

Portland United Church
June 17, 2026
Council Meeting
Portland United Church

Attendance: Will French, Chair, J. Fletcher (phone), D. Pickard, N. Cummings, L. Church
C. Cochran, A. Cox, B. Haskin, K. Gibson, B. Tackaberry, P. Evans

Regrets: P. French

Call to Order: Will French called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. He invited attendees to report to all if they had anything to report to the group.

Opening Prayer: Will French - welcome all - officially opened the meeting.

Approval of Agenda: Katie Gibson moved second Bruce Haskin Carried

Approval of Minutes: Connie Cochran Second Anita Cox

Correspondence – Church directory: we were contacted by a company that photographs congregations; may be discussed at a later date. The Worship Committee will discuss the Changed Lives email. Wedding thank-you received.

Business Arising from Last Meeting:

Summer camp update – Pauline/Anita (\$ raised to date)W. French asked when we should cut off donations,

Fees for rental of sanctuary.– request to use church for wedding in July. Use of any other rooms is not required. They will provide the minister and the music. Lyn has an administrative fee for this kind of rental. JoAnne suggests an ‘all inclusive’ fee. Will French will check on insurance charge. Motion for \$500 for complete package. Connie Cochran will handle this. Carried

ELC- recycling – they have a bin

Fundraising – Mary’s Merry Minstrels July 25, 2026 - trustees to coordinate event. Tipped Ship – Norma checked and they cannot help us out. October 18, 2026 Perth Bells will be performing a fund raiser at the church. This performance was one of Jan’s passion, therefore it is important to everyone. Katy and Duncan/Jane will organize.

New Business:

Upcoming calendar dates/procedure for booking space (funerals, weddings, UCW, OB/Council meetings, bible study, choir practices, quilt/sewing, etc., need to be available for all to see to make easier the use of the church.

Dishwasher – Connie – see the Inside Property report.

Painting of parking lot lines – Bruce got a quote for the lines. The company supplies handicap markings in yellow – international standard blue/white. Bruce will arrange to have the handicap done by someone else.

Cleaning duties – Connie – see Connie’s report.

Committee Reports

Finance: Anita Cox - The General Fund is currently low at \$844 and dropped below zero at certain points. This is a result of heavy snow costs at \$6787 in 2026 and a past music director payment of \$1100 which should have been paid in 2025.

As a council we need to discuss, is this the time for a withdrawal from the LTF or do we ride it out for now? Will encourages council to wait for the market to become stronger. Moved Will French Second ?? Carried
Also it's important to note the Flex Fund and M&S are not yet on target: M&S \$961 last year total \$5085, Flex \$125 last year total \$1524. Communicate to congregation in church and ENews.

Regional – Liz Church – no report

Christian Ed – Pauline French – Thank you to the UCW and congregants for contributing toward sending 4 area youth to attend Camp lawah this summer. We are also looking at potentially sending 1 more youth. Currently, all funds necessary were either donations from the UCW or congregants and no funds were required from the General Fund. Further, there remains \$ 1,657 of donations to contribute toward another youth or toward youth in 2027.

Cemetery – Blaine Tackaberry – Blaine has a concern about upkeep of the cemetery grounds. He needs the message to get out to the congregation that the upkeep is run by donations and will bequests. Will asks if a write up could be submitted to the ENews to point out what is needed. Blaine will bring suggestions to the August meeting.

Envelope Steward – Norma Cummings –

Food Bank Update – Anita Cox – 28 families registered, 51 adults 28 children

Current Bank Balance \$11850 plus \$1800 currently in Dedicated Fund, monthly budget roughly \$3500 which will leave a shortfall of \$3850 with 5 months remaining to Build a Mountain. It would be \$7350 because the BAM funds are meant for next calendar year, so we have 6 months left.

Volunteers GREATLY needed primarily to assist with shopping weekly or every second week. Also an additional person to assist with admin and behind the scenes would be wonderful!

