

2026 02 25 APPROVED Brechin United Church Council Meeting Minutes and Team Reports

Attendance: Darlene Darby (Chair), Rev. Katherine Brittain, Gloria LeGal (past chair) Keith Allen, Mary Boyd (vice-chair), Grace Skomorowski, Susan Ward, Salome Carey, Charlotte Richardson, Maureen Smith, Blaine Wilkins, Linda Wilson, Vickeri Cochrane, Kathy Torhjem, Eileen Carolan (secretary).

Trustees: Kathy Torhjem is representing the trustees.

Welcome and call to order by Darlene Darby at 10:00 am

Devotional: Grace Skonorowski read Micah 6:8 and a critique of the passage from “Fire in the Bones” by Robert Walls

Approval of Agenda as amended. M/S Susan Ward/Keith Allen. Carried.

Adoption of Minutes.

Motion: That minutes of the January 18, 2026 Council meeting and February 12, 2026 Special Meeting of Council by zoom be approved as distributed. **M/S Keith Allen/Grace Skomorowski. Carried.**

Correspondence received –

- none

Correspondence sent

- Card of condolence to Tumbler Ridge Baptist Church

Minister's Report –

Reverend Brittain shared the following:

- 53 people attend the Ash Wednesday Eve service
- 18 attended the Lenten study
- 15-18 are attending the New Members series
- Taize worship will be at Brechin January, February and March (Palm Sunday) of 2027.
- Reverend Brittain will forward information about General Council Cross Country check in which will happen today at 230 pm.

Financial Report – Blaine Wilkins – see attached

- the PMR funds arrived this month, an adjustment to the report will be made so the the income is distributed evenly over 12 months to better reflect the impact.
- The restorative care funds covering Reverend Brittain’s leave in 2025 were received in January 2026. The report will be adjusted to reflect this as income rather than a negative expense.
- Reverend Brittain confirmed that there is reimbursement for pulpit supply when she is away for General Council.

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- An AV fund has been created. Funds from rentals requiring AV support will be used for AV equipment when needed.

Motion: The M&P team recommends to Council that Helene Markmann-Haynes be contracted for up to six hours per month at a rate of \$60 per hour to assist with bookkeeping tasks. **M/S** Kathy Torhjem/Keith Allen. **Carried**

- Transition of tasks from Office Administrator to bookkeeper in progress.
- Bookkeeper is taking care of the credit card and accounts payable now and will add donations, e-transfers, Sunday and sundry deposits etc. as her time allows.
- Charlotte Richardson will keep payroll for the time being.
- The Office Administrator will continue to manage rentals, including accounts receivable for rentals.
- The Treasurer will continue to have responsibility for oversight of all the financial work.

PMR report – Susan Ward, Salome Carey

- Instead of a monthly meeting there are now weekly emails sent out.
- A Lay worship Leader workshop was held by zoom
- Trustee workshop today.

Motion: To accept above reports - **M/S** Linda Wilson/Mary Boyd. **Carried.**

Old Business

1. **AV Budget and Assistants** – see attached
 - Accounting entry has been made.
 - Currently have enough interest to maintain AV assistants as volunteers.
 - May consider offering interested students volunteer work experience/ community service in the future (possibly with an honorarium).
2. **Heritage sign**- see attached
 - City bylaws allow one sign per street.
 - Gloria LeGal will follow up with Don Evans and the City of Nanaimo about sign placement.
 - Tentative plan is to remove letters from the current sign on Brechin Hill and install the heritage sign so both sides are visible to those coming and going.

Motion: The heritage sign replace the current sign outside in the garden on Brechin Hill.
M/S Gloria LeGal/ Salome Carey. **Carried**

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3. **Mailchimp** has been upgraded.
 - Until the Brechin credit card issues are corrected Gloria LeGal will be reimbursed for the monthly Mailchimp charges. (Approx \$20/ month)
 - Mailchimp will now allow 29 congregational emails a month.
 - Reverend Brittain is willing to share her knowledge about the templates and addition of pictures/ posters on Mailchimp with Cindy.
4. **Nanaimo Night Market**
 - Reverend Brittain has been in discussion about sharing a booth with other progressive churches (e.g. St Paul's Anglican, St Phillips Cedar, Unitarian Fellowship etc.)
 - The markets run on Thursday evenings (5- 9 pm) from June 18 until August 27 (11 nights shared between all the churches with 4 people in the booth each night)

Motion: That Brechin United Church participate in the ecumenical table at the Nanaimo night market and contribute up to \$125, from the promotion budget, towards table/ space rental and supplies. **M/S** Charlotte Richardson/ Kathy Torhjem. **Carried**

5. **Pride Parade**
 - Pride parade is on June 14. Several progressive churches would like to walk together in the parade and host a booth. Total cost is \$140 which would be split between the participating churches.
 - There may be an early prayer service or possibly a guest minister to support worship at the regular time – options are being considered.

