

Rivers United Church Council Meeting April 14, 2026

Present: Alastair McFadden, Pat Dyck, Dave Falkevitch, Tara Bray, Debbie Phythian, Jamie McFadden, Lori Kiesman, Dianne Kowalchuk.

Regrets: Rev. Barb Jardine, Monica Madden

Chair Al McFadden called the council meeting to order at 6:59 pm and opened with a prayer.

The minutes of the March 12, 2026, meeting and the March 22, 2026, e-mail meeting were reviewed. ****Moved by Debbie Phythian, seconded by Lori Kiesman, that the minutes of the March 12 and March 22, 2026, Rivers United Church council meetings be accepted as circulated. Carried.**

Business arising from the minutes: None

Correspondence:

- Assiniboine North Parent Child Coalition re: Step 2
- RME Women of the Rings re: donation
- Canadian Foodgrains Bank
- Riverdale Municipality re: grant for carpet

Reports

Spiritual Leadership: Tara Bray reported that the committee will be meeting with Karen Kempe in May.

****Moved by Tara Bray, seconded by Jamie McFadden, that Dale Friesen from the Canadian Foodgrains Bank be given \$300 for speaking at the worship service on April 19th. Carried.**

Upcoming service leaders: May 3, 10, 17 – Karen Kempe; May 31 – Rev. Glenna; June 7 – Heather Lamb; June 14, 21 – Karen Kempe

Outreach: Lori Kiesman reported that the committee will meet with Karen in May.

Ministry and Personnel: Debbie Phythian reported the following:

- Jennifer, our indoor cleaner, has been away recently.
- Edison and Emerson Braun, our outdoor caretakers, have given their notice as of April 15th. This is a difficult position to fill as it requires cleaning the sidewalks early in the morning before nursery school starts and again for the afternoon class if needed. This is difficult for high school kids to commit to. Some options were discussed:
 - Continue to find high school students
 - Advertise the position as a contract job
 - Re-negotiate with the nursery school so that they are responsible for cleaning the walks on nursery school days.
- Debbie has been in contact with Karen Kempe. The M&P committee is taking her out for lunch on April 30. M&P will likely set up monthly meetings in order to best support Karen. (It was noted that Karen's contract is completed online, and Dianne is unsure if a copy can be made. The Terms of Employment contain all the information from the contract.) M&P will be hosting a reception after worship on May 3rd (coffee and cookies).

Council discussed the outsider caretaker situation. The ideal solution would be for the nursery school to clear snow on nursery school days, but it is unlikely that we would decrease the rent as the Kids Club pays only \$300 per month. We would need to hire someone else to clear snow for Sunday worship and other church events. Debbie will have a chat with Angela, the nursery school teacher, to see if she has any suggestions.

Trustees: Dave Falkevitch had no report.

Prairie to Pine Region: Dianne Kowalchuk spoke briefly about the self-assessment zoom training, the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ's Emergency Grant Program, weekly sessions re: new ideas in the

church, Moose Hide Campaign Day, and Earth Week. She also noted that Melita United Church is closing and that Knox United is giving away oak pews. Dianne has registered to attend the regional meeting at Selkirk from May 28-31. She concluded her report by reading from an article about the United Church Moderator Kimberley Heath.

Search: Although the Search Committee is done its work, Dianne noted a few things:

- She has had difficulty completing the Record of Appointment on Church Hub.
- Alastair will be getting Karen's name up on our church sign.
- Dianne reviewed some of what Sheila Deforest wrote in her exit report about welcoming a new minister.
- The committee may or may not have a role to play in the covenanting service.

Stewardship (Property): Jamie McFadden had no report, but we did discuss the problem of water leaking around the tower on our roof. Should we be removing that darn tower once and for all?

****Moved by Tara Bray, seconded by Pat Dyck, that the reports be accepted. Carried.**

Stewardship (Finance):

The financial statement for the month of March 2026 was presented by Jamie McFadden. As of March 31, 2026, total RUC funds were \$230,490.42. Income for March: \$7,930.29; expenses for March: \$4,702.65. ****Moved by Jamie McFadden, seconded by Dave Falkevitch, that the financial report for March 2026 be accepted for information only. Carried.** It was noted that once we start paying the minister's salary, we will need to move some money into the chequing account.

Old Business:

1. **Flooring:** Pat Dyck showed some carpet tile samples that she had procured from Red Kayak. It is the recommendation of Council that the carpet in Friendship Hall and the foyer be replaced with carpet tiles. The cost of the project is increased because the sub-floor needs to be replaced also. The big question is whether or not the congregation will be in favour of spending around \$25,000 on this project. Alastair will make the presentation at the congregational meeting on April 26. Rev. Barb will be in attendance.
2. **Joyce Espey funeral:** The Espey funeral will be held at our church on June 14 with Linda Clark officiating. Karen Kempe was consulted before permission was granted. Lunch is elsewhere.

New Business:

1. **Donation evening hosted by RME Women of the Rings:** Rivers United Church will receive a donation because we allowed the curling club to use our trolleys. Someone needs to attend this event on April 22 to receive this cheque. Dianne will ask Suzan Ramey or Heather Lamb.
2. **Palliative Care Dessert Tea:** This will take place in Friendship Hall on May 30.

Dianne reviewed some "use of facility" dates.

Roundtable: Nothing

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 7 pm

Dave Falkevitch adjourned the meeting at 8:42pm.
Alastair gave a closing benediction.