Cow Island Day Camp has offered free spots to children in their 8-week ½ day summer camp for a second year. There are 5 families with 11 children attending, which is a great opportunity for the children

Worship & Pianist – Norma Cummings – July and August are covered. Three spots need to be filled in September. Should we increase the number of joint services throughout the year.

Property Outside – Bruce Haskin – contacted the township to cut the grass in the areas around the church that belong to the township. Will contact the township again to determine what sign can legally be erected. How do we control parking when the line painting is being done?

Property Inside - Connie Cochran – We have a wedding booked for August 29, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. Church is booked from 12:00 to 5:00 for setup, rehearsal and ceremony. We need a member of the church to be present during this time. Volunteers?

The UCW has been unable to find a company to service the dishwasher. Supplies for the dishwasher (detergent and rinse agent) need to be purchased. Need to determine what size bottles to order. Large ones cost over \$300 for the pair. I don't remember the last time they were ordered. Probably by Doug Bond. Liz Church will check at the Galley to see if their tech can look at it.

It is time to send water to Kingston for testing. Need to have a backup registered to do this as I don't very often go to Kingston and would rather not make a special trip for it.

The AED device was sent out for warranty replacement and a loaner was received. The company called to say our unit had been tampered with and it was not covered by warranty. They returned it with refurbished pads (the defective part). So far the cost has been shipping of 2 units back to them. That was the reason the alarm had gone off. Don't understand who might have tampered with the pads. Those of us that check the unit know not to open it.

It was delightful to hear the bells at David's wedding and again on Sunday morning. Perhaps we should offer this service for weddings? It would make our venue even more special.

We have advertised for a cleaner for the church and we need to discuss the hourly wage we are prepared to pay. \$30/hr is the standard although we were paying \$18/hr to Annette. Connie has one person she has spoken to. She will continue to search for someone. Will suggests we look at compensating Anette some way for paying such a low hourly rate. Moved: Will moved Second: Katy.

Thank you to the UCW and congregants for contributing toward sending four area youth to attend Camp Iawah this summer. We are also looking at potentially sending one more youth. Currently, all funds necessary were either donations from the UCW or congregants and no funds were required from the General Fund. Further, there remains \$ 1607 of donations to contribute toward another youth or toward youth in 2027. Katy has recommended a gift card to compensate. \$200 was agreed upon unanimously. Connie will sign a thank you card on behalf of council.

The Portland Beautification Committee has provided a flower arrangement for the barrel at the church again this year. It is regularly watered as part of the service agreement.

The letters for the sign on the highway have again been returned to Connie Cochran as her responsibility to put up signs for different groups in the Village, including the UCW.

UCW – Connie Cochran – The UCW purchased 40 new chairs for the church. Spring pies are underway with rhubarb in the freezer and waiting on the strawberry schedule. Cherry and blueberry will also be made at this time. Posters, etc. are out to encourage orders. Council will cover the cost for the pies and UCW will repay at the end of the sales.

We have been requested to organize a Celebration of Life for Jan Haskin on July 18, 2026. We are honoured to do so.

The UCW does not meet over the summer

Memorials – Will French – nothing to report

Trustees – Will French – The Trustees had asked Duncan to investigate whether the Manse could be severed and what steps would be required. Duncan sent a detailed report to the Trustees sharing that yes, the Manse could be severed. He was in conversation with both the Township and Thompson's plumbing. Next steps include a Joint Trustee Mtg to further discuss. We will report back on that meeting at our next Council Meeting.

M&P – the official board has approved adjustments to the amount of time allotted for office hours. The office will now be 12 hours per week. Portland Council is being asked to devise a plan for dealing with contacting congregants with pertinent info that need to be shared after office hours, i.e., funeral info, alerts, etc.

Benevolent Committee – Katy Gibson – nothing to report

Music: Choir/bells Katy/Duncan/Liz – going to reach out to the surrounding area to try to encourage participation in the bell choir.

Next Meeting – August 25, 2026

Closing Prayer – Liz Church

Adjournment 9:00 pm