music and morning worship. There was also a time of Gathering music after each meal break. And Closing Worship at the end of the day.

**Thursday** – Registration opened at 2:00 p.m.

At 4:00 p.m. A very moving Opening worship and Theme led by Marsha (?) An author from the US.

At 7:00 p.m. The Keynote speaker for the AGM, Stephanie Spellers, author of the book “We Are the Church Cracked Open” gave her first presentation.

### **Friday –**

9:10 – Worship and Memorials of those who have passed away this year

9:50 – Introduction to Business

Proposals and the procedure for dealing with them and voting on them was explained.

Then 2 youth members put forth a mock proposal that each church adopt an emotional support rabbit and the PRMC support the purchase and care of 1 rabbit, the hutch and feed to a cost of approximately \$240 per year. They went on at length to justify reasons to support their proposal. Of course, the attendees had a number of tongues in cheek comments at the mike. Although I did receive an email opportunity to vote on this proposal (No), I did not hear whether or not it passed. It was a mock proposal 😊. This year there was only 1 proposal for us to vote on at the Saturday business session.

1:30 – Stephanie Sellars – Losing Our Lives to Gain Real Life

3:20 – 5:30 Reports from General Council

### **Saturday**

9:30 – Stephanie Sellars – The Future of Faith

#### **Welcoming a New Council Executive**

We are pleased to announce that during the meeting, seven individuals were elected to the Pacific Mountain Region Council Executive and one President-Elect. Below are our newest members.

#### **Elected President-Elect**

- Thea Sheridan-Jonah, President-Elect

#### **Executive Council**

- Robin Jacobson
- Sarah Kirwin
- Dave Moors
- **Val Neilson**
- Shakshi Paul
- Robin Pengelly
- Morgan Ryder

We received one Proposal this year: ***PMRWF25-01: Apartheid Free Community: Study & Action. Decision: Carried.***

We heard general consensus of approval for the direction that this proposal is going. We heard that folks were quite concerned that whatever we do, it not be antisemitic and that we be clear about who we are naming as those committing atrocities, that we don't define for a task group

what we want them to do, but they would have the background information and original motion as part of their work. There was appreciation for both study and action.

**PMRWF25-01: Apartheid Free Community: Study & Action (M. Green / I. Chuan)**

That Pacific Mountain Regional Council standing in love and support with our Palestinian siblings as well as our Jewish siblings who are also affected by of the ongoing discrimination, occupation, brutal repression, violence and genocide being carried out in Israel and Palestine by Western Powers through the agency of the Government of Israel, promote study/discussion of the issue by supplying resources/links to existing studies developed by partners and others; and That Pacific Mountain Regional Council take action on the issue by: a. becoming a signatory body to the Apartheid Free Community Campaign; b. directing the Executive to create a task group who will recommend effective next steps; and c. encourage communities of faith to become informed on the issue and take appropriate action.

Submitted by Susan Ward

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**M and P Team Report**

This is a busy month for Rev Katherine involving travel, business meetings and her move to Nanaimo, with her family, from Mill Bay. The M+P team will meet with her in early September.

The team thanks Doug Cochrane who has spent several hours this month in Brechin's office, assisting Cindy with the operation of the new computer system. We also appreciate the ongoing support she receives from Keith Allen. Our thanks to Christine Robertson, who will be returning soon to support Cindy in the office.

According to our music director, it has been a very successful term with the choir. The group enjoyed a "wind up" potluck dinner on June 19. There will be no Thursday practices until early September although the 9:15 a.m. get together every Sunday will be continued. Over the next five weeks, Tim will be preparing for his August 10<sup>th</sup> Worship service at Brechin

Best wishes to the Brechin congregation for a safe and relaxing summer.

Sincerely, Linda Braid, on behalf of Kathy, Leah, Eileen & Chris.

