

2026 04 29 APPROVED Brechin United Church Council Meeting Minutes and Team Reports

Attendance: Darlene Darby (Chair), Rev. Katherine Brittain, Lynne Burrows, Gloria Le Gal (past chair) Keith Allen, Mary Boyd (vice-chair), Grace Skomorowski, Maureen Smith, Blaine Wilkins, Susan Ward, Linda Wilson, Vickeri Cochrane, Eileen Carolan (secretary), Rob Russell

Regrets: Charlotte Richardson, Kathy Torhjelm, Salome Carey,

Trustees: Rob Russell is representing the trustees.

Welcome and call to order by Darlene Darby at 10:01 am

Devotional: Darlene Darby, read Galatians 6: 1-10 (The Message) and Laura Sweet April 24, 2026 (<https://www.woh.org/2weary-of-doing-good/>)

Approval of Agenda as amended. M/S Mary Boyd/Rob Russell. Carried.

Adoption of Minutes.

Motion: That minutes of the February 12, 2026 Special Council meeting be approved as circulated. **M/S Mary Boyd/Linda Wilson. Carried.**

Motion: That minutes of the March 25, Council meeting be approved as circulated.

M/S Gloria Le Gal/Grace Skomorowski. Carried

Correspondence received:

- Val Neilson-Don Evan's request for Board Members-see attached
- Vickeri Cochrane-Proposed Letter to Premier Eby re threat to DRIPA-see attached.
- Bonnie Haapala-Visibility project re baseball caps with Brechin Logo-see attached
- Sarah Haynes- Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society open House invitation.

Correspondence sent:

- Darlene responded to Isabella Medes-Community Contact List

Minister's Report – Reverend Brittain - see attached

- Pride Parade application is pending.
- Pride Festival application is approved.
- Church Service Pride Sunday will be at 9 AM to allow everyone to participate in Pride if they want to.

Financial Report – Treasurer Notes for Council

1: A REASON FOR OPTIMISM: Review of Financial Statements using Comparative Statement.

- Revenues: Local Contributions are up for the first 3 months - \$8,800 increase over last year. \$5K from the Envelope Fundraiser. The other \$3,600 from increase in PAR, Open Donations. Monthly PAR is now only \$230 shy of \$10K.
- Expenses: Up roughly \$8K over last year. Most of difference attributable to increase in Payroll Expense.

Note re Pulpit supply figure \$14. Combination of reimbursement from UCC for an event in 2025 of \$247 and the amount paid out for pulpit supply in March of \$261 which is the new rate.

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- Updated Account list for Team Leads use (Hand out)- with thanks to Cindy for work on this document.
- Decision to put BC Hydro and Rogers/Shaw on auto-debit. Get Letters of Direction signed
- Update on ROAR. Achievement of Charity Status. Disposition of Nanaimo Community Refugee Fund ROAR #8- UCC is the Sponsorship Agreement Holder for this sponsorship.
- Blaine us away May 5 - 25. Blaine has been coming in to work with Helen for the past couple of months and will work with her this Monday morning May 4 before he leaves. During Blaines absence, Charlotte is planning to update the worksheets. Charlotte is the only other person who has access to our Coastal Community Credit Union accounts. Cindy, Helen and Charlotte will take on the April month end bookkeeping. When Blaine returns, he will work with them on May month end and will complete our Charity Tax Return for 2025. Baline is willing to provide oversight for the processing of the June month end bookkeeping. At that point the job will turn over to the new Treasurer.

PMR report – see attached

Susan Ward will attend the PMR AGM in Kamloops and requests that her accommodations be covered by Brechin (2 nights = \$428 total).

Motion: To accept above reports - **M/S** Mary Boyd/ Kathy Torhjelm. **Carried.**

Old Business:

1. **Bookkeeper progress report:** Refer to financial report. Helene is a gem and working out well. There remain about 1.5 hours to add duties. M and P to organize a meeting with Cindy and Helene to determine what additional tasks are reasonable to add.
2. **Heritage sign**
 - Tabled until next meeting.
 - Gloria Le Gal will meet with Don Evans and Gran Lawson on May 20 to discuss placement options.
3. **Pride Banner and 7' Tear drop sign**
 - Council would like to thank Gloria Le Gal, Mary Boyd and Angela Donaldson for the design work on the banner and tear drop signs. Total cost is \$741.72 which includes production of Vector files which we will own for future use. The signs will be here in time for the Pride Parade.
 - Gloria Le Gal will order the tabletop flags online.
 - Use of some of the remaining funds was approved to cover professional business cards with directions for access to life streamed services. Reverend Brittain and Gloria Le Gal will work on this.

4. Nanaimo Night Market

- High on wait list for application to be accepted.

5. Updated Pride Flag for Sanctuary

Motion that Brechin purchase an updated Pride Flag for the Sanctuary. **M/S** Mary Boyd/Keith Allen. **Carried.**

- Mary will consult Reverend Brittain on which flag to purchase.
- If you wondered about what the colours mean and how the flag has evolved Mary Boyd recommended this link. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/pride-season/pride-flag.html> It was agreed that some of this information should be included in the announcements when the new flag arrives

6. Gospel Choir fundraiser

- Charlotte Richardson will follow up with Shalema Gantt as soon as she is able.

