



the **EMMAUS**  
& COMMUNITY

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## October 25th 2025 meeting of abbeycouncil

In attendance: Matt Humphrey, Josh Ruberg, Phil Mills, Lucy O'Brien, Joy Hunter, Nick Hunter, Jen Strohschein, Lynn Mills (guest)

The council met from 2:00pm to 4:00pm and discussed the following:

We began with reflections and discussion of Psalm 104.

The meeting proceeds with a **detailed budget discussion** led by our Treasurer Lynn and the budgetary working group (Lynn, Josh, Lucy). Many thanks to Lynn for all her incredible work on this!

Key points of 2026 budget considerations:

### INCOME:

Donations and grants are not quite keeping pace with expenses.

At the 2025 AGM, the community agreed to a deficit budget in order to support the increased expense of youth programming. Giving has not increased to match that proposed deficit, however.

Discussion about best way to manage fundraising within community in the 2 months left. How can we encourage giving to address the shortfall of income?

Should we consider fundraising events?

### EXPENSES:

Honoraria: decrease for 2026 as Matt steps more into preaching, etc.

Retreats: budgeted for 2 last year (2 x \$500), but did not spend in 2025.

Agreed that retreats are important, could consider sliding scale that better reflects the actual cost, decrease for 2026.

Staffing: Currently Clergy/Matt: 20 hours, AbbeyYouth/Lucy: 7 hours, Admin/Lucy: 3 hours.

Extensive discussion of increasing hours vs. costs to reflect the work being done!

Call for consensus on increasing admin hours from 3/wk to 8/wk. **Consensus granted.**

**Action:** Matt to review what he could hand off to Admin (Lucy) from his current responsibilities.

Discussed music leadership as budget line item: too much spent in 2025...

Supplies: Adjusted 2026 budget to reflect 2025 numbers.

**Action:** Council to create guideline for spending approval and process/timelines for reimbursement.

First draft budget for 2026 shows a deficit of \$40k.

**Action:** Working group to follow up on next draft with aim to reduce deficit to \$20k max.  
**Action:** NEW “Inviting help” working group: Nick and Lucy also to meet.

#### OTHER BUSINESS:

Matt presented Provision grant application to support and strengthen our neighbourhood partnerships with NPNA and Qom Qem. Some discussion about ensuring all the funds go to these partners for on-the-ground support of neighbours in need as well as how to account for the in-kind gifts of time and space and some funding AbbeyChurch is already committing to these two groups. Call for consensus on the Council supporting this application. **Consensus granted.**

Meeting adjourned at 4 pm.

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS

November 15 (discuss addition of new council members).