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**Brechin 4 ACTION Team Report**

**Truth & Reconciliation**

The Reconciliation Subgroup report the following:

1. Reconciliation Initiative/Event: Youth Reconciliation Mixed-Media Collab Event
  - Saturday, May 10/25 – CANCELLED/POSTPONED
  - Future Date: Fall 2025 is being proposed as a partnership with SD68
  - Purpose: Modern Mixed Media Indigenous Art and Dance collaboration for youth aged 12-18

- It is expected to know if SD68 is a willing partner sometime during the week of June 16/25.

**Action/Climate change**

1. Solar Panel Project: No new updates.

**Social Justice (SJ)**

1. Palestine and Israel Presentation by Linda Taffs and Rev. Keith Simmonds: Sun. June 15/25 at 3:30 pm BUC Sanctuary. Vickeri Cochrane and Eva Manley welcomed and introduced our two guest speakers. The presentations were very informative and unique with both sharing what they saw on the ground during their trips to the area. John Bullas moderated a Q&A period following the presentations. A token of appreciation was gifted to each speaker. The event was well attended and co-hosted by St. Andrew's UC and Brechin.
2. 1300 Island Highway Housing Complex Open House - May 8. This is the first housing complex to open (50 units of temporary housing with supports). This is a BC Housing project with Connective managing the site ([www.connective.ca/services/1300-island-highway/](http://www.connective.ca/services/1300-island-highway/)). The second housing complex at 1030 Old Victoria Road is delayed until open house on June 24. Colleen attended and reported on the open house at 1300 Island Hwy.

**Other Business**

1. Worship Themes – 'Minute for Mission' – there is normally no reading during July and August.
2. Men's Group – Mon. June 30 – Kevin Lindsay of Nanaimo Climate Action Hub will be guest speaker. Hope Lutheran men's group has been invited.

Respectfully submitted by Lynn Burrows, B4A team member & Council rep in John Bullas' absence  
With assistance of Vickeri Cochrane (team chair) and Colleen Crossland (recorder)

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**Pastoral Care Team Report**

Since we have now had our agreed upon trial period for the Residents Gift Bags, we would like to report on the success we've had with the bags being well received. Sue Davis and Susan Ward have done a great job assembling and getting the bags to Tibor for delivery. They have assembled and delivered five bags since December for singles and families totalling 10 people at a total cost to Council of \$49.45. We feel that this is a worthwhile endeavour and would like Council to approve a motion that we continue with this outreach.

Thank you to Mary Boyd and members of the PC team who stepped up in a big way to cover in my absence and after I returned when we had a busy time doing hospital visiting as well as some extra home visits. I cannot express enough appreciation for my devoted team.

Seven of the members of our Pastoral Care Team attended parts or all of the PMR Regions AGM sessions and a number of us also attended the one and one half day workshop before the AGM. While there was nothing specific to Pastoral Care Teams at the workshop, we still felt that we benefitted from learning more about the roles of M&P, Trustees, Stewardship &

Finance teams and Governance. Those of us who attended the AGM thought it was very worthwhile as well, although we were discouraged at times to hear how broken we in the United Church are; it is sad to hear how small many of the other congregations have become. We didn't think we fell into the same category at all and are very thankful for that.

We will be hosting a Memorial Tea for Murray Thomas following his Celebration of Life on June 28<sup>th</sup>; and having our last service at Wexford before the summer break. During the summer we plan to call our lists of people we rarely or don't often see at church, just to check in on them again.

We are considering hosting a Pastoral Care Workshop with a facilitator this fall and inviting other UC congregations in the area to join us. In order to go ahead and plan we need Councils permission to do this and are hoping that you would also consider a suitable honorarium that we could offer. No time frame has been established yet but I would hope it could be a day long event.

Another thought we are considering is asking for hosts to have a coffee/tea gathering in their home for a few of the congregation who live near them, possibly monthly. This might eventually even include others in their neighbourhood who might be interested in becoming part of our congregation.

Although we won't be meeting over the summer, we will still be looking after any Pastoral Care concerns that arise and ask that you let me or team members know of any that you hear about.

