

2026 09 23 Brechin United Church Council Meeting Minutes and Team Reports

Attendance: Keith Allen, Rev. Katherine Brittain, Mary Boyd (vice-chair), Salome Carey, Eileen Carolan (secretary), Vickeri Cochrane, Terri Donaldson, Gloria Le Gal (past chair), Rob Russell, Grace Skomorowski, Blaine Wilkins, Susan Ward, Linda Wilson.

Regrets: Darlene Darby (Chair), Kathy Torhjem, Charlotte Richardson, Maureen Smith

Trustees: Rob Russell is representing the trustees.

Welcome and call to order by Mary Boyd at 10:01 am

Devotional: by Salome Carey. A Prayer of Moses the Man of God. Psalm 90 (1, 4, 12, 14, 17) and Nothing Gold Can Stay by Robert Frost.

Approval of Agenda as revised M/S Keith Allen/ Linda Wilson. Carried.

Adoption of Minutes.

Motion: That minutes of the June 24, 2026 Council meeting be approved as corrected.

M/S Keith Allen / Susan Ward. Carried

Correspondence received:

- Jim Rolston Chairperson from Alcoholics Anonymous invitation for July 25, 2026 Luncheon to Katherine and Darlene-Darlene was not able to attend.
- Emily Notley from August 7th in regard to our potential ability to support evacuees.
- Letter from Emily Notley August 13th re City of Nanaimo Seniors Survey Running from August 19 to September 30th. Dave Dejong from Loaves and Fishes is working with Emily to hand out postcard info at the Free Food Markets.
- Letter from Kristina in regard to youth (teen) program at our church or any other United Churches in town
- Letter of resignation from Marilyn Huffman as a Trustee of Brechin
- Letter from Terri Donaldson regarding Trustees and CRA updates – deferred to New Business.

Correspondence sent:

- Darlene responded to Emily Notley in regard to the evacuee question with Gloria's suggestions as directed by Council
- Darlene responded to Kristina with a note for Cindy in regard to future inquiries about Sunday School/ Youth Group-with a negative at this time for a regular program.

Minister's Report – Reverend Brittain - see attached

Financial Reports – Terri Donaldson / Blaine Wilkins- see attached

- Two errors were noted on the financial statements. Net Weddings and Funerals is listed incorrectly as - \$300 and the Broad View Magazine expense is listed incorrectly as - \$627.30. Both have been or are in the process of being corrected.
- We have just received the final additional sum of \$19,000.00 from the estate of Vera Bell
- At the request of Council page numbers will be added to the reports by the Council secretary

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Motion: Council directs the Trustees to prepare an agreement to indemnify Terri Donaldson for the sum of \$5000.00 in relation to the credit limit on the Collabria credit card in the name Terri Donaldson Brechin United Church. **M/S Grace Skomorowsky/ Gloria LeGal. Carried**

Motion: Susan Ward will become one of the signatories for digital authorizations at CCCU when Blaine comes off as signatory. **M/S Keith Allen/ Salome Carey. Carried.**

- Terri Donaldson will update the motion she presented to update the Trustee appointment to include Rev. Katherine Brittain. "Along with the called ministry personnel we appoint the following:
- Motion to call a congregational meeting deferred to discussion of the Unity lease.

PMR report – Salome Carey - see attached

- Will discuss first third ministry (children, youth and young adults) at the October meeting.
- Darlene Darby has stepped down as the Spiritual Formation Team Leader and discussion is needed at a future meeting to determine where Sunday School will fit.
- Salome Carey offered to support children in the library during worship time for now.

Motion: To accept above reports - **M/S Gloria LeGal/ Linda Wilson. Carried.**

Old Business:

1. Nanaimo Night Market

- Agreement that the exposure was worth the financial commitment.
- Rev. Katherine Brittain will reach out to the other churches to confirm that they want to proceed again next year.
- Many children enjoyed the games and adults were happy with the blessings.

2. Accessibility Audit

- Reverend Katherine Brittain is following up with a contact to make a plan for a review of our space and recommendations for improvement.

3. Unity Negotiations

Motion: Council does not approve the request for 3 additional hours of sanctuary time each month on the basis that it erodes the %5 increase which is in effect to cover our costs. **M/S Gloria LeGal/ Susan Ward. Carried**

Motion: A congregational meeting will be called by October 25th, 2026 to seek approval for the Unity Lease and to update Trustee appointment for CRA. **M/S Gloria LeGal/Susan Ward. Carried.**

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4. **Digital Accounts** – Terri Donaldson and Darlene Darby are working on completing this information and will report back to Council in October.
5. **2 Factor Authentication** – a Cell phone and plan have been purchased. Initial cost \$347.00 including the phone purchase. The contract will be renewed next year for \$120.00. The phone is kept locked in the safe.
6. **Microsoft Account** – Brechin continues to use the free non- profit account. AV continues to have issues with One-Drive, but these will hopefully be resolved very soon.
7. **Risk Management for non- profits** – deferred to October meeting.
8. **Pet Café** – Rev. Katherine Brittian will send Eileen Carolan the contact information so she can work on planning this event.
9. **Magazine sales**- Council agreed that allowing such sales would set a precedent for requests and could easily get out of hand. The person who made the request has been advised of the decision.

New Business

1. Library

Suzanne Sykes is finishing on updating the old check out system in the library with new cards and envelopes. This work will be completed by October 2, 2026. Mary Boyd will assist Suzanne Sykes. We will not be renewing the \$99 US yearly charge.

Darlene will provide a binder in the library and in Cindy's office with a current list of most if not all of our books.

We will be looking for a couple of volunteers to replace Suzanne who will be leaving the library at the end of September/early October. We will be returning to the old method of removing the card from the book and putting it in the brown box.

