

ST. DAVIDS-QUEENSTON UNITED CHURCH

CHURCH BOARD MINUTES

JUNE 17, 2025

1) Present: Rev. YongSeok Baek; Sue Cote; Judy Kerr;
Linda Hardaker (Acting Chair); Steve Hardaker; Rev. Doug Jones;
Larry McRae; Marianne McRae (Secretary) Bill Utting and Nancy Utting
Absent: Sandra Macdonald; Marie Vahrmeyer and Sue Foss

2) Opening Prayer: Rev. Baek

3) Acceptance of Agenda: It was moved by Steve Hardaker and seconded by Nancy Utting to accept the agenda for this meeting. Carried

4) Acceptance of Previous Minutes: It was moved by Marianne McRae and seconded by Sue Cote that the minutes of the May 20, 2025 meeting be accepted as printed. Carried

6) Continuing Items arising from the previous minutes:

6.0 Boiler/Heat Pump/AC/Light fixtures: Bill reported there is now \$15,500. in the fund. Bill is in regular communication with Steven Colette of Faithful Footprints which is administered through the United Church of Canada. There is no further word on the availability of any grants.

Discussion took place on the wording of an updated letter re: this fundraiser. The original was sent to every member on the church roll. The new letter is worded as a thank you for donations already received and a reminder that the goal is not yet reached.

6.1 Flood Insurance update: Doug spoke on behalf of the Trustees. John Butler assured him that filing a claim for the recent flood damage would not adversely affect future premiums. If we are to file a claim, we must pay the \$10,000 deductible. In the insurance world, this is known as an "insignificant claim". To date, we owe the Paul Davis company \$6300 to date for the cleanup work. Our rep there will provide a list of suppliers for all of the repairs and replacement items required (i.e. installed flooring). They will co-ordinate the work required. A major concern of the Trustees is that Darlene's office must be returned to working order ASAP. If our own members were to do the purchasing and installation, the cost would be approximately \$8500 (in addition to the \$6300 already owed). It would be difficult to co-ordinate our own members to do the work over the summer. It is, therefore, the recommendation of the Trustees that we submit a claim,

pay the \$10,000 deductible and let the professionals do the work. To date, the estimated cost of further work is at least \$13,400.

MOTION: It was moved by Doug Jones and seconded by Nancy Utting that "The trustees of St. Davids-Queenston United Church recommend to the Church Board that a claim be issued against our current insurance policy." Carried.

6.2 No further items were raised.

7) Consent Agenda: Reports were received from the following groups: UCW; CE; Spiritual Care; Finance and Youth. Rev. Baek noted that he hopes to gather the Youth Group together at least once over the summer. It was moved by Doug; seconded by Steve and carried to accept the previously submitted reports for the consent agenda.

8) Additional Reports

8.0 Facility Requests: None. It was reported that rental fees are still being researched.

8.1 Correspondence: It was noted that the Board Chair should contact Darlene prior to meetings to see if there is any correspondence that should be brought to the meeting.

Judy reported that a phone call and note of thanks were received from Newark Neighbours for the items left over from our yard sale that were wrapped, delivered and unloaded for them.

8.2 Worship and Faith Life: Discussion took place on the size of the plaque for the tree that was dedicated in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the United Church of Canada. It was decided that it should be about 3" X 6" and put on a stake near the tree. The cost of the tree was covered from the Memorial Fund.

The idea of holding a 50/50 draw at the beef-on-a-bun events was voted down.

Flowers have been purchased recently from "Bloomers" on Thorold Stone Rd. with great service and discounts.

The suggestion of placing a flyer in the post office advertising the church has been discussed.

It has been suggested that speakers be invited to address seniors on scams and AI. This would be a form of community outreach.

All Sundays of Rev. Baek's vacations are now covered.

8.3 Trustees: Doug noted that it appears to be a function of the Trustees to decide on placement of the new tree and dig a hole for it. The Sunday School children will plant it.

8.4 Property: Following the recent flood and its aftermath, it has been suggested that water sensors be installed in each of the 2 pumps at a cost of \$149 each plus \$175 for installation. These would be monitored through Alarm Force at no additional charge to our monthly rate. The monitor would go off before the overflow is critical.

Judy asked about the large garbage pail at the back of the church. It is too heavy for the garbage men to lift. It will be up to the Property Committee to look after disposing the contents – all of which is from the cemetery.

