

St. George's Anglican Church
Parish Council Minutes: Tue. September 1, 2026 (11am)

Chair: Christine Conkin

Prayers: Christine Conkin

Minutes: Amanda Unrau

Attendees: The Rev. Christine Conkin, Leslie Glazier, Joy Warkentin, Sheila Hofmeyr, Martha Stein Marriott, The Rev. Don Walls, Rosamund Soares, Rick Young, Jeanette Muzio, Barbara Underhill, Gary Moss, Stephen Koning (11:05)

Regrets: Marilyn Pattison

Meeting called to Order: 11:00am

Introductions:

- Where did you grow up and who has been influential on your faith?

Approval of Minutes: June 16th, 2026 meeting.

Amendments:

- Under Facilities - cleaning of lower halls – Jani-King misspelled
- Under Uvic Community Nursing – change the medical system to the health care system

MOTION: To approve minutes from June 16th, 2026 meeting, as amended.

Moved: Sheila Hofmeyr;

Seconded: Stephen Koning;

Carried.

Re-visiting previous decisions: reflection

- Christine encourages everyone to think about this; how do we work together as a team? We have two examples today that are a re-visit of past decisions, interesting phenomenon
- We look at the 5 dysfunctions of a team on flipchart (attached) and discuss
- What are you thinking as we went through this? How does this apply to us and St. George's? -There is a fear of conflict and the absence of trust; hard to have conversations when you don't agree and want to avoid people being personally offended.
- We are encouraged to think about the whole parish as the team, as well as Parish Council; and what are we looking to accomplish, what are we committing to and why? Does the broader community trust that this group went through the process? If a parishioner comes and questions the decision, we can tell them why, as we went through the process.
- Do we have problems communicating, or is it that we don't agree with each other?
- We are team of volunteers, there are time constraints to fully get more information to make a better decision, time is a factor. We might need to slow down.
- How are people to know what we discussed at PC? We post the minutes online and in Narthex, but everyone might not know that.
- Back to the AED - what are the dynamics that take us down the triangle on the flipchart? When we reach the top, it's not carved in stone, we make the best decisions we can with the information we have now, but when we get new information we should revisit it.
- We need to understand what's going on so maybe we can make different choices and do different things.
- The question is – are we going to revisit the decision?

Acquiring an AED machine: proposal from Bruce W (see attached)

- It's suggested we do revisit this, at least 2 people here now voiced discomfort with the decision.
- Why did we decide not to obtain an AED? - People don't understand the use of it, it's not as simple as on TV; primarily, it's not effective in most cases (most rhythms are not shockable) and we have to cut the person's clothes off, then attach the paddles, and then the machine tells you if the rhythm is shockable; also the costs of the upkeep – the paddles expire every 18 months, there is liability if using expired paddles, there is a responsibility to maintain the machine.
- Parishioners have voiced they would feel safer if the church had one...is it a good idea to make decisions to manage feelings? If we get an AED, we need a group of people responsible for the machine to ensure it's in working order every Sunday, or when meetings are held in the church.
- We know this is relatively small, but the same dynamics will play out in bigger things and other issues.

MOTION: To revisit decision of whether we acquire an AED machine.

Moved: Jeanette Muzio;

Seconded: Leslie Glazier;

7 in favour, Rick opposed, Joy abstained, Don cannot vote;

Carried.

- Christine will follow up with Bruce and give him all the information Joy provided before.

Building a labyrinth: see notes from Kathleen von Kanel (attached)

- Kathleen indicates in her email that she raised this before. Christine asked around, no one had any feedback or memory of this in the past.
- Building it is a lot of work – who can we ask to help us? (University students?)
- If we are interested in building the labyrinth, it's suggested to revisit the overall grounds plan that was approved by PC in 2015 (that was in collaboration and association with building the Narthex.) It's over a decade old, some things were done, and what exists today does not match the plan, but it's worth revisiting the whole of the grounds, including conversations about the labyrinth.
- We will put together a team (including Kathleen von Kanel) to explore the possibility of the labyrinth and review the grounds plan.

MOTION: That we create a team to review the landscape plan, including the possibility of creating a labyrinth.

Moved: Barbara Underhill;

Seconded: Stephen Koning;

Carried.