2. Purchase of dinner plates.

Motion: Council approves the purchase of 100 white dish washer safe dinner plates at \$0.99 each, from Ikea. **M/S** Grace Skomorowski/ Keith Allen. **Carried.**

3. Retention of electronic media files.

Motion:

Rationale

1. Audio Visual has retained all related weekly PowerPoint files going back to about 2016. From a poll of AV team members, it has been determined that these are not useful. Retention for about 1 year is more than adequate for reference and reuse as necessary.

2. The Brechin You Tube channel was changed to a new "brand" account, as Rev Tiff was leaving. As a result, all previous YouTube video was lost through attrition. No one has even noticed.

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3. Celebrations of life are only streamed online at the request of family. They have been informed that these videos will be deleted within a few weeks.

NOTE: any video may be downloaded and retained as a separate file on computer at any time they are posted online.

That AV PowerPoint files and all posted YouTube video be retained for a period of one year and then be deleted. Important events such as the inauguration of the building, covenanting of a new minister, etc. may be archived for future reference.

Celebrations of life videos streamed to YouTube at the request of family may be deleted after four weeks of posting.

M/S Keith Allen/ Salome Carey. Carried.

4. Brechin Friends of Brechin Wall

- Council sincerely thanks those involved in the group who originally looked after the “wall”.
- This work will be assumed by the Stewardship and Finance Team going forward.

5. Use of Blind Carbon Copy for Council email communications

- Council agreed that Blind Carbon Copy (BCC) is not required for Council Communications.

Leadership Team Reports

Ministry and Personnel: Kathy Torhjelm - see attached

Brechin 4 Action: Vickeri Cochrane – see attached. October 17 and 18 events highlighted Council.

Pastoral Care: Maureen Smith – see attached

- Reverend Katherine Brittain shared information about “Patient Pathways” series of 3 workshops tentatively planned for May. (Navigating the Health Care System/ Advanced Care Planning / Heroic Measures)
- Reverend Katherine Brittain will investigate support from the national church and Seniors Living Facilities.
- This will be a ticketed event where community members will be welcome.

Motion: Pastoral Care Team is authorized to spend up to \$2000.00 to organize this workshop series. **M/S Gloria LeGal/ Grace Skomorowski. Carried.**

Property: Keith Allen

- AED is no longer working and cannot be fixed. John Ward is following up with St John’s Ambulance for an alternative.
- HVAC inspection has been completed

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- Bob Cook has replaced the freezer seals, and it is no longer frosting up. Bo Cook donates his time and has been encouraged to submit a claim for the parts he uses.

Worship: Grace Skomoroski - see attached.

- Council agreed that We would donate \$100 to the Canadian Food Grains Bank in exchange for their representative leading part of the service on October 18.
- Pride Parade Sunday. Discussion of importance of making space and honouring our commitment to being an affirming congregation by allowing encouraging attendance and participation in the pride parade. Council agreed that service for this one service a year will be at 9 AM. The rationale for the time change will be announced well in advance of the parade next year.

Stewardship and Finance: Terri Donaldson - see attached.

- Minute for Finance will be monthly, the last Sunday of the month.

Fellowship: Linda Wilson – see attached.

35 people have registered for the Women's Retreat. No numbers from St Phillips yet.

Motion: to accept the reports **M/S** Salome Carey/ Linda Wilson. **Carried.**

Intentional Communication

- **Rev. Katherine Brittain**
 - Share Pet Café contact information with Eileen Carolan
 - FU on Accessibility Audit
 - Investigate funding options for the Patient Pathways workshop
 - Work with Pastoral Care on the Patient Pathways workshop
- **Mary Boyd**
 - Advise Matt Haapala of motion on retention of digital files
 - Assist Suzanne Sykes to complete library transition.
- **Darlene Darby**
 - Partner with Terri Donaldson on the Digital Accounts information.
- **Eileen Carolan**
 - Contact folks to set up Pet Café
 - Advise Linda Braid to purchase 100 plates from IKEA
- **Terri Donaldson**
 - Partner with Darlene Darby on the Digital Accounts information
 - Update Trustee motion for the congregational meeting
 - Draft indemnity document and advise Trustees of the motion from council.

Next regular Council Meeting: **October 28, 2026. 10:00 AM**

Devotional: -----

Closing Prayer by Reverend Katherine Brittain

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Adjournment of Business Meeting at 12:01 a.m. on a motion by Mary Boyd.

Darlene Darby, Chair

Eileen Carolan, Secretary

June 6, 2026 Team reports

Ministers Report

The Belonging Project

I am sending regrets to this meeting. I will be taking Continuing Education day, and attending The Belonging Project: Faith and Culture in Conversation and Challenging Misinformation and Hate, as part of the Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society's Multiculturalism Day.

Youth Fundraising night

The teens we "sponsored" raised \$1200 for their new theater project. I received a nice email of thanks from Kali, their coordinator. They will be e-transferring 5% to us shortly, as per our agreement. Thank you to Mary for being our tech person and to everyone who turned up to support them.

Pacific Mountain Regional Council Annual Meeting

This was likely the best gathering of the Region AGM I have been at in years. The key-note speaker, Anna Carter Florence, who is a Professor of Preaching at Columbia Theological Seminary, was excellent, there was a lot of creative and meaningful worship around the theme of the Shape of Hope. The highlight of this theme was hearing from the Executive Director of First United Church, from the downtown east side of Vancouver, talk about the impact of the completion of the new building there. She tied it beautifully to the children and youth's worship "The Shape of Hope is a Protest Sign". We adopted 2 resolutions: To receive the document "Kairos Palestine II A Moment of Faith in a Time of Genocide" and develop resources to distribute throughout the Regional Council, and for the region to become a signatory to the joint call supporting DRIPA.

Pride Sunday

Participating in the Pride Parade was an important and meaningful expression of our ministry of presence and public witness. As the only Christian group marching in the parade, Brechin had a unique opportunity—and responsibility—to embody the Gospel message of welcome, dignity, and radical inclusion in a highly visible way.

