

St. Andrew's Council Meeting
Meeting was held in the chapel
Wednesday August 20th, 2025 at 6:45 p.m.

Welcome and Opening (6:45 p.m.)	Doug McCausland welcomed everyone to the meeting.
Attendance	Elizabeth Brownlee, Kim Delarosbel, William Downey, Lorie Fairburn, Marg Fleming, Karen Gooch (Secretary), Bill Ingwersen, Doug McCausland (Chair), Ed Mounce, Stephen Park, Caitlin Smithers (Minister), Derek Stott (12)
Regrets	Bill Holmes
Land Acknowledgement	Doug McCausland acknowledged that we meet on Indigenous land and offered thanks for the gifts of the people from the Nipissing First Nation as we work together towards reconciliation.
Touchstones	Doug McCausland read our Council Touchstones aloud.
Opening	Kim Delarosbel offered a prayer to open the meeting during which she referenced then Jullian of Norwich quote, "All shall be well".
Visioning/Strategic Planning Exercise	<p>Diane Matheson-Jimenez was unable to be with us for this meeting, but Caitlin Smithers offered a summary of our visioning session from the June meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Discernment</u> – The process begins by discerning what the focus of our visioning should be OR what is <i>The Thing</i>. • <u>Communicate</u> - The next step is to communicate what <i>The Thing</i> is to our stakeholders - Community, Ministers, Trustees and others • <u>Strategize</u> - Next, strategize to find the best way to move forward to accomplish <i>The Thing</i>. During this phase we want to avoid being suck in the past or focusing on what is lacking. • <u>Develop</u> – Developing <i>The Thing</i> involves searching for ideas that should be rooted in our values and will help us move forward one step at a time. • <u>Do <i>The Thing</i></u> – Celebrate successes and learn from our failures during this phase. • <u>Evaluate</u> – Evaluation should be used throughout the process so modifications can be made. This is not necessarily a linear process. <p>We spent some time brainstorming ideas about what direction our visioning should take.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The best way to move forward would be to set up a taskforce or ad hoc committee to work through the process. People from outside of Council should be encouraged to participate in this. • It was suggested that <i>The Thing</i> could be congregational engagement. Many thought this was a good idea. Particularly since COVID, it seems like it has been difficult to get a wider cross-section of the congregation involved in the life and work of the church beyond attending worship. • We have to be able to meet people where they are. There are people who have done work for church and are now ready to take a step back and there are new people who are looking for a way to contribute but may not know how to do this. How do we reach out?

- It is possible to expand our online presence to make new connections?
- Is there a perception that we are not allowing people to be involved on their own terms? We need to be careful about making assumptions the lack of engagement. Ask people what they would like to do.
- It appears sometimes that people are reluctant to commit for the long term. Perhaps is better to start small and provide more short-term opportunities.
- We must remember that it's ok just to be here. Presence is a gift.
- Visiting and making connections before worship services has become important.
- The theme for Rally Back Sunday (September 13th) is A Place at the Table. To fit with the theme, we will host Linger Lunch after worship. This will be promoted over the next couple of weeks and people will be invited to bring a friend. We will have a sing-a-long following lunch and encourage some informal discussion about finding your place at the table.

Caitlin suggested that we invite Diane Matheson-Jimenez to meet with the Council to discuss the visioning process further. It was suggested that we meet with her after Sunday worship and invite the congregation to join us. A date of October 19th was proposed. Caitlin will talk with Diane to see if this would work with her schedule.

Agenda

Motion 059/25

William Downey/ Derek Stott moved that the agenda be accepted as presented.

Carried

Minutes of Previous Meetings

Motion 060/25

Karen Gooch/ William Downey moved that the minutes from June 20th, 2025 be accepted as presented.

Carried

Correspondence

None

Business Arising

Credit Cards Lorie Fairburn informed Council that the RBC credit cards have arrived and been distributed according to our Credit Card Policy. Karen Gooch and Janet Ross will be tracking and monitoring their use.

New Business

Financial Report The following financial information was offered.

- Month-end Statements – The month-end statements June and July 2025 were not ready to present to Council. Karen Gooch has reviewed them, but she needs to meet with our bookkeeper, who is currently on holidays, to clarify a couple of items.
- Summer Appeal – The summer financial appeal brought in \$4,770 in donations. It was suggested that this special appeal should be done again next year.
- Fall Stewardship – John and Wanda Wallace have agreed to write a letter for our annual Fall stewardship campaign.