7. Towards 2025 Workshop Feedback

- It was positive and shifted the lament for the past (declining membership) to hope for the future and leaning into our strengths (radically inclusive, multicultural, social justice oriented and thriving).
- Where do we want Brechin to be in 10 years? Reverend Brittain would like to offer a workshop for council on this topic.

8. Dishwasher status – see Property Team Report

9. Phone List Policy

- The phone list will only be available in printed format. The list will not be emailed to anyone.
- Only the following people will be offered a copy of the phone list.
Reverend Brittain
Council Chairperson
Council Vice-Chairperson
Council Secretary
Team Leaders (i.e. who sit on Council)
Members of the Pastoral Care Team.
Special list with envelope numbers provided to “offering counters”.
- Darlene Darby will make an announcement to explain that due to updated privacy legislation the phone/ email/ address list will not be shared outside of the Minister, Council and Pastoral Care Team members.

New Business

1. **Nanaimo Infusion** – thank you to volunteers who attended to promote Brechin.

2. **Use of Visibility Fund to order baseball caps**

Motion: Moved that Darlene Darby ask Bonnie Haapala to proceed with having one cap made and use it to advertise the caps that will be available on a prepaid order basis. **M/S** Gloria Le Gal/ Grace Skomorowski. **Carried**

3. **B4A Letter re DRIPA**

Motion: Moved that Brechin Council send the letter with a revision of the bullet points to be questions and that the letter be sent directly to those who had been copied on the original draft. **M/S** Grace Skomorowski/ Mary Boyd. **Carried.**

4. **Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society Open House May 13**

- This is a drop in event but Please RSVP at community@cvims.org.
- Mary Boyd, Gloria Le Gal and Eileen Carolan plan to attend.

5. **Accommodation costs for PMR AGM in Kamloops**

- Billets have not been offered
- Funds may be available from the PMR Team allocation – Blaine Wilkins will confirm.
- This expense will be included in future budgets.

Motion: Moved that Brechin will pay accommodation costs for Susan Ward (2 nights) and Reverend Brittain (3 nights) to attend the PMR AGM in Kamloops. **M/S** Eileen Carolan / Mary Boyd. **Carried.**

6. **Don Evans/ First Services meeting May 20**

- Keith Allen, Gloria Le Gal, Reverend Brittain, and Darlene Darby will attend the meeting with Grant Lawson and Don Evans.
- Darlene Darby will propose a starting time of 10:30.
- Meeting to be held Reverend Brittain's office.

7. **Posters**

- Posters are only to be placed on the bulletin board and in the plastic sleeves on the front and side entrance doors.
- Posters should not be taped to windows, walls or doors. If they are they will be removed.

8. **Treasurer and PMR Property Development Council vacancy**

- Darlene Darby will make an announcement that we need to fill the Treasurer's position urgently and that members for the PMR Property Development Team are needed.

9. **Colour Photocopies**

- Reverend Brittain will remind Cindy Gillespie to print in black and white unless colour is required.

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- A sign will be placed on the photocopy machine to remind people to print in colour only when necessary

Leadership Team Reports

Ministry and Personnel: Kathy Torhjem - see attached

Brechin 4 Action: Vickeri Cochrane -See attached.

- More on the Fossil Fuel Non-proliferation Treaty (not a treaty yet) in June

Pastoral Care: Maureen Smith – see attached

- Property Team members are available to do set up for events
- Best to announce the need for volunteers as need arises
- Pastoral Care will try to connect people wanting rides to church to drivers
- Maureen Smith will make an announcement that drivers are needed.
- There are reserved parking signs available – stored in the cupboard across from Reverend Brittain's office

Property: Keith Allen

- Bob Cook was able to fix the dishwasher, purchase of new dishwasher not required

Worship: Grace Skomoroski - see attached.

- Darlene Darby will be at the church on May 2 at 8:30 to open the building for TLUS workshop
- Darlene Darby, Gloria Le Gal, Linda Wilson and Eileen Carolan will bring muffins for TLUS coffee time.

Stewardship and Finance: see attached.

- Friends of Brechin Wall is not a memorial wall.

Fellowship: Linda Wilson - see attached

- Barb Currie is joining the Team
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Motion to accept the reports **M/S** Keith Allen/ Susan Ward. **Carried**

Intentional Communication

- **Darlene Darby**
- Make an announcement to explain who has access to the phone list
- Make an announcement to recruit a Treasurer and share PMR Property Development Team opening.
- Open church at 8:30 May 2 for TLUS
- bring muffins for TLUS coffee time.
- Attend May 20 meeting with PMR and First Services
- **Reverend Brittain**
- Work with Gloria Le Gal to design and order business cards.
- Discuss colour photocopies with Cindy Gillespie