- At a time when many 2S and LGBTQIA+ people continue to hear messages of exclusion, homophobia, and transphobia associated with Christian churches, our presence mattered. By stepping beyond the walls of our building and into the community, we demonstrated that our commitment to inclusion is more than words. We showed that the values we preach from the pulpit are values we are willing to live publicly and courageously. Wearing my clergy collar throughout the event was an intentional and visible sign that Christian faith can be a source of affirmation, compassion, and belonging.

- I recognize that the change in worship time on Pride Sunday was disappointing for some members of the congregation. Any adjustment to our regular worship schedule can be challenging, particularly for those who value consistency and routine in their faith life. At the same time, the earlier service enabled members of our congregation to participate fully in an important community event that aligned with our commitment to inclusion, outreach, and public witness.

- As we look ahead, one possibility would be to invite a congregational team, such as the Pastoral Care Team, to lead the 10:00 a.m. worship service on Pride Sunday. This would allow the congregation to maintain its regular worship schedule while also enabling clergy and other members to participate in the Pride Parade and Festival. Such an approach could help us balance our commitment to worship, pastoral care, and community engagement, while ensuring that all members of the congregation feel supported

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and included. It would be important that Tim be offered the opportunity to choose to be part of the parade, so perhaps another plan can be made for music that day as well.

- The Unitarians were at the booth all day and helped with set-up and take down. There was one representative from St. Philip Anglican and one from Cedar United Church who also participated for part of the day. We had 31 people attend our early worship service, and between us and the Reaching Out group, had about 30 people march in the Parade. Thank you to all the volunteers who set up, staffed and packed away the booth at the Festival. Special thanks to Darlene who stayed the entire day (and set up and packed up), and Gloria and team who put together the banner, table-top tear-drops, promotional materials and the tub to carry everything in. Based on the effort and energy it took, I do wonder if we need to have a booth at the festival next year, or if we just march in the parade.

Nanaimo Night Market

Pride was a great dress rehearsal for our participation in the Nanaimo Night Market! Our dates are July 16th and August 27th. We booth #215 in Zone 5 (Diana Krall square). I've attached the full document, but the highlights are at the end of this report. St. Paul's will be the first church participating, so it would be nice for us to go down and support them – and take a look at their set-up. We have a few volunteers, but we need some more so that no-one is expected to spend the entire night at the booth! *I am particularly looking for people who can help with setting up the tent/table and packing it up at the end of the night. We set up at 3 pm, and take it all down again at 9 pm*

BC Housing Round Table

On June 16th, I attended a Roundtable hosted by BC Housing's CEO Vincent Tong, reflecting on what they heard after meeting with not-for-profit housing providers. One of the biggest pieces of feedback from Vancouver Island – one that was echoed in meeting with First Services last month – is “Staff are up against stuff out of their pay grade. We could do with more training – it's not only skills building, but moral support for frontline workers”. The biggest issue addressed was the cut in funding to the service-providers, at a time when need for shelter and affordable accommodation is increasing and needs of people accessing this are becoming more and more complex.

National Indigenous Day

I am looking forward to the leadership of Elder Dave Bodaly for this service and appreciate all that Brechin 4 Action has done/is doing to make it happen!

Nanaimo Night Market Information.

Zone 5: Enter via **Skinner at Bastion**, exit via **Museum Way - Booth #215**

Load-In Schedule:

Diana Krall Plaza Vendors, Zone 5: Arrive at **3:00 PM**

Parking Information:

- **Anchor Way:** Free as of 2 PM
- **Front Street between Museum Way and Promenade:** Free as of 2 PM
- **Promenade Drive:** Free as of 2 PM
- **Cameron Road near the Military Museum:** Free as of 2 PM
- **Shaw Lane, across Terminal Avenue near the Co-op Gas Station:** Free parking
- **Maffeo Sutton Park:** First 3 hours are free and free after 5 PM

🚧 Commercial Street will be closed to vehicle traffic from 2 PM to 10 PM.

🚗 Vehicles parked on the street at 2 PM will be towed free of charge to 1 Port Drive.

🚫 All vendor vehicles must be removed from Diana Krall Plaza and Commercial Street by 4:30 PM.

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YOUR BOOTH SPACE

Vendors will be allocated one 10' x 10' booth space unless otherwise approved by the organizers. Please respect your neighbours and only use your allotted space. All belongings, displays, signage, tables, chairs, and products must remain within your assigned booth space.

TAKEDOWN & EXIT

Please re-enter and exit the site as you did for load-in.

The Commercial Street Night Market concludes at **9:00 PM**. Vendors may begin packing up **only after the Market has officially closed**.



Vendor Information
package 2026.pdf

Respectfully submitted by Rev Katherine Brittain

PMR

Pacific Mountain Region AGM June 4-7, 2026 Report, Salome Carey.

This was my first time going to the Pacific Mountain Region AGM as a representative of our Church. Although I did attend the Sunday service and ordination last year at the Nanaimo Conference Centre. I am grateful for the opportunity and pleasure of meeting so many wonderful parts of us. I have some resources to share and an idea I would like to present and hopefully have come to be summer of 2027.

- The theme was: The Shape of Hope. I am personally full of hope and sure of the future! The young faces and the hope I saw in them makes me believe in a bright future where God in Community works together. It is exciting to see young people involved in ministry and leadership.
- There are many things available on the PMRC website, and I will share a few things that we spoke about at the AGM.



- There are opportunities for pilgrimage to Guatemala with Treena Duncan 12 days Oct 26th to Nov 6, 2026. This is on the PMRC website. Please let me know if I should announce any further information.
 - On Thursday We registered and made it for the 3 pm singing and Land acknowledgment.
- (I wish I had taken better notes and written down the names of all who spoke)

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- The elder who spoke was moving and inspiring with his outlook of reconciliation and unity with one another.

- We heard about the theme of the AGM it was The shape of HOPE. The symbols were fish, cross, heart, and seedling. When we arrived, we were given the choice of a card and when we went into the main conference room the tables were set up with different symbols so we could match a table.

There were memorials of the people who passed this last year.

