

LEADERSHIP TEAM NEWS IN BRIEF

Meeting: June 3, 2026

WE DECIDED:

- That the rental of the Sanctuary on August 1, 2026, for renewal of wedding vows for a Muslim couple be approved.
- That the Sanctuary be rented to Matt Gregg and his group for 10 weeks starting on June 1 for rehearsals of their Fringe play, with rental fee waived. Rental would be for three days a week for approximately five hours per day, and the piano would be used.

WE DISCUSSED:

- What we would say in a 30-second “elevator speech” about Spirit of Hope – to promote/explain it to people unfamiliar with our community of faith. A range of comments were made! These, along with the many ideas we have received, will be referenced as we work with our consultants on a welcome video for the Spirit of Hope website and presentations.
- The May 17 ceremony to establish Rev Lloyd Lovatt as Minister Emeritus, developed by Rev Blaine and involving Chris and Jim.
- The upcoming 70th Anniversary of Camp Maskepetoon on June 20 – 21. Rev. Blaine will assist with the worship service there.
- As part of “The 100 Tables Project” (a carry-over from the 2025 United Church of Canada’s ‘Room at the Table’) we will build a table to be placed outside the front doors of the church.
- A huge thank-you to the Knygts Errant and volunteers for the special evening and dinner on May 30, with proceeds of \$1,746.15 going to Spirit of Hope United Church.
- Financial report: as of the end of May: we have more building use income than predicted (Kevin reporting).
- Youth Empowered Together (YET) will continue for 2026-27 (Mondays from 4 to 6 PM), with plans for cooking classes in the fall (using grant monies received from the John Howard Society).

LOOKING FORWARD TO:

- Seeing the vegetable garden planted by children and teachers of Kids United flourish, along with the big strawberry patch!
- Progressing on the redesign of Spirit of Hope’s website.
- Having a summer student gain 200 hours of work experience at Spirit of Hope, under the supervision of Cathy Martin, to work with Catherine in the office and update our policy manual.
- Celebrating transitions: Naomi (University of Alberta graduation) and Grace and Thomas (high school graduation). Congratulations!
- The 5th anniversary of Spirit of Hope becoming an Affirming congregation – on Sunday, June 7 with the Affirm Team leading the service, Communion and a finger-food tea party afterwards.
- Refreshing the paint on our rainbow stairs.
- Continuing to welcome new people into Spirit of Hope, with warmth, openness and hospitality.
- Guided and inspired by the life and teachings of Jesus and other sources of great wisdom, continuing to journey; learning, changing, and growing together.

Next meeting: Wed, July 8, 2026

LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBERS

- Chair: Jim Lewis
- Vice Chair: Helen Newsham
- Secretary: Phyllis Verhaar
- Treasurer: Kevin Gue
- Ministry and Personnel: Eva Cooper
- Trustees: Sandra Hawes
- Property, Finance and Stewardship: Cathy Martin
- Worship Faith in Action Team (FIAT): Roslyn Thomson and Vici Wynn
- Learning and Growth FIAT: Heather Green and Chris Meintzer
- Just and Caring Community FIAT: Judy Meintzer and Sara van Halderen
- Communications: Susan Bamm
- Minister: Reverend Blaine Gregg