Wishing you all a restful summer

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Huffman

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#### Property Team Report

1. Insurance: Brechin's Liability and Contents is covered under the United Church policy and is administered by HUB International. We have a representative to contact at HUB's Vancouver office. Our Building coverage is covered under a policy with the Region's Community Renewal Society. We contribute to the premium based on a percentage of our footprint of the whole building.
2. The Admin office computer has been updated to work with Windows 11. Many thanks to Doug Cochrane for managing this upgrade.
3. The Rental Agreement documents have been revised to help streamline the booking process. Some rates have been adjusted. Any new applications for space will be subject to the revised rates.

4. The Arbutus Room floor has been deep cleaned, and the property team is contemplating a work bee to clean areas that aren't covered by the cleaning contract.
5. A proper cover was purchased to cover the fire alarm by the Birch Room exit and a replacement glass rod was purchased to replace the missing rod broken when the child pulled the alarm panel last year.
6. Gallazin Locksmith's was called to repair the exit handles on the Cedar Room doors. The installed units have short pins that activate the lock and are subject to failure. Replacement units are estimated to cost \$350/unit. There are three exit panels like this in the church. This is probably an expense we can hold off on to see whether the current service on the panels works.
7. With help from Tibor the Salto locks requiring battery replacement and reprogramming were completed last week.
8. The photocopier representative has been contacted to service the copier and to help with providing user passwords for authorized users of the photocopier and to help program the minister's computer to the photocopier.
9. We might need to have a church representative available to oversee the facility use when a major event is booked for the whole church facility.

Respectfully submitted, Keith Allen

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### **Worship Team Report**

- Worship Team met May 27<sup>th</sup> in Rev. Katherine's Office.
- Rev. Katherine will set a date for transfer of memberships sometime during the summer.
- We will consider a monthly afternoon service – maybe about 4:00 PM.
- CCLI License options are being explored.
- Rev Katherine will be away for "Wider Church Responsibilities", "Con. Ed.", and "Vacation".
  - a) June 29 – Grace Skomorowski LLWL
  - b) July 6 – Rev. Debbie Marshall
  - c) July 13 – Lee Mason
  - d) August 3 – Rev. Peggy Jensen
  - e) August 10 – Tim Weger
- We would like to thank Rev. Bert Ramsey, Rev. David Boyd and Rev. Debbie Marshall for their leadership over the last few weeks.

- UCC provides excellent hymn resources. Starting in the fall, a digital resource called “Come Let Us Sing” will be available featuring both old and new hymns.
- Tim suggested that we might encourage people to bring home mementos from services attended during summer travels.
- Clapping after anthems, *while not exactly appropriate*, is understood.
- Val reviewed our reader’s roster.
- Readers for Services will continue to receive scripture information and announcements, however, starting in September, readers will be encouraged to use their preferred version of the scriptures if they so-choose. When Rev. Katherine requires a specific version, she will let the reader know.
- Arrangements were made for counters while Doris is on vacation.
- People were encouraged to watch the anniversary service from Newfoundland on June 8<sup>th</sup>.
- An updated order of service template has been created for Cindy to send to people who are offering pulpit supply. This was done mainly to inform leaders of the change in placement for the announcements.
- We so appreciate the lovely Centennial banner designed and created by Doris Toms.
- Our next meeting will be on August 27, 2025 at 1:30 in the Brechin library.

Respectfully submitted, Grace Skomorowski

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### **Fellowship/ Women’s Retreat Report**

#### Fellowship

Nothing to report, yet.

