

**United Church in Meadowood
Annual Congregational Meeting, Draft Minutes
April 6, 2025**

Attendance : 83 persons, plus Caryn Douglas, minister

Call to Order: 1145 AM

1. Opening: Caryn Douglas, minister

Opening Prayer: Jeri Bjornson

- Confirmation that there is quorum.
- Documentation: The Nomination Report, the Annual Report, and Financial Statements and Budget will appear on screen when discussed. They can also be accessed online at UCiM.org.
- Regarding court Boundaries: A Show of hands will be acceptable for voting. You must be within the carpet of the sanctuary to vote.
- Regarding whom is allowed to vote, call for a motion:

Motion: **Jim Smith** moved, and Diane Dwarka seconded a motion to allow both members and adherents of the United Church in Meadowood to vote on all motions at this meeting except this motion. (voting by members of UCiM only) Carried

2. Election of Meeting Chair and Secretary

Motion: Bev Hindle moved and Jeri Bjornson seconded a motion to appoint Erin Crawford, Board chairperson, to chair the meeting, and Ron Eros, Board Secretary, to record the minutes of this meeting. Carried

Erin Crawford assumed leadership of the meeting.

3. Adoption of Agenda:

No additions or changes to the agenda were suggested.

Motion: Kathy MacDonald moved, and Joy Bissoon seconded a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Carried

4. Approval of Past minutes:

On questioning, no corrections were raised.

Motion: Bev Hindle moved, and Jean McIlrath seconded a motion to adopt the minutes of the meeting of April 14, 2024 as presented. Carried

5. Presentation of the Annual Report:

The Annual report was projected on screen as a slide show for the meeting. It is also online at UCiM.org and paper copies are available in the church office. The congregation appreciated the detail and information. Applause.

Motion: John Hes moved, and Joe Makumi seconded a motion to approve the Annual Report as presented. Carried.

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6. Nominating Committee report:

The report spreadsheet was shown on screen.

Erin Crawford stated the volunteer base has decreased over the years having the congregation to have paid staff perform many of those tasks. The Chair asked Jim Smith highlight some of the critical vacancies. First, Jim Smith thanked Erin Crawford for being Board Chair for the past three years. The congregation provided a round of applause in appreciation. Other key members of the various committees were thanked for past service. The list of new and continuing members of committees and the Board. Angie Makumi will be the new Board Chair. She was asked to come forward for a few words of thanks for Erin Crawford's extended service as Board Chair and leading the Geothermal Project and presented a gift of flowers.

Motion: Dorothy Stoodley moved, and Jean McIlrath seconded a motion to approve the Nominating Committee report as presented. Carried

Diane Dwarka has asked that the listing of committee and board members be posted on the website.

Doug Purdey asked that the custodial staff be recognized by the congregation at today's meeting.

7. Financial Statements:

Scott Osinski presented the UCiM Financial Statements for 2024 and the report from ONBusiness Chartered Professional Accountants Inc. on behalf of treasurer, Carol Oppermann.

- a. The Financial Statements:
 - Revenue for 2024 was similar to the previous year. The net cash position is also similar to the previous year. The loan from the United Church of Canada to support the Geothermal Project will be paid off on time in 2025.
 - Givings were down in 2024 due to the contributions received for the Geothermal Project. Fundraising was down slightly as well as revenue from hall rentals.
 - Expenses were managed well within the budget.
 - Financial number details are provided within the Financial Statements.

- b. ONBusiness Chartered Professional Accountants Inc. report:

Scott advised that the report from the accounting firm was not an audit but confirmed that there was nothing questionable in the UCiM financial records for 2024 and the records adequately reflected accepted accounting standards.

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Motion: Jeri Bjornson moved and Derek Bowman seconded to receive the Financial Statements. Carried.

8. 2024 UCiM Proposed Budget:

Scott Osinski, Finance Chair, presented the 2025 Budget.