Rev. Dr. Terence "Terry" Roy Anderson October 18, 1931- September 9, 2025

James "Jim" Angus Simogyet Wii Eelast Angus May 28, 1943- March 25, 2026

Frederick F. Cline June 3, 1925- October 14, 2025

Thomas Reginald Harding October 6, 1944-July 5, 2025

H. Irvine Hare June 14, 1925- October 4, 2025

Rev. Kathleen Jones March 15, 1953- May 14, 2026

Rev. Dr. Norman "Bruce" McLeod February 5, 1929- January 13, 2026

Mark Lawrence Paetkau March 26, 1944- February 23, 2026

Barbara Rediker September 23, 1943- September 2, 2025

Lynn Ann Robertson December 7, 1937- June 7, 2025

Larry William Scott June 9, 1951- August 9, 2025

Dr. Edwin "Ed" Searcy V.D.M. February 12, 1954- July 1, 2025

Rev. Dr. Robert F. "Bob" Smith May 25, 1934- December 8, 2025

Rev. John Snow, Jr. November 25, 1961- March 28, 2026

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Alexander Wotherspoon December 17, 1929- December 4, 2025

Ruth Lynne Wright April 25, 1947- December 22, 2025

Robert L. "Bob" Gorrie July 31, 1936- July 20, 2025

(Evelyn) Joyce Jones November 7, 1929 - August 30, 2025

Ichiro Noshiro April 23, 1929- October 2, 2025

-There was grace before we all went to supper. I missed the first meal because I was a bit lost and very tired. After dinner we went back to the hotel and had to sleep. We missed the rest of the night.

-There was an amazing Keynote speaker: Anna Carter Florence, and she spoke of "The Shape of Hope in a Storm, Take One: Staying Together, Running Around (Acts 27)

I did read her book *A is for Alabaster* and in there she relates how we are watching a church with shrinking numbers to the fear the men had on the ship as they had to cast everything off. She talks as a metaphor of change about how we are lightening our load and jettisoning anything just to stay afloat. She also says our ship we may run aground, but we will always pick up the pieces as a church or a ship's crew together and go on. Tell the stories break bread together and be alive!

-There was also the Kamloops Pride Choir, I am sorry to report we missed. I really will prepare better next time and know more what I am doing.

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Friday, June 5th 2026!

After opening with wonderful music and worship, we heard the Presidents address by Rev. Dr. Simon LeSieur. He spoke about how he is ending his term and thanked everyone for the support, love, help, and all of the people who make up Pacific Mountain region and the congregants they serve. He introduced Thea who has taking on his former position. (this was done on Sunday).

- Introduction to business; During this report we met the executives and heard about their work; who, *monitor, through our Executive Minister, the extent to which that vision is being brought to life. But vision and direction can't be shaped without intentional and thorough listening.* * (means words taken directly from online annual report).

Annual Report available here: <https://online.flippingbook.com/view/364552887/76/>

We again heard from Anna Carter Florence; The Shape of Hope in a Storm, Take Two: Walking on Water (Mathew 14:22-32). She spoke of Peter asking Jesus to make him walk on water and when he stops believing he sinks, but what did he stop believing. That it was Jesus, or that he himself could walk on water? Jesus is the one who sits beside us through and past the storm. We aren't mistaken in that-in his love for us, his care for us, his call to us from wherever we're sinking into a lifeboat of safe passage, and the assurance of his voice above the wind and the waves. Believe it. And go out to meet him. It really was wonderful.

We had announcements and grace then went to lunch.

We heard about indigenous ministries. Highlights follow:

April 2025: meeting with Darby Memorial Community in Bella Bella with VST's Ray Aldred in Bella Bella

October 2025: providing worship in community, and meeting with several groups (language school, Matriarch luncheon, Band Council)

March 2026: begin providing monthly in-community worship services with a team of Ministers. Thank you to Keith Simmonds (Cambell River), Nancy Walker (Bella Coola) and Mimi Smienk (Cape Mudge) for being open to this new ministry opportunity.

*** Financial Highlights** (For the year ended December 31, 2025)

The Region continues to maintain a strong financial position. Net assets increased to approximately \$61.1 million, up from \$54.7 million in 2024, reflecting another year of solid financial performance.

- The Region reported an overall surplus of \$6.4 million, driven primarily by strong results in administered funds and continued investment income, partially offset by modest deficits in the Operating Fund and Camp Futures Fund.

« The Operating Fund recorded a small deficit of approximately \$52,500, reflecting stable operations and continued prudent financial management.

« The Camp Futures Fund recorded a deficit of approximately \$387,900, largely due to ongoing investment in camp-related initiatives.

+ Administered Funds generated a significant surplus of approximately \$6.9 million, largely driven by grants and contributions related to property sale proceeds, along with investment activity. Investment performance remained positive, with total realized and unrealized gains of approximately \$5.1 million, demonstrating continued resilience despite market fluctuations. Total investments increased to approximately \$77.1 million, reflecting both market performance and additional funds deployed during the year.

- The Region remains well-positioned financially, with strong reserves and investment assets that support both current ministry and long-term sustainability. Careful stewardship, prudent financial management, and ongoing oversight will continue to guide our work. We remain mindful of the balance between supporting current ministry needs and preserving resources for future generations. The Council will continue to monitor financial performance, investment strategy, and emerging risks to ensure alignment with the Region's mission and priorities.

*Taken from online annual report.

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Also listed are the total assets and liabilities. The Provision fund and its uses. As well as the application process.

Leadershift; Courageous, Christian, Called: Leadership Development for Those Who Lead & Tend Communities of Faith « Proudly #UCCan #Affirming

LeaderSHIFT is an initiative of the Chinook Winds and Pacific Mountain Regional Councils, of the United Church of Canada. Our ongoing work is the discernment, offering and sponsoring of leadership formation resources, for ministry personnel and lay leaders alike.

Currently there are 31 people on the pathway to ministry. 17 people on discernment.

There was business- nominations and proposals.

