

Sylvan United Church – Council Highlights (May 14, 2026)

A friendly update from your Church Council

The Council met on May 14, 2026, with Co-Chair Cassidy Marat opening the meeting and Rev. Suzanna Bates offering prayer. The gathering focused on spring activities, financial updates, music programming, and planning for the months ahead.

Correspondence

A heartfelt letter of gratitude was received from a congregant who appreciated the care shown during a recent bereavement.

Finance

George Power presented the May financial report:

- Forecast remains similar to last month.
- A PAR donation was reversed due to a posthumous charge.
- PAR and envelope donations have increased slightly.
- The stewardship group has not yet met.

Council approved the financial report.

Minister's Report

Rev. Suzanna shared upcoming plans:

- She will attend the Pacific Mountain Region AGM in Kamloops June 4–7 as study leave.
- She is part of the worship planning committee for the AGM.
- A **summer worship series** titled *Living a Lighter Life* is being prepared, offering a more relaxed style of worship.

Office Administration

Kelly Campbell reported several updates:

- A new **Volunteering** page has been added to the website with role descriptions.
- A **Thrift Store** page now highlights Hand-in-Hand, including photos and a map.
- A survey on **Zoom worship** received 21 responses:
 - 71% supportive
 - 29% not interested
- ChurchHub statistics for 2025 have been submitted.

- The Photo Directory continues to grow; more photos will be requested directly.
- Kelly supported the Spring Fling with signage, receipts, social media posts, and donated plants.
- Council approved sending Kelly to the **United Church Administrators Conference** in Saskatoon in October, using up to \$1,750 from the First Third of Life fund.

Hospitality

Hospitality supported several recent events:

- A memorial service
- Spring Fling baking and preserves
- Suzanna's ceramic crosses sold quickly at the craft table
- A **Soup & Bun lunch fundraiser** is planned for **June 14**, with hopes to continue monthly in the fall.

Coffee storage solutions are being explored due to increased usage.

Outreach

Outreach met on May 12 and shared upcoming plans:

- **Comics From a Live Edge** presentation on May 17
- Future events in early planning stages include:
 - Food for Thought films (homelessness, dementia)
 - A 2027 presentation on trekking Mount Kilimanjaro
 - A Camping Sunday service in April 2027

Property & Environment

Anne Marie MacLean reported:

- Two dying trees near the parking lot need removal.
- An in-floor heater near the office requires servicing.
- Driveway resurfacing is scheduled with NTL.
- Birdsong has been asked to remove a table saw from the shed.
- Shed cleanup continues.
- Lawn tractor repairs were completed; mowing has resumed.

Hydro will be contacted to see if they will cover tree removal costs.

M&P

Eve Daniell shared concerns about feeling disconnected since returning from maternity leave, especially regarding choir communication. Council agreed this is a choir-specific issue, and Judy Duncan will act as liaison.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care needs were reviewed in conversation between Joan Keith-Burgwin and Rev. Suzanna.

Women Together

The annual **Raspberry Tea** will be held on **July 18**, earlier than usual due to an expected early berry season.

Worship

Pulpit supply is confirmed for May and June.

Business Arising

Spring Fling

A successful event with strong congregational participation. Unsold items are being posted on Facebook Marketplace.

2025 Audit

Scheduled for July or August.

Skills & Service Auction

Planning continues; a team must be formed by June and a date confirmed.

Monthly Fundraiser

A **Soup & Bun lunch** will be held June 14 (\$10 per person). Volunteers needed for setup and takedown.

Stewardship

The committee has not yet met; campaign expected in October.

Birdsong Annual Review

Council noted that any agreed-upon changes should be added as formal addenda to the lease.

New Business

Bursary Presenter

Joan Keith-Burgwin will present Sylvan's bursaries at Kelsey on June 10.

Music Program Approvals

Council approved:

- **Carols by Candlelight** concert and budget
- **Children's Christmas Choir**
- **Hiatus** of the Parents & Tots Summer Class
- **Cowichan Vocal Collective** announcements
- **Cowichan Chamber Music Collaborative** rehearsals for early 2027
- **Piano string replacement** over the summer
- Teen Choir remains paused due to lack of leadership

Rev. Suzanna noted ongoing conversations with Eve about music support; Joan Keith-Burgwin expressed interest in assisting.

Next Meeting

June 11, 2026 at 7 pm in the Fireside Room.