#### Women’s Retreat

The team has been meeting regularly to prepare for the retreat. A meeting will be held with Reverend Brittain after she gets settled in her new home. Still working with the Provision Fund to get approval. The retreat may not fall in their guidelines. Two fundraisers are being planned “Hot Diggity Dog” hot dog sale which just happened and “Sundaes on a Sunday” in late August.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Wilson

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**BUC – Growth and Visibility Working Group**

**Meeting June 23, 2025**

**Attendance:** Lynn Burrows, Uli Stredulinsky

**Regrets:** Rob Stredulinsky, Jim Boggs, Salome Carey

**Chair:** Lynn Burrows

**Minutes:** Uli Stredulinsky

**Meeting time:** 6.30pm – 7:15pm

- **Approval of Minutes** from previous meeting, May 12, 2025 - **approved**
- **Approval of Agenda:** no additions - **approved**

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
<b>Old Business</b>		
<b>Sandwich Board PARKING Sign</b>	<p>Sandwich board for church parking now purchased and sign in use</p> <p><u>Discussion:</u></p> <p>1. <i>Who is putting sign out and in?</i></p> <p>2. <i>Use of sign by Unity? Has or should Unity be approached and if so who would be the contact?</i></p>	<p>1. <b>Rob</b> Stredulinsky will put sign out and in when present, otherwise? (not suitable for greeter’s duty as sign is somewhat heavy)</p> <p>2. <b>Lynn</b> to inquire at council meeting; add item to “Council Considerations” section</p>
<b>Facia Sign BRECHIN UNITED CHURCH</b>	<p>SignAge facia project still on hold. Waiting for city permit. When received SignAge will install the sign and the balance owing will be paid.</p>	<p><b>Terri</b> is still taking care of this</p>
<b>V&amp;EWG announcement to congregation</b>	<p>Feedback on Announcements re: the Growth and Visioning Working Group, the Cookie Jar fundraiser, and the Return It procedure will occur on Sunday May 18...presented by Salome</p> <p><u>Feedback:</u></p> <p><i>Announcement contained too much information in a short time to be absorbed effectively by listeners</i></p>	<p>Suggestion: Repeat announcements in parts, addressing just one aspect/project at a time.</p> <p>1. <b>Lynn</b> to inquire at council meeting</p>

	<p>Question arose as to whether any \$20 plus bottle/can donation to Return It under the Brechin account qualifies for a tax deduction?</p> <p><i>Discussion:</i></p> <p>1. Need to ask council if tax receipt is possible and what would process involve, ie submission of receipts?</p> <p>2. Print an announcement for the bulletin board re: exact procedure for Return It process and advise congregation re: location of the printed guidelines. - Return It info posted in Friday bulletin from time to time,</p>	<p>and add item to “Council Considerations” section</p> <p>2. <b>Salome</b> will ensure the Return It process is printed and put on the Bulletin Board; <b>Salome</b> will ensure the Return It info is in the Friday Bulletin from time to time.</p>
<p><b>Contact with Arts Community</b></p>	<p>Contact with Lauren Semple of the Arts Community re: the future Brechin north wall mural.</p> <p><i>Feedback:</i> <i>Lauren Semple unable to engage at this time.</i></p>	<p>n/a</p>
<p><b>Grant opportunities</b></p>	<p>Feedback from Jim re possible sources for grant/funding applications. These include: UCC resources, Government Grants (Canada Community Building Fund &amp; BC Community Gaming Grants), Private foundations, Community fundraising and partnerships, and finally, professional grant writing assistance.</p> <p><i>No update at this time</i></p>	<p>ongoing</p>
<p><b>North Wall 25% Signage; and/or Artistic Wall Mural congregation input</b></p>	<p>Possible meeting with congregation to determine if the Brechin congregation would actually like to have a mural and / or sign or alternative on the north wall.</p> <p>Council does not support a public meeting to discuss mural or alternatives at this time. Brechin congregation needs to have a</p>	<p><b>Lynn</b> to inquire at council meeting and add item to “Council Considerations” section</p>