Nominees for Regional council Executive were, Karen Millard, Sandra Nixon, And Tracy Fairfield. We heard from each and a vote was Taken on Saturday.

The result was Karen Millard, and Sandra Nixon was elected.

First Third is a ministry aimed at people in the first third of their life



***My goal for the next several months is to engage with more Communities of Faith as they discover their work with children, youth and families; create a discernment process that supports contextually based visioning and planning for First Third Ministry in local contexts; and share success stories of programs that are making a difference.**

Lisa Munro First Third, Resource and Engagement Facilitator.

I spoke with Lisa about doing a camp spirit at our Church in the Summer of 2027.

I would like to bring this forward to our council sometime in the near future.

There was a peaceful protest led by the children's group. It was about standing up for yourself with a positive message; you are welcome, you are loved, we are all welcome, WE ARE ALL LOVED!

During the event we did some crafts and making our own protest signs were one of the activities.

Naramata Centre;

Naramata Centre continues to grow through the energy, care, and commitment of a wider community. There are many ways to be part of what is unfolding here:

+ Participate in a program or retreat

+ Volunteer your time and skills

* Partner with us in offering meaningful program and retreat experiences

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+ Support the Centre financially Every contribution matters.

Together, these efforts help ensure that Naramata continues to be a place of welcome, relevance, and transformation for years to come.

Saturday!

We heard the executive minister, Treena Duncan, speak of hope; here are some of her words

Wild Hope is not passive. It has shape. It moves us toward action.

As we gather in Kamloops, my prayer is that we would make space for courageous conversation, faithful discernment, deep listening, and renewed imagination. That we would notice where the wind of the Spirit is already blowing among us. And that together we might continue shaping a future grounded not in fear, but in wild, wild hope.

- We heard from General Council Guest – Harry Li and then from Rev. Sarah Giles we heard about Stewardship

- Getting Started in Stewardship — A 90-minute webinar introducing key stewardship best practices, helping participants view generosity as a spiritual practice rather than an unpleasant chore.

- Stewardship Best Practices — An in-depth, multi-week, team-based exploration of current stewardship best practices. This program includes practical suggestions, customizable resources, and concludes with a detailed stewardship plan and ongoing coaching to help Communities of Faith achieve their goals.

- Set Up Your Congregational Giving Program — A two-session program designed to help Communities of Faith plan and carry out a successful stewardship campaign.

- These are just a few of the things Stewardship can help us with. Sarah is very fun and enthusiastic.

- We then heard from **Anna Carter Florence** again; The Shape of Hope in a Storm, Take Three: (The book of Jonah) Her message here was; we can't run away from God's call to speak. We can't hide below decks in a storm when there is work to be done and a word to be said. If we do God will send a big fish to find us. And in this story, it is the fish that saved us from a far worse fate, so we can be the person God has called us to be.

Throughout the weekend we saw videos of retirees and heard them speak those are all available at the link provided at the end of the report.

- The Rev. Dr. Simon Le Sieur stepped back from his position as President and Thea Sheridan-Jonah was brought on as President Elect

Rev Simon had this to say

- Declutter- keep the main thing the main thing

- Pray Hard!

- Go do it! No one else is!



On Sunday we attended the service, two ordainment and two admissions.

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I felt this was important to include in the report, it is taken in full, from the AGM report

Brenda Lynne Fawkes June 23,1971 - September 20, 2024

Brenda Fawkes was a much loved and respected minister] of The United Church of Canada. She died tragically in a motor vehicle accident in September 2024.

- Brenda received her call to ministry while a member of Charleswood United Church, Winnipeg. She studied at the Vancouver School of Theology, graduating with a Master of Divinity degree in 1997. She served the Vancouver congregations of Wilson Heights United Church and Dunbar United Church before becoming the Director of Field Education at the Vancouver School of Theology (2011-2019).
- At the time of her death, Brenda was working for the United Church as the Vocational Minister for the Pacific Mountain and Chinook Winds Regions. In that work, and in her previous work at V.S.T., she worked closely with students studying for ministry within the church. Nurturing wise, competent, and compassionate church leadership was Brenda's gift and passion.
- This Fund was founded to honour Brenda's life, and to continue her work and passion in raising- up and supporting those preparing for church ministry and leadership.
- The purpose of the Brenda Fawkes Student Bursary Fund is to financially support the studies of present and future Candidates for the ministry of The United Church in Canada.
- Direct financial support of between \$5,000 - \$10,000 per year can be given to officially recognized Candidates or those recommended for Candidacy by the Candidacy Board of The United Church of Canada from either the Pacific Mountain or the Chinook Winds Regions.
- Watch for the application link in the Regional newsletter in the coming weeks. The spring deadline to submit applications is June 15, 2026.

Leenane Shiels, Nancy Talbot, Stephen Harper and Keith Murray Brenda Fawkes Student Bursary Fund Committee

Meeting people and putting a name to a face made a huge difference for me. It made all the opportunities here more tangible and available. I spoke to Treena Duncan and heard her passion; it is inspiring. I met Lisa Munro and felt her passion for children's ministry.

It is different being there than seeing it online. The link for the online AGM report

<https://online.flippingbook.com/view/364552887/76/>

Thank you for this opportunity. I expect most of my reports won't be as long.

Salome Carey. PMR Rep.