Motion: That Brechin United Church join other progressive churches to walk in the Pride parade and share a table at the festival and that Council authorize expenditure of up to \$100 for registration and supplies. **M/S** Grace Skomorowski/ Mary Boyd. **Carried.**

6. **2SLGBTQAI+ Flag**
 - replacement with updated flag will be discussed at the next council meeting.
7. **Emergency Plan**
 - Keith has approval from Ecole Oceane to use their parking lot as the emergency muster station for Brechin Church
 - Eileen Carolan will update signage near the exits.

New Business

1. **Reaching out**
 - Reverend Brittain shared information she had received from a representative of Reaching Out about walking in the parade as a ministry of Brechin United Church.
 - Blaine Wilkins clarified his understanding and offered to address concerns with the Reaching Out planning group at their next meeting.
2. **Provision Grant** application for Queer Family Retreat, Naramata.
 - Reverend Brittain asked if Brechin United could hold funds and issue cheques as needed from the grant if Naramata Centre is not able to do this.

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Motion: That Brechin United Church will hold funds and issue cheques as needed for the Queer Family Retreat if Naramata Centre is not able to do this. **M/S** Gloria LeGal/ Grace Skomorowski. **Carried.**

3. **Pre-zoning for Social Housing Project** – Workshop

- The purpose of the project is to accelerate the delivery of social housing by removing the requirements for rezoning.
- Keith Allen and Reverend Brittain will attend the March 5, 2026 workshop put on by the City of Nanaimo

Leadership Team Reports

Ministry and Personnel: Kathy Torhjelms - see attached

Brechin 4 Action: Vickeri Cochrane -See attached.

- \$5000 grant is being returned and the donations that cannot be returned will be put towards a similar project in the future.
- Keith reported that Rob Stredulinsky had a meeting last week about suitability of the roof for solar panels. The quest continues!
- B4A will provide the service on Earth Day April 26.
- Always looking for new members and ready for an infusion of new energy.

Pastoral Care: Maureen Smith – see attached

- The newcomer's event is planned for March 7. 24 newcomers are planning to attend.
- Tim Weger was suggested to share information on the music ministry and Reaching Out. Blaine offered to represent ROAR.
- Maureen asked Council to confirm their plans to attend.

Property: Keith Allen

- Keith donated a lamp for the entrance kiosk.
- Our lock for the parking area at Ecole Oceane has been replaced after vandalism.
- The new photocopier is working well. Photocopier use is not included in rentals.
- The main door continues to be a problem – it is likely due to changes in insulation under the floor.

Worship: Grace Skomorowski - see attached.

- The church has been booked and those coordinating PP/ AV / LL/ Greeters/ Coffee servers have been made aware of needs for Maundy Thursday (April 2, evening – AV and possibly PP) and Good Friday (April 3 – 10 AM joint service, need PP and microphones)
- In future when scheduling PP/ AV/ Greeters. Coffee servers, LL- assume we will have services on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Blue Christmas and Christmas Eve. If it is not our turn to take a joint service those scheduled will have the day off.
- Brechin Bargains Garage sale is scheduled for May 9. Additional help is needed.

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- Discussion of the need for a Communications Team will be added to the agenda for the March Council meeting.
- May 2 is the date that Bruce Harding is providing a workshop on the new music resource "Then Let Us Sing". Churches from Duncan to Parksville have been invited. Bruce will provide music leadership on Sunday May 3 – M and P asked to consider how this will impact Tim Weger.

Stewardship and Finance: see attached.

- There will be a stewardship announcement on the 2nd Sunday of the month promoting the Brechin Wall and a financial update on the 4th month Sunday of the month.
- Fund raiser being explored for the fall– "Brechin's Got Talent!"
- Stewardship and Finance will meet with Shalema Gantt to better understand what the Gospel Choir fundraiser would entail.
- Further discussion is required before purchase of a CCLI music license is considered.

