ST. DAVIDS-QUEENSTON UNITED CHURCH

CHURCH BOARD MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

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

1) Opening Prayer: Rev. Baek

2) Acceptance of Agenda with the addition of a discussion about the recent excavation at the front of the cemetery: It was moved by Bill Utting and seconded by Linda Hardaker to accept the amended agenda for this meeting. Carried

3) Acceptance of Previous Minutes: It was moved by Linda Hardaker and seconded by Bill Utting that the minutes of the May 19th, 2026 meeting be accepted as printed. Carried

4) Continuing Items arising from the previous minutes: Steve reported that he had undertaken a review of the internet service. Kathleen had no access on several occasions and had to send the weekly bulletins from home. Rev. Baek also had problems and has to take part in Zoom meetings at home instead of in his office. Kathleen worked with Bell. Once Bell did a "refresh", things improved - still slow, but much better. Steve recommends that we stick with Bell as switching to another provider could be costly and may not be any better service than we have now.

5) Consent Agenda: Reports were received from Finance; Fundraising and UCW. Steve requested that the Finance report be lifted from the Consent Agenda for discussion under New Business.
It was moved by Linda; seconded by Bob and Carried to lift the Finance Report and accept the other previously submitted reports

6) NEW BUSINESS:
6.0) Finance: Steve expressed his concerns on the state of our financial affairs. He finds the Finance report very concerning as we are in a critical position. Linda reported that we are depleting more than we thought we would – from the Capital account and soon from the investments. Judy suggested that we be blunt with the congregation. Linda agreed to speak

to the congregation. Immediately following the service this coming Sunday, the livestream will be turned off and Linda will present the facts to the congregation in simple and direct terms so that everyone understands the importance of increasing their givings in order to remain viable. Bob asked that she also mention the need for more people to serve on the fundraising committee. Sue C. emphasized the need for our own people to support fundraising efforts with their participation. People are invited to help with monthly pie bakes, etc.

6.1) Cemetery: Steve reported on the recent excavation by the Region on York Rd. in front of our historic cemetery. There was no prior notification from the Region. Richard Woodruff believes an old grave site has been damaged and a grave stone is missing. Ground penetrating scans will be undertaken prior to the commencement of work on the roundabout. There has also potentially been damage to the historic boundary stones. They are relics from the 1800's. Steve has sent a strongly-worded letter to the Region and hopes for some sort of follow-up.

The following message was received from Rev. Jones. "From Trustees I would briefly report that we will be having a meeting as soon as we can to dialogue re:

1. The excavation along York Rd. and the historic cemetery. Steve notified me and has graciously offered to do initial follow up.

2. The clean up of a fallen tree along the back ravine area of the cemetery. It hasn't yet, but could interfere with an internment. Our next-door neighbour has queried clean up of Paxton Lane due to overgrowth and a rise in the tic population. Howie and I are in touch with Geoffrey Mayers about this, re: cost and schedule etc.

3. I have had some dialogue with a couple of Trustees about our possible need/preparation to transfer cemetery care to the Municipality. There is a process and Lakeview cemetery is the latest to do this in the last couple of years. As much as Geoffrey tries to maintain it, it is still under par per upkeep and we get complaints. We are limited in what we can do with the current financial resources. This is truly at a preliminary stage and I will bring any updates to the board with appropriate recommendations (if any) when the time comes.

4. Lastly, I am attempting to arrange a meeting with our Insurance Broker to address the large increase in our premium a) why the large amount and b) ways he might help us reduce it if possible. I noticed from the consent document that the UCW will again cover this cost and I add my voice of gratitude to the rest."

A huge debt of gratitude is owed to the ladies of the UCW who have graciously offered to pay the entire premium for the insurance.