Motion 061/25

Karen Gooch/ William Downey moved that St. Andrew's Council defer the approval of the June and July 2025 financial statements until the September Council meeting
Carried

Liaisons **Appendices I, II, III**

Written Committee reports were emailed to Council members ahead of this meeting for review.

- Administration – No report.
- Facility – Jean Jaimeson provided a written report outlining the recent activities of the Property Committee (Appendix I). The following comments came from Council members in response.
 - It was noted that Jean's report stated that it is not the cleaner's job to put the garbage out on Fridays, but there was no suggestion about who would be responsible for this task.
 - Stuart Bailey has agreed to take the recycling to the depot during Bill Downey's summer absence.
- Spiritual Life – Elizabeth Brownlee provided a written report (Appendix II) with details about the activities of the Worship, Congregational Life/Fundraising and Pastoral Care Teams.
- Living Our Mission – Derek Stott offered the following:
 - Inclusivity – The Inclusivity Committee has yet to name a Chair. There will be some from St. Andrew's participating in the North Bay Pride events happening on September 12th, 2025.
 - Loaves & Fishes - Lorie Fairburn provided a written Loaves & Fishes report for June/July 2025 (Appendix III) for Council members to review. Lorie highlighted the following:
 - There have been many new clients in August so far, it is hard to say why. Many clients are coming in hungry since the Gathering Place has reduced the number of meals they serve as a result, the Café has started serving more breakfast food - including eggs.
 - She also reported that food bank expenses have been close to last year at this time. Buying in bulk when staple food items are on sale and in-kind donations have helped to keep costs in line even though food prices are generally rising.
 - The annual application to the John Carl MacIsaac Foundation grant is being prepared. We will be requesting \$30,000 this year.
 - Outreach – The Outreach Committee Garden will be ready for harvesting soon.

M&P Committee No Report

Minister's Report **Appendix IV**

- Caitlin Smithers provided a written report outlining her activities for June and July 2025 (Appendix III) for members to review.
- Caitlin said that some good connections have been made following the inter-faith service that was held at the waterfront as part of the 100th anniversary celebrations

for the City of North Bay. Thanks was offered to Caitlin and Ralph Johnston for organizing this service.

Other Business

Job Net Room Lorie Fairburn brought forward a plan to refurbish the old Job Net Room in the basement. This will send a positive message to non-St. Andrew's people who meet in this room (including support groups and Loaves & Fishes clients) - that they are important to us. Lorie is looking to fundraise \$8,000 to \$10,000 from the community and has already received a \$2,000 donation towards the cause.

Motion 062/25

Lorie Fairburn/ William Downey moved that St. Andrew's Council approve that the Job Net Room be refurbished and that fundraising be done to cover the costs.

Carried

Next Meeting The next Council meeting will be held at 6:45 p.m. on Wednesday September 17th.

Round Table Members of Council were invited to speak about anything they would like.

- Several people spoke about how nice it was to have some downtime in July – whether at a cottage, at a campground or at home.
- Doug McCausland stated that he continues to sell “St. Andrew's” pens for \$10 a piece to raise money for the general fund. He has sold 27 to date.
- The brainstorming that took place at our meeting was enjoyable for some.

Adjournment

The Council gathered in a circle and sang the Ralph Johnston choral ending before the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Next Council Meeting Wednesday September 17th, 2025 at 6:45 p.m.

Lois E. Carey Parlour

Chairperson, Doug McCausland

Secretary, Karen Gooch

Appendix I

Property Committee Report

Doug McCausland Chair
St. Andrews United Church Council
Council Meeting August 20th

Dear Doug and Council:

I had full intentions to attend the meeting but I have had a medical issue so I'm laying low for a short time. Hopefully I will be there next month.

These are the issues we are working on:

Update: I am working on the Rent scheduling and Prices to be competitive in the Market.

Within the next few weeks King Glass will be installing the window plastic in the Parlour. And while they are in the building they will measure and give an estimate For Caitland's windows as well. We have to get an estimate to get heat into her Office.