Fellowship: Linda Wilson - see attached

- A hot dog sale is planned for the May 9 Brechin Bargains Garage Sale.
- Womens Retreat is being planned.

Intentional Communication

- Reverend Brittain
 - Share information on General Council Cross Country Check in.
 - Discuss whether or not to purchase CCLI license
 - Follow through on plans for Nanaimo Night Market and Pride Parade with other churches.
 - Participate in City of Nanaimo Social Housing Workshop on March 5.
 - Review need for CCLI music license with Tim Weger.
- Gloria LeGal
 - Check with Don Evans and City of Nanaimo about placement of heritage sign.
- Eileen Carolan
 - Update exit signs with new muster station
- Keith Allen
 - Participate in City of Nanaimo Social Housing Workshop on March 5.
- Kathy Torhjem (M and P)
 - Prepare contract for bookkeeper
 - Consider options for May 2/3 re: Tim Weger duties.
- Blaine Wilkins
 - Meeting with Reaching Out planning group to consider relationship with Brechin United Church.
- Charlotte Richardson (S and F)
 - Discuss Gospel Choir fundraiser with Shalema Gantt.

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Next regular Council Meeting: March 25, 2026.

Devotional: Gloria LeGal

Adjournment of Business Meeting at 12:06 a.m. on a motion by Mary Boyd

Darlene Darby, Chair

Eileen Carolan, Secretary

TEAM REPORTS

Financial Reports

Brechin United Church Balance Sheet As at 01/31/2026

ASSET

Current Assets

Petty Cash	187.11	
CCCU Chequing Bank account	<u>16,178.62</u>	
Total Cash		16,365.73
Investments		198,208.17
GST Receivable	<u>796.63</u>	
Total Receivable		<u>796.63</u>
Total Current Assets		<u>215,370.53</u>

Capital Assets

Office Furniture & Equipment	288,636.00	
Accum. Amort. -Furn. & Equip.	<u>-288,636.00</u>	
Net - Furniture & Equipment		0.00
Church Building	2,098,149.38	
Accum Amortization Bulding	<u>-2,098,149.38</u>	
Net Building		0.00
Property		<u>347,000.00</u>
Total Capital Assets		<u>347,000.00</u>

TOTAL ASSET		<u><u>562,370.53</u></u>
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Brechin4Action Fund	143.16	
Workshops & Events Grants	8,909.52	
Clear Workshops & Events Grants	-150.00	
Women's Friendship Group Fund	1,085.39	
Clear Women's Friendship Group Fund	-97.62	
Nanaimo Community Refugee Fund	95,714.05	
Clear Nanaimo Community Refugee Fnd	<u>-60,289.12</u>	
Total Trust Funds		136,152.31
PMR Support Revenue Suspense		<u>-2,917.00</u>
Total Current liabilities		<u>133,235.31</u>
TOTAL LIABILITY		<u>134,332.66</u>

LIABILITY

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable		<u>1,097.35</u>
Total Current Liabilities		<u>1,097.35</u>

Trust Accounts

Building fund	16,412.90	
The Spiritual Growth Fund	97.45	
Mission & Service	1,263.00	
Clear Mission & Service	-1,263.00	
Loaves & Fishes	310.00	
Clear Loaves & Fishes	-310.00	
Memorial Fund	3,835.73	
The Legacy Fund	63,205.82	
B4A Youth Reconciliation Fund	7,685.03	
Clear B4A Youth Reconciliation Fund	-400.00	

EQUITY

Retained Earnings

Retained Earnings - Previous Year		416,546.31
Current Earnings		<u>11,491.56</u>
Total Retained Earnings		<u>428,037.87</u>