Financial Statements

Brechin United Church Balance Sheet As at 05/31/2026

ASSET

Current Assets

Petty Cash	187.11	
CCCU Chequing Bank account	<u>14,976.94</u>	
Total Cash		15,164.05
Investments		227,770.67
GST Receivable	<u>442.83</u>	
Total Receivable		<u>442.83</u>
Total Current Assets		<u>243,377.55</u>

Capital Assets

Office Furniture & Equipment	288,636.00	
Accum. Amort. -Furn. & Equip.	<u>-288,636.00</u>	
Net - Furniture & Equipment		0.00
Church Building	2,098,149.38	
Accum Amortization Bulding	<u>-2,098,149.38</u>	
Net Building		0.00
Property		<u>347,000.00</u>
Total Capital Assets		<u>347,000.00</u>

TOTAL ASSET		<u><u>590,377.55</u></u>
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LIABILITY

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	<u>2,950.73</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>2,950.73</u>

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Trust Accounts

Building fund	16,520.90	
Clear Building fund	-694.65	
The Spiritual Growth Fund	97.45	
Mission & Service	6,760.00	
Clear Mission & Service	-6,760.00	
Loaves & Fishes	1,725.00	
Clear Loaves & Fishes	-1,725.00	
Memorial Fund	3,835.73	
Audio Visual Fund	-150.00	
The Legacy Fund	63,205.82	
B4A Youth Reconciliation Fund	7,685.03	
Clear B4A Youth Reconciliation Fund	-6,400.00	
Brechin4Action Fund	143.16	
Workshops & Events Grants	8,909.52	
Clear Workshops & Events Grants	-1,951.27	
Women's Friendship Group Fund	1,085.39	
Clear Women's Friendship Group Fund	-347.62	
Nanaimo Community Refugee Fund	107,277.53	
Clear Nanaimo Community Refugee Fnd	-64,667.97	
Total Trust Funds		134,549.02
PMR Support Revenue Suspense		20,415.00
Total Current liabilities		154,964.02
TOTAL LIABILITY		157,914.75

EQUITY

Retained Earnings

Retained Earnings - Previous Year	416,546.31
Current Earnings	<u>15,916.49</u>
Total Retained Earnings	<u>432,462.80</u>

TOTAL EQUITY	<u>432,462.80</u>
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LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	<u><u>590,377.55</u></u>
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Brechin United Church

Income Statement 05/01/2026 to 05/31/2026

REVENUE

Revenue

Local Contributions	11,417.00
Canada Helps Local Contributions	191.63
Open donations	542.65
Special Events & Fundraising	3,545.90
Unity Church Lease Revenue	2,625.00
Facility Rentals	1,580.00
PMR Support Revenue	<u>2,917.00</u>
Total Operating Revenue	<u>22,819.18</u>

TOTAL REVENUE	<u>22,819.18</u>
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EXPENSE

Overhead Expenses

Equipment Service & Agreements	483.63
Insurance	264.96
Janitorial Supplies	269.90
UCC & Region Assessments	843.45
Telephone & Internet Expense	252.90
Shared Building Expense	360.30
Kitchen Supplies	49.21
Total Overhead Expense	<u>2,524.35</u>

Payroll Expenses

Wages & Salaries	10,298.08
Contracted Music Services	1,800.00
Employee Benefits	2,689.20
Pulpit Supply	261.00
Total Payroll Expense	<u>15,048.28</u>

General & Administrative Expenses

Worship Supplies	140.92
Office Supplies	1,015.27
Pastoral Care Team Exp	18.54
Fellowship Team Expense	171.67
Miscellaneous Expense	965.48
Bookkeeping and Payroll Expenses	347.07
Total General & Adminstravtive	<u>2,658.95</u>

TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>20,231.58</u>
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NET INCOME	<u><u>2,587.60</u></u>
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Brechin United Church Comparative Income Statement

	Actual 01/01/2026 to 05/31/2026	Actual 01/01/2025 to 05/31/2025
REVENUE		
Revenue		
Local Contributions	63,058.73	54,970.15
Canada Helps Local Contributions	1,081.28	0.00
Open donations	2,300.30	1,453.00
NET Weddings and Funerals	155.00	0.00
Special Events & Fundraising	5,123.45	291.36
Miscellaneous Revenues	800.00	809.00
Restorative Care Program Revenue	5,637.46	0.00
Friends of Brechin Wall Fund	150.00	0.00
Unity Church Lease Revenue	13,250.00	10,000.00
Facility Rentals	10,282.00	9,272.00
PMR Support Revenue	14,585.00	35,000.00
Investment Income	1,357.50	438.27
Total Operating Revenue	117,780.72	112,233.78
TOTAL REVENUE	117,780.72	112,233.78



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EXPENSE

Actual 01/01/2026 to
05/31/2026

Actual 01/01/2025
to 05/31/2025

Overhead Expenses

Electricity	1,337.25	1,987.42
Equipment Service & Agreements	1,286.38	560.25
Insurance	1,324.80	1,301.30
Janitorial Supplies	763.61	1,104.76
Contract Janitorial Services	4,879.00	7,490.00
UCC & Region Assessments	3,373.80	3,261.08
Repair & Maintenance General	653.38	473.63
Telephone & Internet Expense	1,288.54	905.09
Shared Building Expense	2,201.41	1,211.64
Kitchen Supplies	862.96	782.22
Total Overhead Expense	17,971.13	19,077.39

Payroll Expenses

Wages & Salaries	51,682.86	46,533.07
Contracted Music Services	9,420.00	8,225.00
Minister Travel Expense	0.00	435.67
Employee Benefits	13,752.77	11,356.33
Pulpit Supply	536.00	508.00
Total Payroll Expense	75,391.63	67,058.07

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	Actual 01/01/2026 to 05/31/2026	Actual 01/01/2025 to 05/31/2025
General & Administrative Expenses		
Promotion & Marketing Expenses	855.16	353.61
Worship Supplies	447.00	0.00
Website Expense	132.18	17.80
Office Supplies	2,295.70	866.42
Bank Charges	322.70	60.00
Do Not Use - Service Supplies	0.00	194.47
Broadview Magazine Expense	0.00	-950.00
Pastoral Care Team Exp	18.54	63.19
Fellowship Team Expense	171.67	77.12
Miscellaneous Expense	1,694.84	499.75
Subscription Expense	1,215.74	1,433.34
Bookkeeping and Payroll Expenses	1,347.94	1,124.09
Total General & Adminstravtive	8,501.47	3,739.79
TOTAL EXPENSE	101,864.23	89,875.25
NET INCOME	15,916.49	22,358.53

Generated On: 06/15/2026

Ministry and Personnel

Our team members have been preparing for Cindy's annual performance review which happens next week. Other team members have met with our contracted musician. We have posted the respectful workplace guidelines outside the office as is required by Work Safe BC.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Torhjelm

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Brechin 4 Action

Team meeting: Tuesday, June 09, 2026 6:30 Zoom

Chair: Vickeri Cochrane

Present: Lynn Burrows, Vickeri Cochrane, John Bullas, Jim Boggs, Marg Barrie, and Diane Morris (recorder) **Regrets:** Colleen Crossland, Shelley Serebrin, Catherine Eck (away)

Truth & Reconciliation:

Art supplies Several possible options for receiving the art supplies which were purchased for the now cancelled Youth Collab are being investigated. No decision as yet.