The cords to the windows will be replaced
Repairs to the downstairs sink and cupboard
A major cleanup under the stairs before winter

A major issue is the garbage outside please notify all departments no Garbage put Out until Garbage Day. It is not Amanda's job to pick up garbage.

These are a few of the items we are working on and looking forward to the fall and Getting back to routine.

Warm Regards
Jean Jamieson

Appendix II

Spiritual Life Liaison Report – August 20, 2025

Worship & Christian Education: Ralph Johnston/Kim Delarosbel (co-chairs)

St. Andrew's last Sunday before summer break was June 22, the United Church Indigenous Day of Prayer. Our guest reflector was Mary Laronde, an Indigenous elder who spoke about the medicine wheel and the significance of its colours. Kim Robinson Nelles arranged for her drumming group to offer some wonderful traditional songs. Kim Delarosbel presented a beautiful stole for Caitlin, who unfortunately was ill, created by a talented indigenous woman. A celebratory Linger Lunch was held after worship.

St. Andrew's was closed June 29 and all of July. Rev. Ted Harrison provided pastoral care during this time. The congregation had been asked to be attentive to summer givings and a special envelope had been provided for that purpose.

We are back from holidays on August 3 with a wonderful four-week summer series, "Rest in the Sacred", based on the poetry of Mary Oliver. Themes of rest, trust, play and song are being explored. Scripture and poetry readings are being offered by folks who participated in the Divine Poetry workshops during Advent and Lent. Friends from Trinity, Emmanuel and Omond United Churches have been joining us for worship.

There has been a request from Carmichael UC for our help with the Fifth Sunday service scheduled for Aug. 31, Labour Day weekend. This would involve assistance with worship, providing food and singers. Caitlin has been meeting with the Carmichael folks to plan worship and the lunch to follow. The reflection for the day will be offered by our own newly-licensed LLW Lorie Fairburn. Many of our Congregational Life folks are away that weekend, but we are planning to pre-bake.

Rally Back Sunday is scheduled for September 14, featuring the theme "A Place at the Table". A Linger Lunch is planned for that day.

The Monday study program, Reading the Bible in One Year, led by Tim Robertson and Marg Reid has continued to meet weekly through the summer. We commend them for braving the very warm temperatures!

Congregational Life/Fundraising: LizB/LizW (co-chairs)

Our annual Strawberry Social took place on Saturday, June 28 from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. Local strawberries are very late this year, but Leisure Farms came through for us with three flats of beautiful berries with a St. Andrew's discount attached! Betty Hurley and Liz Brownlee had bazaar tables, and a small cookie walk was offered. The event brought in \$700.

The summer food bank clean-up took place on Thursday, July 3. All church fridges and freezers were defrosted and cleaned, and both basement kitchens were given a thorough cleaning.

Some members of Congregational Life will be providing sandwiches and cookies for the lunch following the Fifth Sunday service at Carmichael on Aug.31.

Pastoral Care: Donna Landry (chair)

Pastoral visits with Caitlin and Donna continue. Lorie Fairburn, Mary Marrs and Trish Mills have also been active in this regard. Liz Brownlee has been in touch with a number of home-bound folks. The summer cards for the card ministry were written on Tuesday, June 24 and the cards were delivered by Canada Post. Cards for the long-term care homes are hand delivered.

Submitted by Liz Brownlee

Appendix III



**Loaves & Fishes
 Community
 Food Bank**



**ST. ANDREW'S
 UNITED CHURCH**
 NORTH BAY, ONTARIO



**Loaves & Fishes Community Food Bank
 Report to Council August 20, 2025 Meeting**

2025	# of Clients	2024	# of Clients	% Difference	2025 # of Students	2024 # of Students	% Difference
5-Jun	79	6-Jun	92	-14.1%	9	31	-71.0%
12-Jun	84	13-Jun	100	-16.0%	4	6	-33.3%
19-Jun	101	20-Jun	100	1.0%	0	13	-100.0%
26-Jun	87	27-Jun	83	4.8%	1	8	-87.5%
31-Jul	66	30-May	42	57.1%	9	1	81.0%
	417		417	0.0%	23	59	-61.0%

Total Visits

2025	417	23	440
2024	417	59	476
	0.0%	-61.0%	-7.6%

2025 New Clients	11
2024 New Clients	14
	-21.4%
2025 New Students	0
2024 New Students	5
	-100.0%
2025 Volunteer Hours	433
2024 Volunteer Hours	268
	61.6%

