

Gaetz Memorial United Church
Board Meeting MINUTES – January 27, 2026

1. Meeting came to order at 6:37 PM

Mission: Whoever you are, wherever you are on your spiritual journey, we are a welcoming Community of Faith at Gaetz Memorial United Church. We gather together to pursue compassion, justice and Love without restraint and to walk humbly with God and one another.

Treaty Acknowledgement: We acknowledge with respect the history, culture and spirituality of the people with whom **Treaty 6** and **Treaty 7** were signed and the territory in which our church and its members reside, and our responsibility as treaty members. We also honour the heritage and gifts of the **Metis** people. May we live with respect on this land and live in peace and friendship with its people.

1.1. Opening Prayer:

1.2. Attendance: Shari Hanson, Rev. Leila Currie (Minister), Sheila Cunningham, Shona Sponholz, Dom Mancuso, Marsha Anders

1.2.1. Regrets: Deb Heenan

2. Shared the Light

3. Agenda Review & Approval

Motion 01-27-01 Sheila moved, Shona seconded to approve the

W Agenda January 2026 Board Meeting.docx . **CARRIED.**

4. Review and approval of Minutes from W Board Minutes November 25, 2025.docx

Motion 02-27-01 Sheila moved, Shona seconded to approve the minutes as corrected.

CARRIED.

5. Old Business

5.1. Business Arising from the Minutes:

5.1.1. Debrief of Long-range Planning Workshop and next steps: M&P Committee (members and staff) = what is the real need for our Church. So much kept coming back to finances. Why are we a Church? Why are we here? Patience for the process to complete. Terminology is tripping people up (ensure we emphasize ourselves as a Community of Faith). Importance of key words and messages that are clear about who we are. Generated lots of DETERMINATION. Kept going to the people as a priority.

5.1.2. Formal response to the Trustees letter sent to the Board last fall. Shari will write a letter in early February thanking them for their letter and encouraging them to pay attention to the strategic plan that will be presented at the AGM in March.

5.2. Standing Items

5.2.1. Thank you to PACE

5.2.2. Thank you to Self-Assessment participants

Motion 03-27-01 Sheila moved, Dom seconded that the Board accept receipt of reports from PACE and from the self-assessment working group as presented at the workshop January 24th. **CARRIED.**

- 5.2.3. Request from Kasota East Camp (tabled to February board meeting). Further discussion of a GMUC led fundraising event to raise matching \$\$ toward KECs request.
- 5.2.4. Relationship with Sunnybrook UC = more work to do for a healthy working relationship across our Churches in Red Deer. Shari expressed disappointment for how Rhondda was introduced when speaking at Sunnybrook back at the end of August.
- 5.2.5. Motion 04-27-01 Sheila moved, Shona seconded that the signs and use of "Pioneer Hall" as terminology for our lower hall be removed. **CARRIED.**

6. Reports

6.1. Treasurer Report

- 6.1.1. The bank that "plenty" uses has changed and Sheila is working to update required signatures.
- 6.1.2. Sheila is working on the final reporting for 2025 but not yet ready to present.
Motion 05-27-01 Sheila moved: Shona 2nd that \$520.70 of benevolent payments to come from RBC chequing, effective December 30, 2025. **CARRIED..** (this is to keep accounts accurate for 2025).
- 6.1.3. Budget for 2026: Draft presented with further discussion. Final budget for presentation at the AGM will be approved in February.

6.2. Minister's and Committee Reports –

Motion 06-27-01 Marsha moved, to accept reports as presented. Seconded by Sheila. **CARRIED.**

6.2.1. Business arising from Committee Reports

6.2.1.1. Communication Tools for our Church:

Motion 07-27-01 Moved by Sheila, seconded by Marsha that "the Board requests the Communications, Property committees and Administrator jointly deliver a project to electrify Gaetz announcements.

- Deliver monitors in the (or at the entrances of) the narthex, the entrance of the gym and in the lower hall.
- Determine whether the monitors should be wall-mounted or portable.
- The three monitors should be linked (wired or by Wi-Fi) so they can display the same announcements on a "loop" during church and rental hours.
- Ideally, the same announcement "loop" would be displayed on our website and social media accounts at the same time.
- One of the three announcement monitors will be sourced from the back of the sanctuary.
- Purchase and get installed a new larger monitor (preferably 100") at the rear of the sanctuary.
- The Board anticipates the total cost of this project will be less than \$7000 (the Board plans to increase the 2026 property committee budget by \$7000 to accommodate this project).
- The Board would love to have this project underway (preferably completed) by the March 2026 AGM." **CARRIED.**

- 6.2.1.2. Communications (advertising strategies). As per Suzan's suggestions in her communications report, the board encourages and empowers the communications team to be creative and consider new ways of helping spread the word to invite people into the work of our Community of Faith. The board agrees with the suggestions provided by Suzan.

7. New Business

- 7.1. AGM date and prep. = March 22nd @ 12:30 (potluck lunch after Church) in the lower hall. Virtual is an option.
- Notice and Annual Report needs to go out by March 5th.
 - Reports to the office by February 26th so the annual report can be compiled and published on time.
 - **Including recruiting a FULL BOARD!** Board members are encouraged to coffee/converse with people about feeling called to support the work of the Church.
- 7.2. Motion 08-27-01 Moved by Shona, seconded by Sheila that "the Board approve up to \$1500.00 for the Trustees to engage with RAE Engineering and Inspection Ltd. to conduct an inspection of GMUC's heating distribution piping system, providing a report and recommendations." **CARRIED.** (vote conducted by email at the request of the TRUSTEES, initiated February 9, 2026 with all board members responding by February 18.) Trustees were informed of the approval via email once a majority of the board had responded.

8. Correspondence

- 8.1. n/a

9. Next Meeting:

- Regular Board Meeting at 6:00 pm, February 24, 2026
Opening Prayer: Shari
Closing Prayer: Dom

10. **Vision:** Love in action, so that all may experience God's unconditional Love.

11. **Adjournment Closing Prayer:** Sheila

Meeting ended at 8:33 PM



Shari Hanson, Board Chair



Sheila Cunningham, Treasurer