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- **Gloria Le Gal**
 - Ask Doug Cochrane to notify Unity that Pride Sunday service will be shorter than usual if they want to use extra time.
 - Order tabletop signs
 - RSVP to attend Multicultural Society Open House May 13. community@cvims.org.
 - Work with Reverend Brittain to place order for business cards
 - bring muffins for TLUS coffee time.
 - Attend meeting May 20 with PMR and First services
- **Mary Boyd**
 - With Reverend Brittain select and order updated Pride Flag.
 - RSVP to attend Multicultural Society Open House- May 13. community@cvims.org.
- **Eileen Carolan**
 - Set up meeting with Cindy and Helene to determine additional duties.
 - RSVP to attend Multicultural Society Open House May 13. community@cvims.org.
 - bring muffins for TLUS coffee time.
- **Linda Wilson**
 - bring muffins for TLUS coffee time.
- **Keith Allen**
 - Attend meeting May 20 with PMR and First services
- **Blaine Wilkins**
 - Confirm which account funds for PMR AGM accommodations

Next regular Council Meeting: **May 27, 2026.**

Devotional: Gloria Le Gal

Closing Prayer by Reverend Brittain.

Adjournment of Business Meeting at 12:10 a.m. on a motion by Keith Allen.

Darlene Darby, Chair

Eileen Carolan, Secretary

April 29, 2026 Team reports

Ministers Report

Holy Week and Easter

We had a great turn out and very positive response to our Holy Week and Easter services. This was our second year having a Maundy Thursday Dinner Church service and I think we had 75 people attend. We hosted the joint Good Friday service, and there was a great turn out from Brechin, as well as Trinity, St. Andrew's and Cedar United Churches. Easter Sunday saw an 8am service at Departure Bay beach, and a good turnout for the 10am communion service. *The Tell Me Something Good* series was very well

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received, both the weekly worship themes and the weekly gathering around Spiritual Practices and working through the Devotional resources – which had the best turn out when our practice was centre on sharing food together.

Pride

We were successful in getting a spot at the festival. There was a little confusion because while we paid for the spot, the application was under St. Philip Cedar's name, but that has been sorted out now. We are still waiting to hear about having a spot in the parade.

Then Let Us Sing Workshop and Worship

This is coming up quickly! I have heard that 10 folks from St. Geroge's in Courtney are planning to attend. We have received \$200 from St. Andrew's United Church to help cover costs and have a commitment for the same from Trinity United – but I do not know if it has arrived yet.

New Members Sunday

On Pentecost Sunday, May 24th, we will have a new members Sunday. This is for folks who want to join our congregation either as new members to the United Church of Canada, who have participated in either sessions I or previous ministers have led, and acknowledge and celebrate those who have joined us by transferring their membership from other United Churches. I am holding a final orientation session on April 30th for folks who are interested.

Affirming visitors

We will be getting a visit from a couple, Linda and Felicity, from Christ First United Church in Mississauga. This couple is on a pilgrimage to visit Affirming churches across the country. From the introduction email from their minister: "Inspired in part by our congregation's October 2025 celebration and official designation as an Affirming community of faith, Linda and Felicity have researched to find seven Affirming congregations along their route and back again. They've asked me to make some advance contact with you as a colleague at one of their proposed stops. If the timing works, it would be wonderful if you and/or others of your leadership and congregation could plan to meet with our travellers - maybe for coffee and tea, maybe after Sunday worship, as the itinerary lands.

Their goal, of course, is to meet others in The United Church family, but especially to reflect a bit and learn from other Affirming leaders. Christ First is very new in this formal identity and we will all benefit from Linda and Felicity's time as ambassadors. I think one of the most beautiful parts of their plan is its title: "From Fresh Water to Salt Water to Rainbow Water: An Affirming Pilgrimage". As they said in their initial outline to me, "By the time we return, we hope to have a small collection of words and images from coast to coast — something that could come alive on Pride Sunday as a visible, joyful map of just how wide and deep this family is".

National Indigenous Day

June 21st is a Sunday this year, and Brechin 4 Action have reached out to elder Dave Bodaly to be a special guest leader that Sunday. They have had an initial meeting with him, and I will meet with him myself when he's back from a trip. I am really pleased he's available and grateful to B4A for getting the ball rolling on this.

Wider Church

On April 15th, 10 folks from Brechin attended an afternoon workshop, led by Pacific Mountain Region Executive minister Treena Duncan and Regional Minister Kathy Davis, about the General Council

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Strategic Direction **Toward 2035**. This initiative has taken the data provided from our annual statistical forms, as well as census data, to examine population and giving trends that impact the United Church of Canada – and to make decisions about what we want our denomination to look like in 2035. Kathy Davis has distilled the information down to and even more local level, which was very interesting. I want to lead a session on this information in the near future.

I was in Toronto, in early April, to attend an in-person meeting of **General Council Nominations** committee. In February, General Secretary Rev Michael Blair announced his intention to retire at the end of 2026, so there will be a special on-line meeting of this committee on May 7th to choose the Selection Committee to choose the next General Secretary. As a member of the **General Council Executive**, I have two-day Zoom meetings throughout the year. The next one is May 8th and 9th.

