

Present: Heather Lamb, Dave Falkevitch, Tara Bray, Monica Madden, Alastair McFadden, Lynn Madden, Jamie McFadden, Lori Kiesman, Rev. Barb Jardine, Dianne Kowalchuk.

Because of inclement weather, council met online via Teams (set up by Jamie.)

Chair Heather Lamb called the council meeting to order at 7:10 pm, and Rev. Barb gave an opening prayer. The minutes of the November 11, 2025, meeting were reviewed. ****Moved by Tara Bray, seconded by Jamie McFadden, that the minutes of the November 11, 2025, Rivers United Church council meeting be accepted as circulated. Carried.**

Business arising from the minutes:

1. The church calendars will be picked up soon.
2. Christmas Social date is Dec. 15.
3. the ramp is installed!

Correspondence:

- A request for money from *Broadview*
- *Gifts with a Vision*

Dianne reported that the RUC e-mail account has been temporarily discontinued.

Reports

Spiritual Leadership: Tara Bray reported that the committee met on November 12th.

- Advent decorating will take place after the service on Nov. 23rd. Tara and Megan will get things ready so it's a quick process.
- Dianne has an Advent liturgy to use, and Tara will find readers/candle lighters.
- The Christmas Eve service will be led by Jocelyn Beever. Megan will light the Advent candles. Tara will source a service. Carol sing at 7 and service at 7:30.
- Communion will be held Dec. 7th with Glenna. Megan will set up and find servers.
- The 2025 budget includes \$6000 for pulpit supply, \$2000 for Sunday School, \$1000 for travel allowance, and \$1000 for Worship.
- Next meeting will be in February.

It was noted that the choir will not be practising in January.

Pastoral Charge Supervisor: Rev. Barb reported that she provides pulpit supply monthly and leads a prayer group.

Outreach: Lori Kiesman reported that the committee met November 18th.

- The budget stayed the same at \$100.
- 10 calendars have been ordered, and Karen Cullen will be selling them for \$10 each.
- The Advent Social evening will be held on Dec 15 at 7pm. Dianne Kowalchuk will provide a short program to be followed with a time for socializing with coffee and hot cider. Everyone is encouraged to bring a couple of dainties to share and your favourite Christmas mug.
- A box will be put in the hallway to collect nonperishables for Christmas Cheer and White Gift donations.
- Dave F prepared a Mission Minute for Nov 23.
- We are encouraging people to support 10,000 Villages in Brandon.

The next meeting will be Jan 12.

Ministry and Personnel: Lynn Madden had no report.

Trustees: Dave Falkevitch reported that the bill from Laurence Donald for doing the Land Titles business was \$548.50.

Prairie to Pine Region: Dianne Kowalchuk spoke briefly about *Toward 2035*, the national church's vision.

Search: Dianne had nothing to report.

Stewardship (Property): Jamie McFadden reported the following:

- The new ramp has been installed and looks good.
- In November, the basement floor drain needed to be rotor-rooted again, and Jamie put some gravel in some holes in the parking area
- The Stewardship Committee met on December 1st to prepare the budget for 2026.
- The committee decided to replace all (or most) of the fluorescent tube lights with LEDs. Bill & Jamie have a bunch done already.
- The Dyson power-head needs maintenance.
- We will soon need a new toner cartridge for the printer (likely \$300+).
- The committee recommends that RUC replace the flooring in Friendship Hall and the foyer in 2026. Al McFadden has volunteered to take the lead on this so that we are ready to put a motion before the congregation at the AGM. Heather will look into the possibility of a grant.

It was noted that the Nursery School is using Friendship Hall on the evening of Dec. 10th and the day of Dec. 11th.

****Moved by Lynn Madden, seconded by Al McFadden, that the reports be accepted. Carried.**

Stewardship (Finance):

The financial statement for the month November 2025 was presented by Jamie McFadden. As of November 30, 2025, total RUC funds were \$238,509.41. Income for the month: \$4100.12; expenses for the month: \$4004.87.

****Moved by Jamie McFadden, seconded by Tara Bray, that the financial report for November 2025 be accepted for information only. Carried.**

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. **Draft Budget:** Jamie reviewed the draft budget. ****Moved by Dave Falkevitch, seconded by Tara Bray, that 2026 budget be approved for presentation to the congregation. Carried.**
2. **Annual Meeting:** ****Moved by Monica Madden, seconded by Lynn Madden the annual meeting of RUC be held on February 1 at 1 pm. Carried.** The church family will share a potluck lunch after worship.
3. **Annual reports:** Annual reports must be submitted to Donna Falkevitch by January 11th. It was noted that the financial report may not be ready by then.
4. **Christmas Eve Service:** ****Moved by Lori Kiesman, seconded by Jamie McFadden, that the offering from the Christmas Eve service be given to the Mission & Service Fund of the United Church. Carried.** We will pass the plate in the traditional way.

Roundtable:

- Heather Lamb reviewed the upcoming dates and thanked all council members for their work.

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 7 pm

Dave Falkevitch adjourned the meeting at 8:25 pm.
Rev. Barb gave a closing benediction.