

# Minutes

## Jubilee Council Meeting

### January 14, 2026

Present: Kye Andrews (Music School), John Barr (Finance), Susan-Jane Bynoe (Vice-Chair/Worship), Spencer Clinton (Christian Development), Kathy Coats (M&P), Cher Colford (Jubilee Cares), Christine Crosby (Facilities), Rev. Anne Dionisio (Minister), Deborah Johnston (Secretary), Pam Lock (Outreach/Regional Representative), Jeanette May (Chair), Gary Norris (Treasurer), Rev. Norm Seli (Minister), Bill Watson (Trustees), Valerie Winters (AIC-Property)

Regrets: Fran Crabe (UCW), Doris Doidge (Member-at-Large), Pat Lansche (Fundraising and Event Support)

#### Call to Order

Jeanette called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. after a Council appreciation social. Jeanette thanked Anne and Norm for planning a wonderful Christmas season with many creative and thoughtful services and events.

#### Agenda Review

No changes were made.

#### Approval of Minutes of Council Meeting on November 12, 2025

*Moved by Val Winters and seconded by Cher Colford that the minutes of the November 12, 2025 Council meeting be approved.*

*Carried*

#### Business Arising from the November 12, 2025 Minutes

- Susan-Jane and Norm met after November's Council meeting and decided that Susan-Jane would continue as Chair of the Worship Committee until the AGM.
- The budget Action items will be addressed by John later in the agenda.
- Norm enlarged the volunteer sign-up button on the website to make it more prominent and accessible.
- Norm met with a small group to discuss fundraising planning for Jubilee in 2026 and beyond. The Trustees are hosting a special fundraising meeting next Tuesday with Janice Meighen from the TUCC to discuss fundraising in this new age.

**ACTION:** Norm will combine the work of these two groups and share a framework for fundraising at the February Council meeting.

- Norm and Anne sent a very well worded letter to congregants encouraging them to increase their givings for 2026, highlighting the benefits of PAR, and asking them to consider giving Jubilee a financial 'Christmas gift'. There was no information on the impact this letter had on givings.

## **Ministers' Reports**

Anne Dionisio

- There is a desire among Jubilee parents for a community group to meet once a month as an opportunity for support and to share resources online, which she is pursuing.
- Common Ground Worship continues on February 1 and March 1. André Latchman has agreed to work with Kye to shape the service for March 1, as Anne is unable to be there. There will be no Common Ground in April as it would fall on Easter.
- 20 Somethings went to Tyrone for the Tractor Parade in early December. There were 14 in attendance, which included other Jubilee families. They will be meeting on Sunday, January 25 after church to watch The Lord of the Rings while playing a Lord of the Rings board game.
- Path of the Wise Woman is shifting to Saturdays with events scheduled on the third Saturday of each month until June.
- Spencer is now running the Sunday morning youth group and they are excited to have a second young person joining in regularly. A third Sunday school age group is beginning to take shape and Jessica is eager for resources to help shape that. With Spencer, Haley, Jessica and Chanelle working with the children, Anne's role is to develop a curriculum plan that is tied to the lectionary and to provide resources for their work.
- A Talent Show is scheduled on February 7 for Jubilee kids together with students of the Grove Music School and the Gambare Choir.

Norm Seli

- Hundreds of hats and mittens were collected with the 'Sock it To Me Sunday' and were gratefully received by the Out of the Cold Program.
- Eight new members will be welcomed at the Sunday service on February 8.
- Pancake Tuesday is scheduled for February 17 with Gary at the helm and will include a musical celebration with the Jubilee Grove Band following the dinner.
- Anne and Norm have prepared a Lent reflection series on 'Soul-Making in the Wilderness' for four Sundays after church in February and March.
- Definitely NOT Church will be held on Sunday, March 8 on 'The Lives of the Saints'.
- They are planning for the usual Maundy Thursday Meal, Good Friday service, Easter SonRise, Easter Breakfast and the Easter Sunday service. Also planning a Muffin Church for Palm Sunday on March 29.
- There have been several deaths in December, which has resulted in a fair bit of pastoral care time from the team.
- Anne and Norm have rebranded Evening Prayer on Wednesdays from 5-6 p.m. to simply be a time for prayer and a quiet chat with a minister.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Jubilee Cares**

Cher Colford

- The Christmas party was attended by approximately 25 people and included a mix of families and adults without kids.
- The second annual Sock Snowball Fight ended up collecting about 40 pairs of socks, which were donated to soccer teams.
- The pizza and movie night on December 28 was attended by about 25 people despite the poor weather.