Nanaimo Night Market

I have not heard if we were successful in getting a spot at this event

Dates – what's coming up on Sundays at Brechin

May 3rd Bruce Harding guest leader for Then Let Us Sing

May 10th

May 17th May long weekend, **Rev K away**

May 24th Pentecost – New Member Sunday,

May 31st PAR-tea with Stewardship and Finance

June 7th PMRC annual meeting – **Rev K away** (resources often provide for lay leadership)

June 14th Nanaimo Pride festival

June 21st National Indigenous Day – B4A have invited elder Dave Bodaly to lead

June 28th **Rev K away**

PMR

I have registered and booked the hotel for the upcoming Pacific Mountain Region AGM on June 5th to 7th in Kamloops. Salome also hopes to join me.

I was away at the time of the Toward 2035 Conversations session in Parksville, so I don't have anything to report on that. I believe Salome attended and may be able to give some information about it, when she is able.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Ward

Stewardship and Finance

Meeting of April 15, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.

Present: Charlotte Richardson, Salome Carey

Apologies: Katherine Brittain

Note: It was agreed at the March 2026 meeting that the April meeting would be scheduled for the 4th Wednesday, April being a 5 Wednesday month. OOPS!

Charlotte opened the meeting with prayer; she and Salome having decided that they would have a casual "discussion" type meeting.

Friends of Brechin Wall: On April 12th, Salome kindly presented the first "Moment for FOB Wall" in the "Business of the church" part of the service. Apologies for calling it a Memorial wall. Suggested we refer to it as Memorial / Donor wall? Tribute?

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Contact person to be changed to Stewardship and Finance / Charlotte Richardson: **ACTION:** Charlotte to notify office

Next presentation: May 10th? Charlotte to speak on family leaf(s)

Measuring Donations against attendance: Draft spreadsheet corrected, but still to confirm attendance numbers with Val Neilson.

PAR-ty: Plan to have tea and scones after church on May 31st with resource folk to help people register for donating by PAR, with promos for the 3 preceding Sundays. **ACTION:** prepare 3 short, snappy messages to promote.

Adjourned – Charlotte promising to be aware of future meeting date changes.

Next meeting: May 20, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Charlotte Richardson, Stewardship & Finance

Brechin United Church Balance Sheet As at 03/31/2026

ASSET

Current Assets

Cash to be deposited	78.00	
Petty Cash	187.11	
CCCU Chequing Bank account	29,787.04	
Total Cash		30,052.15
Investments		227,770.67
GST Receivable	229.46	
Total Receivable		229.46
Total Current Assets		258,052.28

Capital Assets

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

TOTAL ASSET		605,052.28
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LIABILITY

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	3,225.31
Total Current Liabilities	<u>3,225.31</u>

Trust Accounts

Building fund	16,466.90	
Clear Building fund	-694.65	
The Spiritual Growth Fund	97.45	
Mission & Service	3,999.00	
Clear Mission & Service	-3,999.00	
Loaves & Fishes	880.00	
Clear Loaves & Fishes	-880.00	
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	
Brechin4Action Fund	143.16	
Workshops & Events Grants	8,909.52	
Clear Workshops & Events Grants	-170.95	
Women's Friendship Group Fund	1,085.39	
Clear Women's Friendship Group Fund	-347.62	
Nanaimo Community Refugee Fund	103,948.41	
Clear Nanaimo Community Refugee Fnd	<u>-61,834.62</u>	
Total Trust Funds		141,929.57
PMR Support Revenue Suspense		<u>26,249.00</u>
Total Current liabilities		<u>168,178.57</u>

TOTAL LIABILITY 171,403.88

EQUITY

Retained Earnings

Retained Earnings - Previous Year	416,546.31
Current Earnings	<u>17,102.09</u>
Total Retained Earnings	<u>433,648.40</u>

TOTAL EQUITY 433,648.40

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY 605,052.28

Brechin United Church Comparative Income Statement

	Actual 01/01/2026 to 03/31/2026	Actual 01/01/2025 to 03/31/2025
REVENUE		
Revenue		
Local Contributions	40,459.73	33,047.37
Canada Helps Local Contributions	739.09	0.00
Open donations	1,294.65	673.00
NET Weddings and Funerals	-300.00	0.00
Special Events & Fundraising	1,377.55	291.36
Miscellaneous Revenues	631.00	397.00
Restorative Care Program Revenue	5,637.46	0.00
Friends of Brechin Wall Fund	150.00	0.00
Unity Church Lease Revenue	8,000.00	5,000.00
Facility Rentals	8,972.00	6,284.50
PMR Support Revenue	8,751.00	35,000.00
Investment Income	1,357.50	0.00
Total Operating Revenue	<u>77,069.98</u>	<u>80,693.23</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>77,069.98</u>	<u>80,693.23</u>
EXPENSE		
Overhead Expenses		
Electricity	1,337.25	973.98
Equipment Service & Agreements	653.60	1,373.39
Insurance	794.88	780.78
Janitorial Supplies	392.91	1,061.15
Contract Janitorial Services	3,444.00	3,731.00
UCC & Region Assessments	1,686.90	1,630.54
Repair & Maintenance General	423.38	473.63
Telephone & Internet Expense	662.29	503.31
Shared Building Expense	1,431.14	1,211.64
Kitchen Supplies	391.51	430.15
Total Overhead Expense	<u>11,217.86</u>	<u>12,169.57</u>
Payroll Expenses		
Wages & Salaries	31,086.70	26,455.27
Contracted Music Services	5,350.00	4,925.00
Minister Travel Expense	0.00	312.67
Employee Benefits	8,374.37	6,206.89