Finances: (Barbara) see attachments

- The monthly report is a newly created overview document, what Barbara considers the issues or things we need to discuss. This will have all her suggestions, with the key information people are interested in (she is open to suggestions if we want to see more/other things)
- New – the CTF (investment fund) is a significant portion of our holdings (held by diocese); this document is big picture and how we are tracking income and expense, what is going on and what is Barbara doing, suggestions you might want her to work on.
- Split the CTF into 3 funds and identify which funds have restrictions; some items we can spend money on and some we cannot, some things we need to ask the Diocese before spending and others we do not.

- Page 2 balance sheet – there are bequest funds with zero in them, do we still have to report these or can we close them? What's the point of seeing zeros? - A lot of accounts on the financial statement are not relevant and Barbara would like to remove them if they are at zero and are not relevant. In past Lawrence had a system around showing the bequests. Suggested to put a time limit on it, show them if there is money in it, then after an amount of time that we decide we can remove it.
- There isn't anything we need to discuss.

MOTION: To approve September Treasurer's Summary report including July 2026 Actuals vs Budget Summary and Quarter 2 Balance Sheet Summary.

Moved: Barbara Underhill;

Seconded: Rick Young;

Carried.

Facilities (Gary)

- The insurance company chose us to have an assessment of building valuation and replacement costs, basically it has increased, and thus insurance costs will increase too. We can get into debate about it but were told we will basically lose it.
- We don't need to argue about the value – but ought to consider: if the hall is demolished, would we replace it as it is? Consensus is no, we would not.
- A portion of the insurance replaces the building, an argument can be made about partial loss and replacement.
- We are currently making significant revenue through the hall, that loss would factor into any discussion.
- Steve to review this with Zena at Synod office.

Report from Gary (via email)

Updates on work completed, or ongoing, since the last Past Parish Council meeting:

- New garden shed roof installed
- New wood chips placed along the trail (on northeast side of property) and around the large maple
- Pruning of bushes / greenery adjacent to the Orchard and other neighbours. Much of this work was done via work parties associated with Men's Breakfast. This has been very successful and will continue; expansion to include all parishioners will be forthcoming
- Contractor inspection of emergency lighting and fire extinguishers in both the Church and Upper/Lower Halls. No issues reported.
- Still awaiting the report on the condition of the Upper Hall roof. Contractor originally listed vacation return as 10 August. Out-of-office reply now indicates 8 September.

Non-routine work planned for the fall:

- There are a few non-functioning lights in Sanctuary, it's not many but comments have been received that lighting in some areas is unsatisfactory. These concerns will only increase as we approach winter. Replacement will require hiring a lighting contractor and/or rental of a scissor lift. As the labor and equipment rental costs will greatly exceed the cost of six replacement bulbs, it may be cost-effective to replace all bulbs at once. Gary will gather info and report to Leadership / PC for direction.

Ministry follow-ups:

Regarding stewardship: we would like to have parishioners speak to the stewardship of our faith in regards to other aspects of our life - what don't we want to talk about in church? Christine hopes to have a few people who will be willing to share.

- Fall (W Wed) programming: Reading the Bible; The spirituality of aging; UVic collaboration; “stewardship of our faith”

- “Reading the Bible” comes from parishioner requests to Christine. When reading the bible they are so confused, they wanted some background and context, historical, geographical, maybe some literary – basically some background information to help understand what they are reading. She will take requests – if you hear a prayer or something in church, and think ‘what the heck?’ then make a request, ideally ahead of time but she will take them in moment too.
- The Spirit of Aging in collaboration with UVic is coming: sessions in October, November and December. We hope all will sign up for that.

- Climate-related work at St. G’s (no update)

- No takers re: putting a group together; let Christine know if you are keen on that.

- Theological student / ordinand Gary M remains with us for fall/winter

- Gary will have less hours but he will stay here and we are glad to have him onboard.

Adjourn: 12:30pm

Next meetings: FIRST Tuesdays, 11am – Oct 6, Nov 3, Dec 1

*Glory to God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God, from generation to generation in the church, and in Christ Jesus, forever and ever.
Amen.*

ATTACHMENTS:

Re-visiting previous decisions:

[260901.Doc_The 5 Dysfunctions of a Team](#)

AED machine, proposal from Bruce:

[260901.Ltr_AED Letter for Parish Council](#)

[260901.Doc_Appendix 1 Caring for Our Community](#)

Financial Report:

[260901.Rpt_Treasurers Monthly Report - Sept 1 2026](#)

St. George YTD Budget vs Actuals:

[260901.Rpt_YTD Operating Actuals to Budget - July 2026](#)

St. George Balance Sheet:

[260901.Rpt_Q2 Balance Sheet report](#)