	<p>Conversation about how “we can stand out in the city” and consider many options.</p>	
<p><b>Tree Chipping Fundraising</b></p>	<p>our post Christmas tree chipping will be on the Rona parking lot in South Nanaimo with the tree chipping crew of MJR Tree Services.                  Participants are covered by insurance through Brechin. The plan is to have the tree chipping event as an annual fundraiser and this was approved by council at their May meeting.</p> <p>Dates are: Saturday January 3, 2026 from 9 am to 5 pm and Sunday January 4, 2026 from Noon to 5 pm</p> <p><u>Discussion:</u>  <i>Previous action by Terri: “ Save the Date” tree chipping notices for the Friday bulletin beginning in September, 2025, once or twice each month through December 2025 – need to confirm that someone else should take this on</i></p>	<p><b>Uli</b> to check with Terri that someone else should take on her previous actions</p>
<p><b>Summer Sweets and Bake Sale Fundraising Initiative</b></p>	<p>-Date will be Saturday August 9 at BUC from 11 am - 2 pm.                  Church booked from 9 am to 3 pm.                  - Following the sale, having it as an annual fundraiser will be discussed.</p> <p><u>Discussion:</u>  <i>1. Previously Terri was to take steps to insert “Save the Date” for the event both in the Friday Bulletin and in the PowerPoint announcements on Sundays, twice per month for May, June and July. Has this taken place?                  Announcement has not appeared in Friday bulletin as request was made by Marilyn H. to insert announcements close to an event only, ie July for the Bake Sale</i>  <i>2. Salome will take steps to insert into the Bulletin:                  Calling all bakers and sweet (jams, jellies, preserves) makers; to request as many bakers and sweet makers as possible from BUC, friends and others; Start saving plastic</i></p>	<p>1. <b>Uli</b> to check with Terri that someone else should take on her previous actions.</p> <p>2. <b>Uli</b> to check with <b>Salome</b> re submitting Bake Sale announcement as drafted to Cindy for Friday announcements starting in July</p>

	<p><i>“clamshells” for baking distribution at the sale and bring them to the church</i></p> <p><i>3. Someone who knows how should put ad ahead of the event into the Nanaimo News Bulletin, (Task this to someone) – probable cost involved</i></p> <p><i>4. Someone who knows how should put ad into the Coffee News (2 weeks ahead only) (Task this to someone)</i></p> <p><i>5. Previously Terri will take steps to have a Notice for Bakers and Sweets Makers required; and Notice of the Summer Sweets and Bake Sale inserted into the BUC Facebook page; Brechin Website, ROAR Facebook page for June, July and early August</i></p> <p><i>6. Salome will make printed notices to ask for bakers and sweets makers; and to advertise the Summer Sweets and Bake Sale, that will be handed out at Picnic en Blanc, July 12. – it was deemed somewhat unsuitable at this event but notice would be helpful for Brechin bulletin board and handouts at Sunday services for posting elsewhere</i></p>	<p>3. No ad into Nanaimo Bulletin</p> <p>4. <b>Lynn</b> will research how to place announcement into the Coffee News</p> <p>5. <b>Uli</b> to check with Terri that someone else should take on her previous actions</p> <p>6. <b>Uli</b> to check with <b>Salome</b> re making posters</p>
<b>Other Brainstorming Ideas</b>	<p>1. Arrow pointing to main entrance to add to existing Brechin United Church sign at parking entrance</p> <p>2. Vertical WELCOME sign beside front entrance</p> <p>3. Fish footprints on cement floor leading towards front entrance</p>	<p>Tabled for re-assessment once Facia Sign is installed</p>
<b>New Business</b>		
none		
<b>Next Meeting</b>	<p>July 14, 2025</p> <p>Minute Taker: Lynn Burrows</p> <p>Meeting Chair: Uli Stredulinsky</p>	<p><b>Uli</b> to send Agenda</p>
<b>Council Next Meeting Considerations</b>	<p><b>The Working Group would like council to consider the following recommendations:</b></p> <p><b>1.</b> Re. Use of Parking sign: Has or should Unity be approached about using the Parking sign and if so through whom should contact be made?</p> <p><b>2.</b> Re “Return It” Fundraiser:</p>	

	<p>Question arose as to whether any \$20 plus bottle/can donation to Return It under the Brechin account could qualify for a tax deduction?</p> <p><b>3.</b> Possible date for congregational input to determine if the Brechin congregation would actually like to have a mural or alternative on the north wall.</p>	
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