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Pulpit Supply	14.00	254.00
Total Payroll Expense	<u>44,825.07</u>	<u>38,153.83</u>
General & Administrative Expenses		
Promotion & Marketing Expenses	130.00	0.00
Worship Supplies	133.23	0.00
Website Expense	105.94	0.00
Office Supplies	1,238.43	380.80
Bank Charges	14.67	10.00
Do Not Use - Service Supplies	0.00	194.47
Broadview Magazine Expense	0.00	-560.00
Pastoral Care Team Exp	0.00	63.19
Miscellaneous Expense	729.36	472.35
Subscription Expense	950.27	100.00
Bookkeeping and Payroll Expenses	623.06	861.06
Total General & Administrative	<u>3,924.96</u>	<u>1,521.87</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>59,967.89</u>	<u>51,845.27</u>
NET INCOME	<u>17,102.09</u>	<u>28,847.96</u>

Brechin United Church Income Statement 03/01/2026 to 03/31/2026

REVENUE

Revenue

Local Contributions	16,114.00
Canada Helps Local Contributions	523.33
Open donations	504.75
NET Weddings and Funerals	-300.00
Special Events & Fundraising	475.00
Miscellaneous Revenues	281.00
Unity Church Lease Revenue	2,625.00
Facility Rentals	4,182.00
PMR Support Revenue	2,917.00
Total Operating Revenue	<u>27,322.08</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>27,322.08</u>

EXPENSE

Overhead Expenses

Electricity	697.57
Equipment Service & Agreements	423.87
Insurance	264.96
Janitorial Supplies	62.32
Contract Janitorial Services	2,296.00
UCC & Region Assessments	843.45
Repair & Maintenance General	351.75
Telephone & Internet Expense	132.46
Shared Building Expense	397.45
Kitchen Supplies	159.01
Total Overhead Expense	<u>5,628.84</u>

Payroll Expenses

Wages & Salaries	10,245.54
Contracted Music Services	1,900.00
Employee Benefits	2,990.37
Pulpit Supply	261.00
Total Payroll Expense	<u>15,396.91</u>

General & Administrative Expenses

Promotion & Marketing Expenses	130.00
Worship Supplies	592.33
Website Expense	26.04
Office Supplies	98.55
Bank Charges	13.36
Miscellaneous Expense	42.70
Subscription Expense	19.66
Bookkeeping and Payroll Expenses	316.32
Total General & Administrative	<u>1,238.96</u>

TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>22,264.71</u>
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NET INCOME	<u><u>5,057.37</u></u>
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Ministry and Personnel

April, thankfully, has been a quiet month for M&P. Our one highlight was taking our former chair, Linda Braid, out for lunch to celebrate what a great team leader she has been. Although she will no longer be serving on our team, she will be available to mentor us by sharing her wisdom with us.

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Our team is working on staff appraisals, and they will be completed this spring. We have also consulted with Maggie Enwright on the retention of staff records.

We are looking forward to soon meeting in person as a team as Sue Davis is now home from her Portugal jaunt.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Torhjem

Brechin 4 Action

Earth Sunday: the team of Brechin for Action has been very involved in creating the worship service for April 26 to celebrate Earth Sunday and most of the members of Brechin for Action took a part in the presentation.

Truth and Reconciliation

- a. Letter to Premier Eby concerning proposed changes by Premier Eby to the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA)(now on hold). Suggestion arose that B4A might send a letter opposing such changes but perhaps Brechin Council would want to send a letter on behalf of Brechin Church. It was decided that Lynn would write a draft letter to Premier Eby on behalf of the Church Council, and discuss with Rev. Katherine of our concerns, and request that Council consider sending such a letter to the Premier. If Council does not see fit, perhaps just B4A could do so with approval of Council. Proposed letter has been sent to Council for consideration.

- b. Youth Reconciliation Mixed-Media Collaboration Event return of grant funds

The Grant of \$5,000 plus another rounded up \$1,000 of funds given to match locally donated funds, was returned to the UC Vision Fund.

The remaining locally donated funds will be put toward a special Sunday June 21 National Indigenous Peoples Day service. **Snuneymuxw** Elder Dave Bodaly will work with Reverend Katherine for the entire service. Dave will open with drumming prayer; presentation will be 30-40 minutes. The funds will be given to Dave as a fee.

A letter will be sent to all individuals who donated to the original project advising them of this special Indigenous Day service and inviting them to attend.

Social Justice

Diane Morris was able to give a brief report on the ongoing violence against Palestinians:

United Nations Panel of Experts details the incidences of violence by Israeli forces and settlers against displaced Palestinians in Gaza and the occupied West Bank. In a statement issued by the UN Human Rights Council (OHCHR) the experts detailed several incidents in March in which Israeli air strikes set tents of displaced Palestinians in Gaza on fire, killing many. The panel also criticized State backed settler terrorism; more than 36,000 Palestinians have been forcibly displaced amid expanding illegal settlement activity in 2025. In the war on Lebanon, there have been more than 2,000 people killed and more than 5,000 injured.