8.5 Regional Council: Larry gave a detailed and comprehensive report on the recent, all-day meeting of this group. His report is attached to these minutes so no detail is missed.

8.6 Extension Council: Larry reported that there are short term loans up to \$10,000. now available at 2% interest for up to 3 years. Linda suggested that we should apply for such a loan to cover the cost of the insurance deductible – an unforeseen expense not covered in our budget for this year. As Larry is on this Council, he cannot sign for the loan, but he can initiate the paperwork. Marianne will sign the application.

9) Further Business: Marianne reported that she and Larry will be missing from the September meeting, so a Recording Secretary will be needed.

10) Adjournment was moved by Nancy Utting; seconded by Doug Jones and Carried

11) Closing prayer was offered by Rev. Jones.

13) Next meeting: Tuesday, September 16th at 7 p.m.

Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Report June 14, 2025

The meeting was held in person and on Zoom at St Andrew's United Church in Hamilton.

The beginning of the meeting was a series of technical issues with the Zoom feed which resulted in a loss of information during the first twenty minutes. It was only through a tech contact that those of us on Zoom heard about Proposal #1 the Opening Procedure and Motion. Carried.

The Agenda listed introductions via video for staff and GC45 commissioners, but again it was very disjointed. It was also noted that on July 1st, Beverley Tyhurst would replace Lynne Allin as the Congregational Support Minister. This was followed by the Opening Worship with hymn MV 48 and scripture from Lamentations 3 22-23 and closed with hymn MV 91. This section still had serious sound problems and no video of the church.

The introduction to Candidates was next but again the sound was not good which made it difficult to hear them speak.

Proposal #2 -- Volunteer Recruitment followed. This item officially confirmed the status of those who applied to be on the HFRC Executive. Carried.

A break of 15 minutes turned into 30 minutes so the tech people could fix the audio and video problems.

After the break the covenanting took place for new Commission members, the Executive and the LLWLs with hymn MV 154.

At this time the M&S branch made a presentation including a video, but the problems persisted and the video was abandoned. The speaker present, Sarah Charters, who is also on the board of the UCC Foundation, gave a couple of examples of what M&S supports. One is the chaplaincy at McMaster, with an explanation given by Marlice Simon, who is the chaplain there.

The lunch break followed from 12.00 to 1.15 pm.

Most of the video and audio problems were corrected, but there was a ten second lapse in time for voting and commenting on the Zoom portion.

After lunch, a list of those who will be GC45 Commissioners was read and those present were asked to stand. A video was presented from the Moderator Rev Lansdowne, which was followed by Ron Ewart, who is on the board of the TUCC. He gave an explanation of what the organization does in the way of loans and grants to churches. It is just a bigger version of the Extension Council in this area. It also owns and runs ChurchX and wants to work with and help other organizations.

The CSC gave a presentation from the outgoing Chair Rev Adrienne Robertson and introduced the incoming co-chair Rev Jane Capstick. She led us in a quiz type event and reminded us to send in our annual reports to HFCSM@united-church.ca or on churchhub.

Rev Diane Blanchard then made an appeal regarding the UNJPPI and the ongoing conflict in the middle east.

Proposal #3 - the Bridge Loan Fund was then presented. This is a loan through the Executive of the Council with a set of conditions. It is funded by a transfer of \$300 k from the Regional Council property account, and can be used for anything. The loan is for a max of \$30 k at 4% interest, with a 3 year term for repayment, with the first 6 months interest free then the 3 yr term starts. If you have \$100k in unreserved funds, you are ineligible for the loan. The Exec will loan a max of \$100k per year. Because it is through the Executive, approval from the CSC is routine. It took some time to understand this item but it finally was explained. It can be used for emergency or unplanned expenses where a church may need a new roof and is quite capable of fund raising to get it, but the hole needs to be fixed asap. This loan will provide the money now for the repairs and the fundraising pays off the loan. That is why it is called a bridge loan. The vote on this Proposal Carried.

Proposal #4 - Grant Searching/Writing Assistance Fund was next on the list. This is also through the Executive and is funded by \$100k transferred from the property account. It will fund 50% of the cost of hiring and outside person to search and write a grant up to a maximum of \$2,000.00 or 100% of tuition for a church member to take a course in grant writing up to a \$2000.00 maximum. The Proposal Carried.

Immediately following this item were the videos for In Memoriam, and Retirees and Jubilands.

There being no new business, Proposal #5 - Closing Motions was presented and Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3.00 pm.