In-Kind Donations

2024 Food Rescue	\$1,100.00	2025 Food Rescue	\$4,000.00	263.6%
2024 In-Kind Donations	\$181.00	2025 In-Kind Donations	\$3,317.00	1,732.6%

Overview of Activities

- We recognized our guests were coming hungry and the volunteers wanted to serve food that was a bit more breakfast-like.
- We have seen people at The Café eating 6 boiled eggs, which reinforces our thought that people come hungry
- Judy Campbell wrote a request to Sobey's asking for \$8,000 for the breakfast program we were awarded \$3,000 in \$100 gift cards.
- Recycle Bike Program awarded 9 clients with refurbished bikes.
- Jim & Liz Westbrook were recognized by the Ontario Volunteer Awards for 10 yrs of service

Respectfully submitted by Lorie Fairburn,
 Loaves & Fishes Community Food Bank Manager

Appendix IV

Minister's Report June - July 2025

Happy 100 years UCC and North Bay!

It has been quite an incredible last month or so, with all the preparation and celebration of our Anniversary service as the United Church of Canada, my Ordination, and an Interfaith service as part of North Bay's 100th Anniversary! This has been a very exciting time, and I am thrilled with all the ways we are coming together and drawing the circle wide, and even wider still!

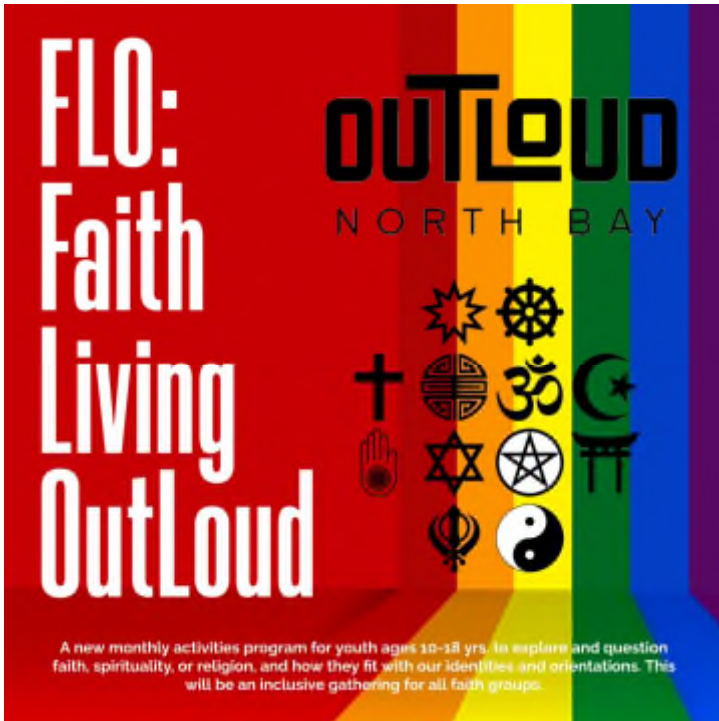


Thank you for the call to stay here at St. Andrew's and continue our work together, which began officially in July, after my ordination! I am so grateful, and excited about all we can do together going forward! We are learning, growing, healing, and loving together as people of faith each week!



Our worship and Christian Education team continue to meet, bringing together worship and Sunday school themes that help to bring to life our sacred stories in creative and meaningful ways. Our last service in June, on Sunday, June 22nd was another example as guest speaker Mary LaRonde shares more about the 7 Grandfather teachings, and how they can help us build our relationships, communication, and decision making as a community.

Our pastoral care team and I continue to work on the ways we can reach out and support our community, here and St. Andrew's community and beyond. Thank you for the continued ways this council and community support this work, like with the recent homemade cards sent out this summer to let folk know we are thinking of them!



We continue to build community partnerships and presence within the community of North Bay and beyond, with OutLoud, the Indigenous Friendship Centre, and many more. Working with the food bank here at St. Andrew's is also a great example of building relationships and community here in North Bay, as we support and get to know our neighbours.

As we move into the month of August, we are enjoying yet another month of seeing our communities come together, in worship, fellowship and work in the community. I am thrilled to see the ways we support and care for one another in this wider community.

All my best, Caitlin Smithers