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Climate Change/Climate Action

- a. Earth Day Service April 26 - see above

- b. Local Food Security

Proposed “Food Forests” presentation by Jasmine has been cancelled as Jasmine is busy at this time of year with other efforts.

We are pleased to be working with First Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo on several climate related issues. Forming liaison with other faith communities is part of the mandate of B4A Vegetarian Potluck and discussion were held on Feb 18, joint effort with First Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo and held at the Unitarian fellowship hall. Several members from Brechin attended. Shelley did a great job of facilitating discussion around action that we could take to encourage access to vegetarian and locally produced food.

A 100 Mile Diet Potluck is planned for the fall and would be held at Brechin.

- c. Climate Conversation Equipping Events.

Hosted by Kairos, and John Bullas attended. For the Love of Creation has developed a generic template to use when hosting or facilitating conversations about Climate change. It is similar to the process for the climate conversations we had 2 years ago. John will send out a copy for future reference.

Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty was used as an example in the above-mentioned discussion.

It is important to mention that there is no Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty as of yet. But there is an ongoing effort to create one and many faith groups have signed on. Brechin Council could sign as well, and B4A could assist with short educational presentations about this endeavour prior to any decision. Our congregation education about creating this treaty could potentially take place after church one day in May for the first one.

Plan.....review at next meeting, discuss with Rev Katherine who may be familiar with this topic, plan very short presentation about the proposed treaty.

<https://www.fossilfuel treaty.org/faith-letter>

- d. Car Pooling – Greenhouse Gas Reduction

Colleen and Shelley presented a skit Sunday April 19 in Announcements and a new self-serve sign-up sheet is posted on the B4A bulletin board.

Respectfully submitted by Vickeri Cochrane

Pastoral Care

April started with planning and hosting a Memorial Tea and setting up for Celebration of Life for Ron West. Ron was not a member of Brechin United Church, however he and his partner Marge Bowlward had met Tim Weger at a service when they were living at Wexford Creek and were very impressed by the sense of fellowship. Ron had expressed his wishes for the family to gather together at Brechin upon

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his death. This is a great example of community outreach in action!

The attendance was approximately 35, and the family were appreciative of the service and preparations. Thanks to Bruce Wilson for reserving parking spots for the family, and to the pastoral care volunteers who attended. One issue has become evident following the last two Memorial Teas: there is a need for more volunteers to help with setting up tables, being present for serving, and clearing up afterwards.

It's not only pastoral care which needs helpers, but other teams as well. As a new observer/team leader, I can see that many of the same volunteers turn up time after time for different events. Could we discuss a plan for attracting more volunteers, and implementing an accessible list? Thank you.

There have been 8 prayer shawls given out so far this month, and Katherine blessed a basket full on [Sunday the 19th of April](#). The recipients and their families report that they feel connected to and cared for by our congregation, upon receiving a prayer shawl.

The Welcome Table attendants are doing a great job of identifying newcomers, engaging them with information about Brechin, and following up in later weeks. This assists Cindy to keep an up-to-date list of congregational members.

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen Smith

Property

1. Dishwasher: Bob Cook has worked on the dishwasher repairs. He reports that it is essentially a good machine with all stainless-steel parts. He replaced the water intake valve for approximately \$20 and replaced the water pressure valve. The system still requires some water pressure adjustments. His involvement is much appreciated as he has been able to troubleshoot the problems at minimal expense for parts.
2. Fridge/Freezer: Bob Cook has determined that the frost build up in the freezer compartment is a result of a misalignment of the freezer drawer which he has adjusted.
3. School Parking Lot Chain: The damage to the posts and chain were caused by an RCMP officer ramming into the chain while on an emergency call. The officer mistook the entrance for the motel driveway. The CSF has repaired the damage, and the chain is back in place.
4. Church Doors: A reminder to all that when exiting the building through whichever doors to check that the doors have closed properly. There have been instances of exit doors being left open.
5. Chair Stacking: A reminder that chairs should not be stacked in front of fire extinguishers. User groups will be reminded.
6. Certificate of Insurance: UCC Protect has provided us with the Certificate of Insurance required by De Lage Landen Financial Services Canada Inc. for coverage of the leased photocopier. The document has been forwarded to DLL via email.
- 7.

Respectfully submitted, Keith Allen

Worship

1. Worship Team met April 1, 2026 in the Arbutus Room.
2. Rev. Katherine advised us that Membership Sunday would be May 24th.
3. A PAR tea is being planned by Stewardship and Finance,