TOTAL EQUITY

428,037.87

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

562,370.53

**Brechin United Church
Comparative Income Statement**

	Actual 01/01/2026 to 01/31/2026	Actual 01/01/2025 to 01/31/2025
REVENUE		
Revenue		
Local Contributions	12,458.63	11,672.99
Open donations	235.90	203.00
Special Events & Fundraising	307.70	0.00
Miscellaneous Revenues	115.00	150.00
Restorative Care Program Revenue	5,637.46	0.00
Unity Church Lease Revenue	2,750.00	0.00
Facility Rentals	4,015.00	747.50
PMR Support Revenue	2,917.00	35,000.00
Investment Income	795.00	0.00
Total Operating Revenue	<u>29,231.69</u>	<u>47,773.49</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>29,231.69</u>	<u>47,773.49</u>
EXPENSE		
Overhead Expenses		
Electricity	639.68	973.98
Equipment Service & Agreements	157.15	1,225.57
Insurance	264.96	260.26
Janitorial Supplies	0.00	125.96
Contract Janitorial Services	0.00	1,148.00
Repair & Maintenance General	0.00	254.63
Telephone & Internet Expense	276.44	138.50
Shared Building Expense	841.62	0.00
Kitchen Supplies	0.00	238.80
Total Overhead Expense	<u>2,179.85</u>	<u>4,365.70</u>
Payroll Expenses		
Wages & Salaries	10,383.08	5,925.81
Contracted Music Services	1,650.00	1,525.00
Employee Benefits	2,691.15	603.83
Total Payroll Expense	<u>14,724.23</u>	<u>8,054.64</u>

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General & Administrative Expenses

Website Expense	26.66	0.00
Office Supplies	306.17	56.82
Bank Charges	0.00	10.00
Pastoral Care Team Exp	0.00	28.18
Miscellaneous Expense	525.19	237.58
Brechin4Action Committee Expense	0.00	100.00
Bookkeeping and Payroll Expenses	-21.97	164.36
Total General & Administrative	<u>836.05</u>	<u>596.94</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>17,740.13</u>	<u>13,017.28</u>
NET INCOME	<u>11,491.56</u>	<u>34,756.21</u>

**Brechin United Church
Income Statement 01/01/2026 to 01/31/2026**

REVENUE

Revenue

Local Contributions	12,458.63
Open donations	235.90
Special Events & Fundraising	307.70
Miscellaneous Revenues	115.00
Unity Church Lease Revenue	2,750.00
Facility Rentals	4,015.00
Investment Income	795.00
Total Operating Revenue	<u>20,677.23</u>

TOTAL REVENUE

20,677.23

EXPENSE

Overhead Expenses

Electricity	639.68
Equipment Service & Agreements	157.15
Insurance	264.96
Telephone & Internet Expense	276.44
Shared Building Expense	841.62
Total Overhead Expense	<u>2,179.85</u>

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Payroll Expenses

Wages & Salaries	10,383.08
Contracted Music Services	1,650.00
Restorative Care Program Expenses	-5,637.46
Employee Benefits	2,691.15
Total Payroll Expense	<u>9,086.77</u>

General & Administrative Expenses

Website Expense	26.66
Office Supplies	306.17
Miscellaneous Expense	525.19
Bookkeeping and Payroll Expenses	-21.97
Total General & Administrative	<u>836.05</u>

TOTAL EXPENSE 12,102.67

NET INCOME 8,574.56

Stewardship and Finance – next page

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Meeting of February 18, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.

Present: Charlotte Richardson, Salome Carey, Blaine Wilkins, Katherine Brittain

Apologies: Bruce Wilson

The meeting opened with a short meditation from Salome

- Old Business:

Friends of Brechin Wall: Discussion on how to periodically report on the memorial wall. Suggested by Katherine that we present a short report, similar to “Minute for Mission” where we give information – how to arrange, expected donation, etc. Invite someone who has purchased a leaf share why they promoted that person.

Queer Family Retreat: Katherine still needs a bank to accept grant money and pay out expenses for the 3 week program. Blaine suggested this would be similar to other Brechin supported initiatives

ACTION: Katherine will take her request to Council.

Donations: Discussion on how to proceed with preparing data comparing donations to church attendance.

ACTION: Charlotte will ask Val for attendance numbers and access donations amount from the accounting program to prepare a spreadsheet.

- Finance:

Financial statements are not yet ready for January 2026

Division of Duties: Helen (accountant) has been approved to work 6 hours / month at \$60 per hour. Blaine, Cindy and Helen are consulting on how the work will be apportioned. Charlotte will take on other work that is required.

ACTION: Blaine and Charlotte to meet Friday 20th Feb at 3:00 p.m. to discuss.

AGM: Blaine will speak to the Treasurer Report.

- Minister:

Nanaimo Night Market: 5 churches would share a table for the night market in downtown Nanaimo– 11 dates. This would require the church to have representative(s) there for Brechin’s dates. Cost for a table is \$500 - \$100 for Brechin’s share.

ACTION: That Katherine should proceed with organizing this. Charlotte agreed to cover the cost by donation if required.

Worship Fundraiser: Katherine shared the details of the numbered envelope fundraiser.

