

First United Church
Annual General Meeting Minutes
Sunday March 9, 2025

1. Call to order and welcome. Peggy Worrell called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m. A quorum was present.
2. Opening Prayer: Reverend Annette Taylor
3. Lighting of the Christ candle: Jean MacNab, Church Elder, lit the Christ Candle to remind us that Christ is with us, followed by poem The Light of Christ by David Sparks read in unison.
4. Our Mission Statement was read in unison

Ministry and Personal made impromptu presentation of roses to staff in attendance at the Annual Meeting, Annette Taylor, Rhonda Lotochinski, Mary Anderson and James McLauchlan, thanking them for their service.

5. Music – Choir
6. Those in attendance broke into small groups to answer the question “What does First United Church mean to you?” A representative from each group came to the microphone to present the responses.
7. Request for any additional items to be added to the agenda.
8. Adoption of the Agenda
Motion: Kevin Hanna/ Jean Pearson
“That the agenda be adopted as presented.” Carried
9. Extending full voting privileges to adherents.
Motion: Dave Zacharias/ Rhonda Lotochinski
“That we grant full voting privileges to adherents for the purpose of this meeting as allowed in the 2025 Manual (B.3.7.2).” Carried
10. Approval of minutes of the March 10, 2024 Annual General Meeting
Motion: Pat Dyck Bunkosky/Sharon Veer

**“That we approve the minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting as presented.”
Carried**

11. No new business arising from the minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting

12. Report from the Minister: Reverend Annette Taylor

13. Report from the Chair of the Leadership Team: Peggy Worrell

14. Reports from the Staff, Committees and Interest Groups, excluding the Nominations Report.

Motion: Donna Barber/Carole Toles

**“That we approve all Staff, Committee, and Interest Group Reports as presented.”
Carried**

15. Election of 2025 Leadership Team and Committee members – Eileen Elkington

Motion: Eileen Elkington/Kevin Hanna

“That we accept the Nominations Report as presented.” Carried

16. Stewardship Committee: Financial Statement, 2025 Budgets, and Reviewers

a. Motion: Charles Lotochinski/Kevin Hanna

“That we approve the December 31, 2024 Financial Statements as presented.” Carried

b. Motion: Charles Lotochinski/Kevin Hanna

“That we approve the 2025 General Financial Budget as presented.” carried

c. Motion: Charles Lotochinski/Pat Dyck Bunkosky

**“That we approve the 2025 Mission and Service Budget as presented.”
Carried**

d. Motion: Charles Lotochinski/Jean Pearson

“That the Stewardship Committee will appoint reviewers for the 2025 finances.” Carried

17. Donations from the Planned Giving Fund as recommended by the Outreach Committee

a. Mission & Service Fund

Motion: Fran Jackson/Ann Wiebe

“The Outreach Committee’s goal for fundraising for Mission and Service for 2025 will be \$20,000 with no more than \$5,000 coming from Planned Giving Fund to reach the goal.” Carried

In 2024, \$4,353.25 was provided from the Planned Giving Fund to meet our objective.

b. St. Andrew's College

Motion: Fran Jackson/Judy Corbett

“The Outreach Committee would raise money for St. Andrew's College by inviting a speaker to come to a special service to explain their needs and then collecting donations from the congregation. The Planned Giving Fund would supplement as needed for a total of \$3,000 in 2025.” Carried

In 2024, no money was required from the Planned Giving Fund to meet our objective; \$3,420 was donated.

c. Camp Shagabec

Motion: Fran Jackson/Deb Fletcher

“The Outreach Committee would raise money for Camp Shagabec by collecting donations at Camping Sunday service and then the Planned Giving Fund would supplement the amount for a total of \$5,000 in 2025.” Carried

In 2024, \$1,055 was provided from the Planned Giving Fund to meet our objective.

18. 100 Tables (small groups)

As part of our 100th Anniversary celebration, First United Church has accepted an invitation from Jordan Cantwell, Growth Animator, United Church of Canada, to be one of the 100 churches across Canada to set up a table outside of our building. There will be press coverage of our table.

Question #1 – Suggestions for a theme

- Care of the earth
- Mental health
- Food security
- Hospitality
- Inclusion
- Other ideas

Question #2 – What purpose could the table serve?

Question #3 – Will you be part of a planning committee to decide what type of table, where it will be situated, and how it will be decorated?

Group feedback will be presented to the Leadership Team.

19. Changes in 2025:

Our minister, Rev. Annette Taylor, announced in September, 2024 that she is retiring at the end of June, 2025. Our Ministry & Personnel Committee Chair, Linda Thompson, reminded us that the following Search Team was approved at the January 19, 2025 congregational meeting: Dan Olmsted, Ann Wiebe, Eileen Elkington. The Search Team has been through introductions, training session, and posted our position. There has been some interest.

20. Thank-you's by Peggy

21. Closing Prayer

Peggy asked us the following question: "If you could say 1 prayer for our church for the coming year, what would it be?" We wrote our answers on a piece of paper during a time of silence. Prayers from all in attendance were compiled into a closing prayer by Peggy Worrell.

Individual prayers were followed by "a Closing Prayer for Annual Meetings" for United Churches across Canada, written by Peter Chynoweth.

One: Great Spirit God, we have gathered in your presence to do your work. Through the reports received, we have glimpsed how you have been present in the life and work of this community of faith in the events, challenges, and celebrations of the past year. You have shown us a vision, sometimes in reflections and shaded hues, of how your presence will be known in this community and through this community of faith in the minutes, hours, days, weeks, and months ahead.

All: May we live into this vision that it may become clearer through the words and actions that have been expressed today. Bless us as we go forward together in faith. Amen.

22. Meeting Adjourned at 1:55pm

Peggy Worrell, Chair of Leadership

Brenda Gruetzner, Secretary

Appendix 1

42 Members/Adherents in attendance

1. Pat Dyck Bunkosky
2. Barbara Foster
3. Jean Macnab
4. Dixie Green
5. Dave Zacharias
6. Verdella Zacharias
7. Donna Barber
8. Jean Pearson
9. Wally Pearson
10. Dwayne Barber
11. Sharon Veer
12. Fran Jackson
13. Betty Pribyl
14. Sharon Veer
15. Marilyn Szakacs
16. Ann Wiebe
17. Dan Olmsted
18. Maxine Olmsted
19. Carole Toles
20. Linda Thompson
21. Shirley Dyck
22. Wally Derkach
23. Darlene Stewart
24. Shirley Terlson
25. Donna Schwartz
26. Judy Corbett
27. Kevin Hanna
28. James Worrell
29. Brenda Warder
30. Marie Andrews
31. Melanie Davis
32. Eileen Elkington
33. Peggy Worrell
34. Elma Engel
35. Rhonda Lotochinski
36. Charles Lotochinski
37. Brenda Gruetzner
38. Linda Stumpf
39. Scott Anderson
40. Mary Anderson
41. Rev. Annette Taylor
42. Harold Lapuz
43. James McLauchlan
44. Deb Fletcher
45. Judy Killaby
46. Rose Lis
47. Diane Minogue