- Plan is already in place for the remaining funds (matched funds) to cover expenses needed for Dave Bodaly's opening and leading Brechin's special Sunday service on National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21st. Dave will be telling stories/history of the Snuneymuxw People. Rev Katherine and Dave Bodaly will collaborate in presentation of the service.
- These two actions, along with the recent return of the major grant from United Church Vision Fund will just about finalize our responsibility to make appropriate use of these funds. Certainly, we regret the fact that the original vision could not be realized.

Social Justice

Pride Parade took place on June 14th, B4A participated as members of Brechin United.

We recognized that with the focus recently primarily being on Indigenous Peoples Day, and Pride parade, we have not paid adequate attention to the issues of Social Justice, both international and local.

- One area of concern is that of the worsened conflict in the Middle East, particularly Palestine, Gaza, Lebanon. John will forward information from the regional AGM regarding this issue as it was discussed there. On our agenda for September.
- Also, recently received correspondence from Canadian Food Grains Bank regarding world food day, **October 16. "Our theme for World Food Day this year, *Setting the Table for Peace, highlights how conflict drives hunger—and how peace can help build food security. Peace is also more than just the absence of conflict. It is where people have everything they need, including a full table of nutritious food*** "

In past years, B4Action has contributed to the Sunday worship service on World Food Day. Plan to discuss this with Rev Katherine.

Climate Change/Climate Action

- The 100 Mile Diet Potluck and Vegetarian Dinner plans for the fall will be postponed at this time until Shelley returns.
- Fossil Free Non-Proliferation Treaty. A short presentation to our congregation about the potential creation this treaty could take place again in June, with more detailed follow up in September. Website for information is www.fossilfuel treaty.org

Minute for Mission: June 28th – Diane Morris

Submitted by Vickeri Cochrane

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Pastoral Care

The team has had a fairly quiet month so far, doing hospital, home, and phone visits. 4 cards have been sent, and 2 shawls. No memorial teas are booked until [August 17th](#); that could change of course.

- Due to personal circumstances, I'll be sharing leadership duties with Marilyn Huffman and Gloria LeGal for the foreseeable future.
- We are working on expanding our mandate by recruiting new younger members and volunteers.
- I will be absent from [July 15th](#) to 31st.

Respectfully submitted, Maureen Smith

Property

1. The HVAC system has been serviced. The invoice received in early May has been cancelled with apologies as the previous service had not been done.
2. Rob S will install a holder for the teardrop sign so that we don't cause any damage to the irrigation system.
3. Bob C is sourcing replacement gaskets for the freezer.
4. There is a stand available for the teardrop sign so that the sign can be used wherever Brechin UC is in attendance. It will be placed in one of our storage areas so that it is easily accessible.
5. The Property Team will review emergency contacts in order for facility users to get assistance if they have trouble accessing the building for their events.
6. There is a new property manager for the building replacing Grant Lawson. The building manager, Tibor, is continuing in his role.
7. The cement curb has been removed and flexible bollards have been installed to mitigate vehicle incidents in the parking lot.
8. The attempt to sell the organ was unsuccessful. It is too big for the person's needs.

Respectfully submitted, Keith Allen

Stewardship and Finance

Present: Charlotte Richardson, Salome Carey, Blaine Wilkins, Katherine Brittain.

Charlotte opened the meeting with a Reflection and Prayer

Reports:

- Minister:

Pleased with the increase in givings in May compared to last year.

Pride Parade – Very happy with the number of participants representing Brechin United Church and Reaching Out. Shared that Brechin and Unitarian were the only churches that participated.

- Treasurer:

Blaine spoke to the Financial Statements, very pleased with the increase in revenue (local contributions, and donations) as well as Facility rentals for the year to date.

- Old (and NEW) business:

Minute for FOB Wall – plan was for every 2nd Sunday of the month, however it hasn't been possible to establish this routine yet.

General consensus was to postpone this to autumn with a more involved plan.

Over three weeks beginning October 18th we would like to re-introduce folk to "What makes Brechin United Church run", including programs, Friends of Brechin Donor Wall, PAR, etc. which would lead into

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the annual Stewardship Campaign. On November 8th we'd have a PAR-tea after church with tea and scones and S & F team to sign people up to PAR.

Minute for Finance – we'd like this to be a regular event. Treasurer will prepare a short report to be published in the Mail Chimp program and presented in the last Sunday service of each month.

Photocopier lease: The payments for the old photocopier lease were still being taken by PAD. I spoke to Meridian Lease and we have received a credit memo. I'll follow up if it doesn't get refunded to us.

Next meeting September 16, 2026

Submitted by Charlotte Richardson

Worship

1. Worship Team met June 10, 2026 in the Arbutus Room.
2. Accessibility Audit: Rev. Katherine is communicating with a company who conducts audits of spaces to determine accessibility. No reply as yet.
3. The Brechin Bargains Spring Market: the organizing group had a meeting to discuss what worked and what didn't. It was a lot of work. We are so appreciative of those who helped us. We will turn fund raising over to the Finance and Stewardship Team.
4. Val shared a summary of PMRC AGM.
5. President of PMRC, Thea Sheridan-Jonah will be on the island on June 29th. Rev. Katherine will contact Thea to see if there is another date that works better for Brechin and Oceanside churches to host her.
6. Rev. Katherine shared her updated service template with us.
7. Bob and Sally Cook were away on May 24th and will have their membership recognized at a future Membership Service. Beth Mellis was included as a transfer of membership on the 24th.
8. We were very moved by the letter from our visitors Felicity and Linda so have attached it to our minutes.
9. We will meet again on September 2, 9:30 AM in the Arbutus Room.