- The Budget has been prepared by the Finance committee and was recommended for congregational approval by the Finance committee and the Board.
- Highlights were presented and is the work of many people in the congregation.
- General offering is expected to increase by \$15,000 as indicated from the Stewardship Campaign
- Revenues are conservative as well as the expected fundraising events.
- Committee expenses are discussed with all committees.
- Staff expenses are the most notable expense. Pulpit supply is increased due to the minister vacancy. There will be a decrease in expenses as there will be a gap in the start of a new minister.
- Jeri Bjornson had a question regarding there being no budget line for search and call. This could tie the hands of the search committee.

Motion: Jeri Bjornson moved and seconded by Diane Dwarka that the congregation direct the Board in consultation with the Finance Committee to add a budget line for search and call expenses for the minister search

Jean Thorpe asked if there was an amount budgeted for the previous search. Myles Hildebrand stated that for the last search was during the pandemic so there were no travel expenses incurred.

Bev Hindle brought forward that there will need to be a budget line required as it is likely that the candidate may be from a distance.

Jim Smith suggested to connect with Prairie to Pine to provide some guidance.

Don Thorpe provided historical that the last person that did require these expenses there was a budget of \$10000 to \$15000.

Motion was carried.

Motion: Jeri Bjornson moved, and Bev Hindle seconded that the congregation devolve the approval of the Budget for 2025 to the Board after consideration of the search and call expenses for the minister search.

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From the floor: Thanks was expressed on behalf of the Property committee for the recent addition to its expense allowance because of recently discovered problems with the fire security panel.

Motion: Don Thorpe moved, and Cathy Taylor seconded a motion to approve the firm ONBusiness Chartered Professional Accountants Inc. as reviewer for Financial Statements for 2025. Carried

- 9. Greening Campaign Update** – Erin Crawford thanked the various groups and individuals involved in the project. Mike McIlrath provided a short update on the financials. In summary, there will be a small surplus from the project. Over 50% (\$260,000) of funding gave from the congregation which is strong proof of the support for the environment. Once all funds from grants are in, the loan from the United Church of Canada will be paid.

Caryn Douglas mentioned the project report that Lori Stewart developed. This will be available later in the year.

A video developed by Swift was shown which highlights the Geothermal Project installation.

Motion: Jeri Bjornson moved, and Jane Bullied seconded a motion to receive the Greening Steering Team report. Carried

10. New Business:

- a. Scent Policy – Erin Crawford shared that the Board has voted that UCiM is now a scent free building. The board is working on policies to go with the statement.
- b. Community of Faith Profile update was provided by Diane Dwarka. The hope is the minister would start by September 1, 2025. Members of this committee is Diane Dwarka, Russ Loewen, Cheryl Durnin, and Heather Kielniak appointed by the board to develop a community of faith profile. This will be developed over the next few weeks. The congregants will be consulted through small focus groups to gather information to help inform the report.
- c. Erin Crawford shared that the Greening Steering Committee will downsize to three key leaders (Finance, Communication and Construction Convenors) as of the end of June 2025 and these three people will continue until the end of December 2025 as we have reporting to do to receive the last amounts of some grants. The Board, on behalf of the Greening Steering Committee, brings forward the following:
 - i. **Motion:** That a new standing committee, called the Greening in Action Team be approved. Moved by Archie Campbell and seconded by Gil Forrest. Motion carried. This committee will work with committees and

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groups within UCiM to provide guidance for future greening actions and projects.

- d. The congregation moved into groups to gather feedback for Vision/Mission development. This information will be collated and provided back to the Board and congregation.

11. Benediction – Caryn Douglas

12. Adjournment – Erin Crawford, chair, declared adjournment at 1:21 PM.

At the meeting of _____, 2026, it was moved by _____ and seconded by _____ to approve these minutes of the Congregational Meeting of April 6, 2025 as **presented/amended**. Carried

Angie Makumi, Board Chair

Ron Eros, Board Secretary