- Other Business:

Fundraising, Donating, Bequests: Discussion on how to increase awareness, and give financial updates on a periodic basis.

ACTION: Per Katherine - Someone from S & F give a short informational report monthly relating to financial position (4th Sunday) and of memorial wall (2nd Sunday)

ACTION: Fundraising – Charlotte will start discussion about a possible “Brechin’s Got Talent” fundraiser to be planned perhaps in Autumn.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 with prayer.

Charlotte Richardson Stewardship & Finance Team

Ministry and Personnel

M&P team members had a busy month meeting with our minister, office administrator and music director.

Members of our congregation continued to express praise for Rev Katherine's messages during Sunday services. Her "Lament and Hope" vesper service on January 22 as well as her conversation with members on January 28 at "Brechin on Tap" were well received.

This month has been a busy one for our minister with Lent activities including Shrove Tuesday & Ash Wednesday, a "Lenten Study & Spiritual Practices," and "United Church 101", three sessions for interested members and for those who are planning to become Brechin members.

We are blessed to have Tim as our music director. His enthusiasm and the work he accomplishes with the choir are a highlight every Sunday. A special thanks to this group for the two anthems sung this month, namely "Since I Laid my Burdens Down" and "The Lighthouse." Tim regularly invites others to play before the service begins. Thanks to Joel Beaupre and Garth Whittcome for their talents on the guitar and electric accordion and to Richard Freed, John Bullas and choir members for their accompaniment during a service.

Hats off to Cindy Gillespie, Blaine Wilkins, Charlotte Richardson and Helene who will continue to meet for the next few weeks to discuss Brechin's financial responsibilities and special thanks to Cindy for her patience as we work to have the financial management of Brechin become more efficient.

Lastly, the team recognizes the struggle many are having during these stressful times so to you... **"Be the reason someone smiles. Be the reason someone feels loved and believes in the goodness in people."** (Roy Bennett)

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Torhjelm

Brechin 4 Action

Truth and Reconciliation

- a. Youth Reconciliation Mixed-Media Collaboration Event

With the event cancelled by the school in January, we agreed that it would be prudent to reach out once more to the staff at John Barsby school and request an opportunity to meet regarding their decision.

Our hope is that an in-person discussion might help us gain a better understanding as to what changed and caused the cancellation. Feedback from the school could help us plan future events/programs.

We are awaiting further feedback from the UC Vision Fund to determine how to proceed with the \$5K grant monies. Vickeri emailed the Vision Fund with our update and questions and received confirmation on Feb 18th that the funds can be returned.

One outstanding question is that of the art supplies purchased from these funds. We will propose donating the supplies to a school such as the Vision fund would support.

Note: Donations made through the Canada Helps portal will need to be addressed. (These funds cannot be returned to donors as income tax receipts have already been issued for the 2025 taxation year.) Once we determine a different project for which to use the donated funds, we can share this information with the donors.

Vickeri –to make a brief announcement at AGM on Sun. Feb. 22/26 re: the cancellation of the Youth Reconciliation Collab, the correspondence with the Vision Fund, and the pending decisions regarding the donated funds. This is necessary because our report for the AGM does not reflect the cancellation of the project.

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Lynn drafting a letter to John Barsby staff requesting a meeting.

Winnipeg Foundation Cheque for \$400 has been printed for return.

b. Workshops with Kathi Camilleri - Lynn, Marg & Colleen hosted Kathi Camilleri for lunch on Wed. Jan. 28 at Marg's home. It was a lovely, heartwarming time of fellowship, We discussed the possibility of presenting another round of Bridge to the Village and Paddling Together Workshops and what/when that might be ideal to do. She feels it is important to celebrate our reconciliation journey so far.

Note: A decision about future workshops with Kathi has not been determined yet.

Social Justice

Gaza/Israel – Diane and John collaborated on an announcement and Diane delivered this message on Sun. Jan. 18.

Climate Change/Climate Action

a. Climate Action Plan (CAP) for Brechin – Subgroup met recently.

Solar Panel Project update: John shared that there is still no change and that the Solar Panel Working Group is still looking for alternative funding.

b. World Water Day – Held on March 22 every year, so this year it will be celebrated on Sunday, March 22. This year's theme is Water and Gender. Colleen has submitted one possible video for inclusion in that service.

c. Earth Day – Held on April 22 every year so this year Brechin will celebrate on Sunday, April 26. This year's theme is "Our Power, Our Planet".