Respectfully Submitted, Grace Skomorowski

Fellowship/ Women's Retreat – No Report

Brechin Bargains and Garage Sale 9-1 May 9th 202

Final Evaluation Meeting May at Peggy's place

Grace S.; Dianne K. ; Sandi B. and Peggy Sally Cook was away.

Thoughts:

We had a small line-up at 9:00 one early bird took best jewellery.

Steady flow of customers, amazing amount was sold and moved.

Residents of Brechin building came as customers.

Many people came from the community, learned where the church is and spent money.

Sandi put valuable items on Marketplace day of sale worthwhile!!

Outside: unbreakable housewares; appliances; linens; gardening pots; and tools.

Inside: Birch Room: Plaid shirts; pictures; jewellery and accessories; children's toys

Arbutus Room: Books; collectibles; crafts; and everything else

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Hot-dog sales were a crowd pleaser right away (9:00 AM)

Bruce Wilson cooked on Jensen barbecue.

sold hot-dog, pop and chips for \$5 made \$125 profit. Need onions too!

A lot of exhausting labour for a profit of \$2,528.80

1) **Advertising:** Sandi did random survey as people were shopping:

people saw Coffee news; face-book online; and neighbourhood signs.

- Coffee news: free, needs advance planning; some sightings

- Facebook: Sandi and Dianne used own acct for "free"

update on day before or day of sale cost \$9 worth it

Ian Gartshore used Facebook at a cost of \$30 (each) not worth it.

- Brechin website: yes Signs on wall of Brechin 2 weeks before

- Brechin announcements: skit between Grace and Peggy worked well.

- caught people's attention: collection of plaid shirts and jewellery, ahead helped

- Other church announcements: Hope Lutheran: Local UCC

next time St. Andrews Presbyterian and all UCC

- Brechin Neighbourhood has a facebook page-next time advertise there too.

- Day of advertising: 6 neighbourhood telephone pole signs with balloons

- Lots of church signs for walk/drive by traffic

2) **Advertising posters:** Sandi Beaupre designed poster. Sent to AV team too.

2 months ahead: "Save the date and contributions" poster 1/2 pg. and handouts

2 – 3 weeks ahead new advertising poster and for congregation to distribute

lots of talk of sale at church

3) **Date:** Council decided on second week-end of May (Mother's day interfered a little)

Lots of competition but earlier is a weather risk

Spring cleaning incentive! Maybe a Fall event?

4) **Merchandise:** We accepted almost everything except clothes (Plaid shirts were fun but not great sellers) . No furniture, this was important. We received mountains of stuff, more than we could handle or price or even display nicely. A lot of things were collected by Grace S. and Barb C. in their homes.

Very hard when there is no storage space here.

Need to select merchandise and recycle things: vases to florists; books to literary society

Clean-up: full truck load to Thrift store (Thanks John Ward) and full trunks too

5) **Volunteers:** Dianne organized at least one Coordinator assigned per category/ area

Volunteers must be assigned for relief for each seller.

Circulate clip-board for names of volunteers.

- This is a whole church event, everyone's participation is needed

Treasurers: two at least ; must be very visible; " Cash only" works if advertised

- Anje Skomorowski and Rob Stredulinsky were treasurers

Sort and Set-up :Friday May 8th: Worked in whole Arbutus and Birch rooms.

Only open drop-off from 10:00-2:00. Nothing later or day of sale!

Very hard to sort and price.

Plan to put some items outside on Saturday morning for visible sale

Friday church shoppers: so many hard working volunteers earned right to first choice but ? Fair to customers.

We advertise no early birds but sale actually started on Friday "self-sales"

Set-up and take-down Saturday: Property team very helpful

Set-up needs to start at 7:30 AM

Clean-up volunteers: Great to have a list of clean-up folk and relief workers

6) **Signs** for tables and categories: hard to see, often ignored!

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Careful map of vendors useless. Some people didn't realize inside and outside.

7) **Categories** for sale tables:

Books and Puzzles: discerning shoppers, few books sold

Plants and Planters: one plant only; customers came looking for Spring plants

lots of vases that can be returned to Florist

Jewellery; scarves/purses: some treasures snapped up by con-man:

mostly out-dated or out of style. Scarves hard to display.

Housewares needs categories: Appliances (lots); linens sold well; glassware; dishes; plastic items; whole picnic set-up too.

Tools: thanks to Dick Van's old collection and skill-full selling chatter.

Pictures and Picture frames: not many but they were well displayed

Collectibles: "no bargaining set price is fair price"; real treasures not appreciated.

If a valuable item is donated please specify

Craft table includes wrapping paper, ribbons, Christmas? – not much worthwhile

Sports Equipment: not very much

Children's Toys – great as give a-ways ; small selection

Miscellaneous- lots of ???

Need to have the right thing at the right time for the right person.

Recommendations:

- not the responsibility of the worship team
- not a good way to sell valuable items
- next time perhaps select categories for one or two item specialized sale
 - ie: Vintage jewellery
- book church space 'everywhere' well in advance!
- Marketplace was very useful thanks to Sandi
- one or more congregation members say it's not worth the effort.
- fun way to socialize with other church folk-- working hard for 2 days
- engage everyone in congregation as much as possible
- decide ahead about a sale bag at the end. Last hour fill a bag for \$2 (have consensus)
- wait at least a year or two between sales when it's time for another good clean-out

Every thrift sale/ fund raiser leaves people very tired but happy too. Good to work together and be visible in our community.

Compiled and edited by Peggy Jensen. Received by worship team June 3rd

Sent to Brechin Council June 20th