6.2) Larry spoke about the $2,000 grant from the Extension Council that is to be used for “bricks and mortar” projects. Stress mats have been purchased for the ladies to use during pie bakes. A portable heating and cooling fan has been purchased for use in the narthex or wherever needed. It will require a 3-prong outlet (which is already available). New lights will be purchased for installation in the Sunday School room. Kathleen has had problems with the current phone in the office. She has investigated and found a Panasonic unit she likes with the features she needs. She will be authorized to purchase it online. A set of lights is burned out in the CE hall. They need to be replaced. New ones do not have ballasts. It was noted that Monty Slingerland should not be working on the high light fixtures perched on a ladder. It is not safe for him to be climbing and his wife doesn’t like him doing so. Scaffolding should be rented for this purpose.

6.3) Steve spoke about amending our Facilities Use Policy to include an hourly rate. Steve made a motion to amend the policy to include an hourly rate of $20. Linda seconded the motion. Carried.

6.4) Linda noted that the insurance has increased by 9% over the previous year. It is imperative that John Butler understand we must know the cost of the premium in advance of the due date of June 1st in order to be able to comparison shop and budget accordingly.

6.5) Sue C. spoke about our previous discussion re: sending a donation to Tumbler Ridge in support of the students in that town. The school has been torn down and the government is paying 100% of the cost of re-building. In the meantime, donations are being accepted. Sandra offered to approach the Worship and Faith Life committee to possibly send money from the benevolent fund.

6.6) Lisa Brillon has suggested that there is no need of us paying for the CCLI licence any longer. Most of what that covers is contemporary music, not the kind we use. It was moved by Larry, seconded by Bob and carried that we no longer pay this fee.

6.7) Judy spoke about the shed. Shirley Gates will be taking over gardening duties next year and she will need space in the shed to store her tools, bags etc. Steve will be sure Shirley gets a key to the shed.

7) Facility Use Requests: Steve made note of the fact that our building is used every night of the week and Margaret Marotta is the only one paying rent. She uses the kitchen weekly until October. All of the other groups are either our own people (most of whom are there for fundraising purposes) or scouts.

8) Correspondence: None

9) Committee Reports

9.0) Spiritual Care: Steve reported that there will be no meeting this month. They will meet on Wed., October 28th.

9.1) Worship & Faith Life: Rev. Baek reported that Worldwide Communion will be observed on Sunday, October 4th and Thanksgiving on Sunday, October 11th.

9.2) Christian Education: Sue Foss reported that Christina Travers has agreed to continue as a Sunday School teacher and so has Amanda Xu. Kathleen has agreed to fill in as needed. Sue will hold a meeting of the CE committee after church on Sunday, September 27th. Sue will have to have further surgery on December 23rd. She will be out of commission for a few weeks. Rev. Baek will look after Youth Group and Sue will help when she can.

9.3) Fundraising: Bob asked if the United Church had any restriction on Bingo. He is suggesting we apply to the city for a licence as the "Friends of St. Davids-Queenston United Church" to take part in the bingos held at the Delta Bingo Hall on Drummond Rd. 97% of the profits have to be given to charity. The church has a charitable number, therefore would qualify. Two people per session would be needed for approximately once a month. Profits range around $1300 per session. Linda offered to go back through her paperwork for a gaming licence received through the city a few years ago when we held a raffle. All agreed it would be worth looking into and the proceeds would certainly be welcome.

9.4) UCW: Further to the report found in the consent agenda, Judy reported that Barb Allman and Marianne have agreed to take out the garbage on Tuesday evenings when they're at Queenston Women's Chorus rehearsal. Mary Harrison will bring the green bin in on Wednesdays. This arrangement will be in effect until early December when the choir no longer meets.

9.5) Activities: Doug reported that there will be enough help available to hold the October Beef-on-a-Bun night on the 9th even though several of the committee members are away.

Sue C. reminded everyone that Kathleen will be working Wednesday and Thursday this week as she's going away for the weekend including Friday.

10) Next Meeting: The date of the next meeting is Tuesday, October 20th at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary

11) Closing Prayer: Bob Prentice led us in a closing prayer as Rev. Baek had to leave the meeting early.

12) Adjournment was moved by Doug; seconded by Sue C. and Carried