ACTION ITEM:

B4A will contribute to the service.

d. Food Forests Presentation and Local Food Security –

Shelley is investigating the possibility of a presentation by Jasmine on this topic, which we would make available to the wider community.

e. 100 Mile Diet Potluck – Perhaps an event in March or April. Shelley is doing some investigating and follow-up from the November potluck with our Unitarian friends.

f. Invitation to Vegetarian Dinner at FUFON (First Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo)
Shelley by way of email: FUFON proposes this evening to take place in May (date tba).

g. Compassion Evening (FUFON proposal)

John gave a short overview, and in addition...see the following...

Shelley by way of email: Nina Rastogi from FUFON Environmental Committee suggested having a relaxed informal evening of compassion highlighting the topics of a) What is compassion? and b) What is environmental justice and why is it important?

Discuss at B4A meeting whether the Brechin congregation would be interested .

Other Business and New Business

a. Annual Report for Brechin AGM – AGM is Sun. Feb 22/2026

b. Blanket exercise, under consideration but it seems resources for this particular exercise are scant.

c. Minute for Mission

Sun. Feb. 15/26 – Diane (Lynn backup)

Sun. Mar. 15/26 – Marg

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d. Increasing Membership of B 4 ACTION and the B4A Brochure The new brochure is on our bulletin board!

e. B4A Bulletin Board
“Carpooling and GHG Reductions”

The sign-up sheet has been rewritten for clarity. This will be posted in the near future. Shelley to write and present (along with Colleen) a skit on first Sunday in March clarifying the carpooling and ride sharing intent.

Submitted by Vickeri Cochrane

Pastoral Care

We welcomed Diane Thomas to our team and, at the end of the meeting reluctantly said goodbye to Linda Braid and Mary Boyd who we will miss on our team. Linda will continue to keep the coffee roster going and we thank her for that. We are grateful to the many faithful volunteers who come early and stay late so we can enjoy refreshments and fellowship time.

Mary reported that the Prayer Circle as we knew it over the past few years has now disbanded and there are ongoing talks about who might lead a new one and what format that might take. A member of the congregation is exploring the possibility of leading the group.

Our Newcomers Event is scheduled for March 7 from 1:30-3:30pm; there are twenty plus newcomers on the list as of the beginning of February so could be more by March. A reminder, all Council Members are invited and please let either Maureen or myself know before February 25 if you plan to attend.

It has been my honour, to have served as Team Leader of Pastoral Care over the past five years and I have enjoyed a tremendous amount of support from a great and caring team and I am confident that Maureen will be a great Team Leader and that everyone will show her the same support I enjoyed. I look forward to remaining on the team and working with Maureen.

It has also been a privilege to have served on Council over those five years and I will miss you all but am looking forward to more free time. I wish you all much success as you guide Brechin through the next number of years.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Huffman

Property

1. Two Multi Purpose Dual Position chair movers are on order from ComforTek the original supplier of our chairs. Delivery is expected in early March.
2. The vandalized eyelet on the school parking lot post was replaced and a keyed padlock was installed to replace the combination lock. The combination lock will be used again later in the spring and summer. It does not function well in colder weather conditions. Keys have been made available for frequent parking lot users.
3. A table lamp has been donated for the reception area work space as the overhead lights cycle on and off when there is not enough movement to trigger the light sensors.
4. Attempts have been made to adjust the main foyer door to keep it from scraping the floor tiles and remaining open. The adjustments have been moderately successful.

Worship

- Worship Team met February 4, 2026 in the Arbutus Room.