- A campfire on the labyrinth is being planned for Saturday, February 14.
- A movie request sheet will be placed on the Table of Opportunities so attendees can request titles for future movie nights.

### **Budget Report**

John Barr (see attached report)

- John explained that the deficit would be approximately the same as last year.
- There was discussion on the need to proceed with the upgrading of the HVAC system in 2026. The system will be assessed before a final decision is made.
- The total givings in 2025 were lower than in 2024 but more givings were made through PAR.
- Suggestions were made to encourage legacy givings and sponsorships of events from congregants as well as people who do business with Jubilee.

**ACTION:** John will present the final budget submission at the February Council meeting.

**ACTION:** John will send his Budget report to Deborah, who will forward it to Council members who were not in attendance.

**ACTION:** Norm will send the fundraising projections for 2026 to John, once they are known.

### **Grove Music School Update**

Kye Andrews

- Unused instruments and music-related items have been received from the congregation and wider community. These are being made available to students of the Music School.
- A Finance Subcommittee of the Music School Board has been formed to review financial aid applications.

### **Other Business**

#### **Annual General Meeting and Annual Report**

Jeanette May

- The AGM is scheduled for March 15, 2026 and she encouraged Council members to attend, if possible.
- Jeanette reminded Council members that their Annual Report submissions are due to Dianne Clare on January 19.

#### **Jubilee's Relationship with DVRR**

Norm Seli

- DVRR (Don Valley Refugee Resettlement) has five member churches that continue to meet monthly on Zoom.
- They typically take on one sponsorship per year but there are no current projects. The DVRR works through AURA and the United Church of Canada and are open to last minute requests from either organization.
- DVRR members contribute annually, and there was agreement that Jubilee would continue to participate in DVRR.

- It was suggested that Toni Capozzi, Chair of the Refugee Committee, be approached to represent Jubilee on DVRR.

**ACTION:** Val and Norm will speak to Toni Capozzi about joining the DVRR as Jubilee's representative.

**ACTION:** Norm will clarify the DVRR fee and advise Gary to pay it.

### **Burningbush Eco-Ministry Relationship with Jubilee (see attached proposal)**

Norm Seli

- Norm explained that Burningbush is an Eco-Ministry focusing on the theology of environmentalism and responding to the climate reality of 2026. It was created and led by Rev. Emily Gordon who is looking for a home for the ministry for two years.
- It would become part of Jubilee and be recognized as our ministry for grant applications, receipts for tax donations and for paying expenses. Currently the expenses are modest and largely cover Rev. Gordon for her time developing newsletters, retreats and educational events. It is self-supporting and would never require money from Jubilee. Dianne has been consulted and doesn't anticipate any problems separating donations meant for Burningbush from Jubilee's donations.
- Jubilee would pay Rev. Gordon in the same manner as Jubilee's choir leads, but from the Burningbush Ministry funds. Gary does not see any issues as Re. Gordon would not be on the payroll or have any government deductions or United Church pension and benefits. He would issue her a T4A annually.
- The benefit to Jubilee would be access to this ministry and the resource of Rev. Gordon, who could preach and/or lead a workshop on eco-theology. There is definitely interest in this community and significant complementary connection with Jubilee's "Path of the Wise Woman" program.

*Moved by Pam Lock and seconded by Spencer Clinton that Jubilee agree to include the Burningbush Eco-Ministry as part of Jubilee's ministries, pursuant to an agreement as determined by the Trustees on substantially similar terms as outlined in the proposal provided to Council on January 14, 2026.*

*Carried*

### **Next Meeting Date**

February 11 at 7:00pm

March 11

April 8

May 13

June 10

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Approved February 11, 2026

*Jeanette May*