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4. All the fundraiser envelopes went out, so the experiment was a success. Salome was commissioned to find the outcome of the event and the possibility of future ones.
5. Second Sundays S&F will speak to Friends of Brechin wall and fourth Sundays they will provide a financial update.
6. Rev. Katherine also provided us with a printout of her schedule.
7. Tim outlined music agenda for Easter and on into the future. He really enjoyed his time off.
8. Things are moving forward for our Brechin Bargains Spring Market on May 9th. As much set up as possible will be accomplished on May 8th.
9. Communications team needs a clear mandate defined by Council. Things are moving forward with visibility and promotional items such as banners.
10. There are posters made and being sent to other churches regarding the Bruce Harding Event on May 2nd. Katherine has posted the event info on the PMRC website. Colleen is compiling a list of places nearby to suggest for lunches.
11. Lay leader and greeters' rosters have been updated to December 2026. Leaders have been asked to read the passages marked "ALL" so the response can be heard on the live stream.
12. We will have a short 9AM service on Pride Sunday, June 14 in order to allow people to attend the Pride Parade and festivities.
13. Rev. Katherine will contact Bruce Harding to request which songs we need overhead slides prepared for the workshop and worship
The Bruce Harding Event: May 2nd
 - a) Coffee at 9:30 AM
 - b) Workshop: 10:00 - Noon
 - c) Noon – 1:00 PM: bag lunch or eat out nearby
 - d) Workshop 2nd session: 1 – 3 PM
 - e) A \$20 donation for attendees is suggested to help defer costs.
14. Accessibility survey in order to better understand how people experience our space and how we can improve is a brain child of Sandi Beaupre. We are all so busy with the Brechin Bargains that I have not had time to discuss what she really wants, so this will have to be put off for another month meeting.
15. We will meet again on May 6, 9:30 AM

Respectfully Submitted, Grace Skomorowski

Fellowship/ Women's Retreat

Fellowship

We are planning a Hot Dog sale on May 9th during the garage sale, with a combo of hotdog, drink, and chips for \$5.00.

Women's Retreat

Meeting next month to presume planning. Things are going well.

Respectfully Submitted Linda Wilson

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I (*Val Neilson*) received a phone call from Don Evans. He is the lead person for property development and management for the Pacific Mountain Regional Council. Many will remember him, as he worked very closely with the Brechin Redevelopment Team during our process. He is looking for new board members for the Property Development Council at the Region.

The information I have is:

- quarterly meetings are held remotely and there is not expected to be tasks or work to do between meetings
- the focus of the Board is overseeing property management for the existing buildings at Brechin and Como Lake
- terms are one year, renewable to a maximum of seven years
- there is minimal time commitment to serve on this Board, and it would be a good way to acquire Board experience
- this Board is not involved in developing or acquiring properties

We are being asked to present this opportunity as Don would like to have someone from Brechin on the Board. Anyone who is interested can call Don for more details at 778-977-4921.

DRAFT letter

Subject: Concern Regarding Proposed Changes to DRIPA and the Pace of Reconciliation

premier@gov.bc.ca

Dear Premier David Eby,

We write to you as Council of Brechin United Church located in Nanaimo, on Vancouver Island. We are grounded in Faith, and also in a shared commitment to reconciliation, justice, and respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

We are guided to walk humbly, to act justly and always with Love, and to repair what has been broken. In this spirit, we wish to express our concern regarding recent discussions about potential changes to the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA). BC passed DRIPA in 2019 as its legislated (2019) *framework for Reconciliation*. ** The changes proposed undermine that legislated commitment to reconciliation. We understand you have very recently made some concessions to your initial intentions but feel it's important for you to still hear our message.

For many in our community, DRIPA represents more than legislation. It is a meaningful step toward aligning provincial laws with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and toward addressing the long-standing harms rooted in colonial systems and policies. It has been understood as a commitment to move forward in partnership, grounded in respect, recognition, and shared decision-making.

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We recognize that governance is complex and that there are competing pressures and perspectives. At the same time, reconciliation is NOT a process that can be paused without consequence. Any action that signals a retreat—whether perceived or real—risks undermining trust that has taken generations to begin rebuilding.

As people of faith, we are also mindful that many religious institutions in this country were directly involved in harms against Indigenous peoples. This history calls us not to withdraw, but to show up with humility and to support meaningful, sustained change. For us, Reconciliation is not an abstract concept; it is a lived responsibility.

We respectfully ask will your government:

- Reaffirm its full commitment to DRIPA and its implementation?
- Avoid actions that would suspend, weaken, or delay progress toward alignment with Indigenous rights?
- Continue to advance Reconciliation in partnership with Indigenous Nations, with transparency and accountability?

We believe that British Columbia has an opportunity to demonstrate principled leadership—one that honours commitments, strengthens relationships, and reflects the values of justice and respect that many British Columbians hold deeply.

Last but not least, will your government work to educate politicians, business people, and the general public about the true spirit of reconciliation and the benefits that collaboration can have in creating a prosperous economy within a thriving sustainable environment?

We offer this letter in a spirit of care, not criticism, and remain hopeful that the path forward will continue to reflect the intent and promise that DRIPA represents.