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- Rev. Katherine requested that Brechin be in the rotation for hosting monthly Taize services. This will happen in January 2027.
 - We discussed the Pet Café idea. Trained individuals bring trained comfort dogs for a social time. The community would be invited, tea and coffee served. No date confirmed.
 - Lenten Studies are in progress, Thursday 10:00 to 11:00.
 - Tim is pleased to have Joel and Garth providing pre-music. The choir's anthems have gone well.
 - Brechin will host Good Friday Service this year; the choir is working on special music.
 - At some point Tim will book a much-deserved week off. Coverage is being worked on.
 - Majority positive feedback for the new seating configuration. We requested that the Property Team investigate and purchase some more chair dollies out of the Building Fund.
 - Good discussion of our current communion elements and way of serving. Number of grapes needed and size of muffin cups will be considered. There will be something on which to set Tim's communion elements rather than directly on the piano. Peggy is editing the guidelines.
 - Leader workshop was debriefed and information shared regarding new members on the roster beginning in May.
 - We had a lengthy discussion regarding the need for a Communications Team to:
 - a) Look after advertising
 - b) Look after the bulletin board
 - c) Look after the Friday Announcements
 - As we are sure there are people in the congregation that do not have access to a computer, Rev. Katherine will ask Cindy to make several copies of the Friday Announcements that people can pick up at the greeter's table.
 - The Baptism and Wedding brochures need to be updated Rev. Katherine has been provided with current versions and will consider changes. Our mission statement and core values need to be added.
 - Bruce Harding has been booked to come and introduce songs from "Then Let Us Sing". There will be a workshop, May 2nd and Bruce will provide music for the service on May 3rd. Rev. Katherine has already invited other United Churches in the area to participate and contribute to the cost of \$1000.00 plus travel and expenses.
 - Fundraiser Brechin Bargains Garage Sale will be organized by members of the Worship Team and friends and will be held on May 9th.
 - An additional idea was suggested by Rev. Katherine. Val will source reusable envelopes and Linda W. will create a small insert for those requesting tax receipts. The hope is to have the donation envelopes out on March Sundays and ask to have them brought back on Palm Sunday.
- Respectfully Submitted, Grace Skomorowski

Fellowship

Fellowship

We had a great Valentines Celebration after church Feb 15. All the baking was well received. Thank you to all the bakers. Future plans in the works.

Women's Retreat

We've had a couple of meetings. Planning is going well.

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Respectfully submitted Linda Wilson

REPORT TO COUNCIL

1. AV Budget and Assistants

I had a meeting with Matt Haapala and Mary Boyd about their requirements for the AV operations. Justine Etkorn has been trained to live stream services on Sunday. Rob Stredulinsky has started training and will likely continue in March. Two others are interested but may find the scheduling difficult as they are also involved in other aspects of our Sunday service. The intent is to have a trained team that will take turns setting up for and live streaming services on Sunday mornings. There are also a number of special services, community events and other AV needs that happen during the week and on weekends. We will still require other volunteers down the road.

Long Term Goals

1. Establish a Training Team to recommend replacement of equipment and purchase of new equipment. This Team could set up the network (if needed).
2. An annual budget for purchase of replacement equipment, etc. should it be required. Currently they are taking requests to Council or Finance and not always able to operate in a timely manner.
3. Eventually a dedicated person hired part-time to run the AV Program. A Network Administrator fee is roughly \$100 per hour.

Hiring Students to assist with Sunday service

1. Currently there are sufficient volunteers to run the basic Sunday program with Matt, Mary or Justine doing the main functions for YouTube, etc.
2. The job includes set of mics, etc. meaning they must be there by 9:00 a.m. at the latest and, depending on the length of the service, would be finished 11:15/11:30.
3. A fee of \$20 per Sunday was discussed (flat pay, if more than 1 attends, they would share the payment). Given the hours expected, a single person or team may feel they are not properly compensated.
4. Hiring a student would not necessarily be an advantage to us. Rather it might be us doing a community service by giving them experience they can then use for school credits.
5. Any training for students will need to be done after Rob S. is fully trained (possibly April or May).

2. Heritage Brechin Sign

We now have this very wonderful sign and the question of where it can be set up. When Terri Donaldson was dealing with the City regarding our sign on the Estevan side of our building, there were comments made by staff that we have too many signs. Based on what Terri has told me, I don't believe they will be overly receptive to placing another sign without removing one.



The Brechin sign is 8' length x 2'3" height.



The current sign on Brechin Road is 10' length x 4'5" height x 5" depth.

My suggestion follows:

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1. Ask the Brechin Properties (working through Don Evans) for permission to remove the current sign on Brechin Road. This will cost for the work as it has a solid concrete base under it.
2. When we get approval, apply to the City for our permit.



3. When we get approval, we can proceed with removing the sign and installing the Heritage Sign. This picture is the frontage garden and all plants appear to be low growth. This area is 12' deep and may accommodate the Heritage Sign being placed vertical to the road so the lettering can be seen from both directions on the road.

I look forward to discussion and other ideas.

3. MailChimp

The MailChimp account has been upgraded. There was some difficulty with using our new credit card so it has been paid by me and I will maintain monthly payments until our credit card issues are resolved. Respectfully submitted, Gloria Le Gal