ST. DAVIDS-QUEENSTON UNITED CHURCH

CHURCH BOARD MINUTES

OCTOBER 20, 2026

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

1) Opening Prayer: Rev. Baek

2) Acceptance of Agenda with the addition of a discussion led by Linda about the stats report under New Business: It was moved by Linda Hardaker and seconded by Sue Foss to accept the amended agenda for this meeting. Carried

3) Acceptance of Previous Minutes: It was moved by Marianne McRae and seconded by Steve Hardaker that the minutes of the Sept. 15th, 2026 meeting be accepted as printed. Carried

4) Continuing Items arising from the previous minutes:
4.0) As Chair of Trustees, Rev. Doug reported that he has heard concerns from church members and plot owners re: the poor state of the graveyard due to the lack of trimming, etc. It seems to be too big a job for Geoff Mayers to handle. His committee has discussed the possibility of transferring the graveyard to the Town. There are many steps in the process to do so. It is our understanding that – once the Town has been approached to take over ownership – they are obliged to do so. Lately, extra costs ($700.) have been incurred due to a fallen tree. There was no damage, but cleanup was required. Howie Lowrey and Rev. Doug have met with Geoff and all agree it is time to explore the option of approaching the Town. The Bereavement Authority of Ontario has a lot of power. Our church sits on United Church property so there are many questions i.e., does this involve severance? This would not be a sale of the land, just a transfer. The question of managing the sale of plots is an unknown. Sue Cote commented that a survey for deed purposes was done in recent years.
Motion: That the Trustees of St. Davids-Queenston United Church be endorsed to begin exploring the transfer of the Church's cemetery to the municipality of Niagara-on-the-Lake. This would involve both the

historic and newer areas. Moved by Rev. Doug Jones; seconded by Bill Uttting and Carried.
Steve noted that the historic cemetery was land gifted by David Secord. The church bought the back property in the 60's.
4.1) Steve reported on lawn repairs required by Niagara Region due to recent road work on York Rd. His full report is as follows:
Recent excavation along the front of the historic cemetery was reported in detail at the September Church Board Meeting. This work was for the archeological assessment in relation to the proposed York Road / Four-Mile Creek Road roundabout project. During that work, one Lowrey Boundary Stone was damaged. Boundary Stones are common in cemeteries to either mark the boundary of a cemetery or mark the boundary of individual family plots. There are 5 boundary stones visible at the front of our historic cemetery. The following has occurred since:

Several emails back and forth with Stephanie Huppunen, Manager of Capital Projects with Niagara Region, Rev Doug Jones and myself.

Niagara Region has been very forthcoming

On October 15, Stephanie emailed: "I was able to source a new limestone cornerstone which will include the raised L lettering (Lowrey), and match the sizing currently there, from Kirkpatrick Stoneworks, which would then be installed by my (Niagara Region) landscape contractor when they do the site clean-up. If you can please advise if this is acceptable, I would like to get the work undertaken for the clean-up as soon as possible."

Since, Rev. Jones has responded in favour of this solution.

Post-note: Niagara Region has now deferred (Not Cancelled) the St. Davids roundabout project by one year through its capital budget planning process, shifting the target construction start to summer 2028 and completion to winter 2028. Pushed back to allow higher-priority regional infrastructure investments to proceed first.

- **New Timeline:**
  - Property acquisition and utility relocations continue through 2027.
  - Tender issuance is slated for spring 2028.
  - Construction is scheduled to start in summer 2028 and finish in winter 2028.

4.2) Sandra reported that the Worship & Faith Life committee had approved a cheque in the amount of $1,000 to be sent from the Memorial Fund to the Tumbler Ridge fundraising project. Details of where to send this are available online.

5) Consent Agenda: Reports were received from Finance; UCW; HFRC; Fundraising and C.E. It was moved by Linda Hardaker; seconded by Rev. Doug Jones that these reports be accepted as printed.

6) New Business

6.0) Rev. Doug mentioned that he is concerned that the placement of the Land Acknowledgment being on the last page of the bulletin makes it appear as an afterthought. He feels it should be on the front page. Rev. Baek will mention it to Kathleen.

6.1) Rev. Doug further mentioned that the old lectern currently taking up space in the CE hall could possibly be moved to the narthex. When the actual history of this piece is ascertained, a brass plaque could be added to it.

He also noted that many of the historical artifacts in the glass cases need a good dusting and polishing. The key to one of the cases seems to be missing.

Rev. Doug, Steve and Rev. Baek will work on moving the lectern and cleaning the cabinets.

6.2) Sandra reported that a UCC survey entitled "2026 Identities Survey" with a link for completion will be in the bulletin for the next 2 weeks. Our congregation has been chosen to take part in this survey.

6.3) Linda reported that the annual stats for UCC has a section on the people of the church and she's not sure who puts these stats together. She looks after the financial portion. Darlene used to complete the section in question. Sue Cote offered to help Kathleen with the necessary paperwork after the upcoming bazaar (which is on November 7th).

7) Facility Requests

7.0) Steve reported that Margaret Marotta was pleased with use of the kitchen from May 31st to September 23rd. We owe her the return of her $100 deposit. An invitation has been issued for her to use the facility again next year.

8) Correspondence: None

9) Committee Reports

9.0) Youth Group: Rev. Baek reported that the group is doing well with up to 17 in attendance. A visit to a trampoline park was enjoyed. A Hallowe'en party will be held this Friday, October 23rd.

9.1) Worship & Faith Life: Nancy reported that: October 25th will be Reformation Sunday as well as a Hallowe'en party for the Sunday School; November 8th will be the Remembrance Day Service with the youth taking part plus other special features; Norma Jane Harber will lay a wreath at the Cenotaph on behalf of the church and a wreath will also be placed in front of the church driveway; Nov. 15th will be Children's Sunday and a pulpit exchange with Rev. Baek going to Grace United in Dunnville and Rev. Warner Bloomfield coming to our church. There will be no fees involved with this exchange; Advent begins on Nov. 29th with Communion; new families will be invited to lead the readings for lighting the Advent Candles; greenery for decorating will be provided by the Slingerlands; the choir will present the Candlelight Cantata on the evening of Dec. 13th or 20th; White Gift and Mitten tree will be on Dec. 6th followed by a Sunday School party; Blue Christmas will be observed on Dec. 13th; Christmas Eve service will be at 7 p.m.; as the Sunday School is still short 1 teacher, Rev. Baek has offered to go down once a month after his sermon with the Worship Leader of the day completing the service.

9.2) M & P: Sue Cote reported that she has received the ministry salary schedule for 2027 but has not had time to look at it yet.

9.3) Property: Bill reported that winterizing has begun.
Lights with a 15" base will be purchased for installation in the Sunday School room. Monty Slingerland will do this work.
Scaffolding will be needed to replace the 8 ft. tubes in the lights in the CE hall. Since there is money left from the $2,000 grant from the Extension Council, there are funds ($900) available to get this job done. Sue Cote commented that her son could possibly source the scaffolding through his work.
9.4) Spiritual Care: Steve reported that this committee will meet on Oct. 28th at 2 p.m.

9.5) Fundraising: Bob reported that teams of help will be sought for the Spaghetti Dinner to be held on Saturday, November 28th.

10) Next Meeting: The date of the next meeting is Tuesday, Nov. 17th at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary

11) Closing Prayer: Rev. Doug led us in a parting prayer.
12) Adjournment was moved by Sue Foss; seconded by Sue Cote. and Carried