Respectfully and with our deep hope for your compassionate and wise action moving forward,

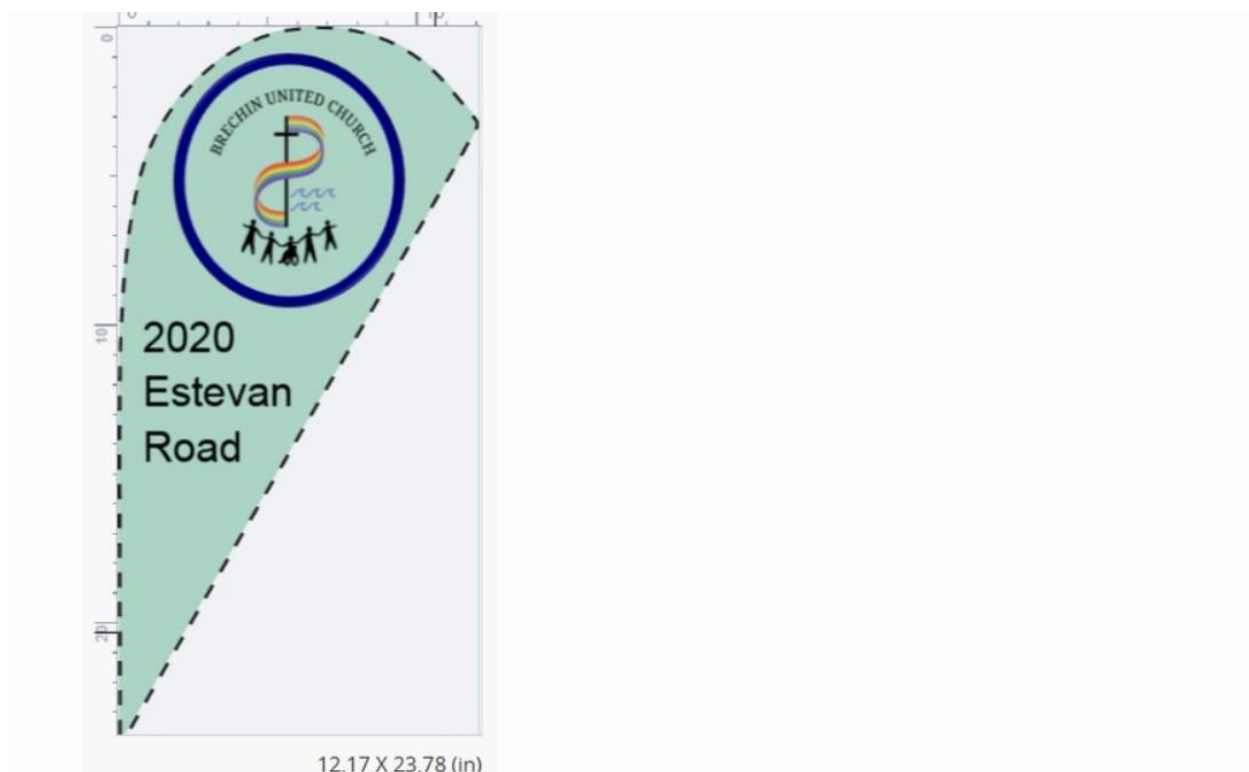
Darlene Darby Council Chair,
Brechin United Church
2020 Estevan Rd., Nanaimo, BC, V9S 0C9

copies to:

- Minister of Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation – Honourable Spencer Chandra Herbert
- Nanaimo's Provincial MLA: Sheila Malcolmson – NDP
- Nanaimo-Lantzville Provincial MLA: George Anderson – NDP

** The designation of DRIPA as BC's framework for reconciliation is from the following website: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/indigenous-people/new-relationship/united-nations-declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples>

Here are the designs for the 8 foot banner, the teardrop banner (7 feet tall) and the tabletop banner which, I think, is 2 feet tall.



Date: April 23, 2026 at 1:55:02 PM PDT

To: Darlene Darby - via email

Darlene and church council,

Preamble: Years ago, Brechin church had ball caps made with our logo. They were very popular amongst the members.

We are growing in numbers, and we are all out in our community. What a great opportunity to show who we are.

I am seeking council permission to use the new logo for ball caps for the congregation.

I am willing to: look into the cost alternatives etc; to pay for the sample; to look after orders for church members.

The thought: navy blue, adjustable back strap and the new church logo center front.

(preliminary groundwork estimates cost \$25.00 each and 2 weeks delivery time after placing an order)

Thank you for considering the ball caps,

Blessings,

Bonnie Haapala

April 22, 2026

Dear Rev. Brittain,

On behalf of the Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society (CVIMS), I am pleased to invite you and members of Brechin United to a special Open House event in recognition of Victims and Survivors of Crime Week.

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This gathering will mark the launch of our new anti-racism toolkit and provide an opportunity to connect, learn, and explore how we can continue to support inclusive, safe, and resilient communities together.

As part of this event, we are especially hoping to strengthen relationships with local religious and cultural communities. We recognize the vital role your organizations play in supporting individuals and fostering belonging, and we are eager to build meaningful, ongoing connections and partnerships.

Event Details:

- Date: Wednesday, May 13
- Time: 2:00 – 6:00 PM • Location: 101–319 Selby Street, Nanaimo

Guests are welcome to drop in at any time during the event. Light refreshments will be provided, and our team will be available to share more about CVIMS' programs and services, as well as discuss opportunities for collaboration. We warmly encourage participation from local religious and cultural organizations, as your leadership and community presence are essential to building stronger, more connected communities.

Please RSVP at community@cvims.org.

We hope you can join us for this meaningful occasion and look forward to connecting with you.

Warm regards,

Angelika Valchar Executive Director Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society (CVIMS)