

Rivers United Church Council Meeting March 10, 2026

Present: Alastair McFadden, Pat Dyck, Dave Falkevitch, Megan Lelonde, Monica Madden, Lynn Madden, Jamie McFadden, Lori Kiesman, Rev. Barb Jardine, Dianne Kowalchuk.

Chair Al McFadden called the council meeting to order at 7:01 pm. Rev. Barb spoke about the writings of Walter Brueggemann in his book *A Way Other Than our Own* – a reminder that everything you need, you have. She then gave a brief prayer. The minutes of the December 9, 2025, meeting were reviewed. ****Moved by Pat Dyck, seconded by Lynn Madden, that the minutes of the December 9, 2025, Rivers United Church council meeting be accepted as circulated. Carried.**

Business arising from the minutes: None

Correspondence:

- Thank you from Riverdale Harvest
- Thank you from UCC re: Healing Fund donation
- Thank from the Canadian Foodgrains Bank

Reports

Spiritual Leadership: Tara Bray reported that the committee met via Zoom on February 26th.

- Jobs for the committee were reviewed. Tara will remain as Chair; Jocelyn will remain as Secretary; Greg will continue with Ushers. Ashley will take over Banners after Easter. Tara and Megan will do Communion set-up, and Megan will look after servers. Tara will continue to look after Pulpit Supply and the PCH services. Megan is on call for Sunday School if Robin gets called for surgery. Connie Van Dixhoorn is willing to continue to look after the PowerPoint scheduling.
- The next PCH service is March 26th; Tara will confirm with Rev. Glenna and Dianne that they are available.
- Dianne is doing the service on Palm Sunday. Tara has ordered palms for the choir and any kids that come.
- Tara has been in contact with Sally Carter about Holy Week services. Maundy Thursday will be held at the Anglican church on Thursday evening, April 2nd. Rev. Glenna is doing Good Friday here at 10 am. Tara will deliver Barb's service on Easter Sunday.
- Linda Clark has been asked to preside at Joyce Espey's funeral in our church in June. We will likely have a minister by then, so this will need further discussion.
- Our next meeting will be in May, hopefully with Karen Kempe in attendance.

After some discussion, it was decided that our policy for Sunday School will be as follows:

Robin Rivas' commitment to the Sunday School program at Rivers United is very much appreciated. Council wishes to offer her flexibility in scheduling if necessary; at the same time, Council desires that Sunday School be held regularly on the second Sunday of the month if possible. If Robin has another commitment and wishes to change to another Sunday, it is important that this be discussed with the Chair of the Spiritual Leadership Committee as early as possible and before any discussion on the group chat. If it is deemed that Sunday School will be postponed, this decision must be widely publicized i.e. Facebook or at a church service. (There are, from time to time, families outside the chat group that may have been planning to attend.) In the case of a last minute change, a substitute teacher is available.

Outreach: Lori Kiesman reported that the committee met January 12th.

- Karen sold 9 church calendars at \$10 each, plus one for the church.
- We hosted an enjoyable Christmas evening social event. Thank you to Dianne for the lovely program, followed by shared treats and beverages. In future, we will make a point of inviting members of the Anglican Church and the community.
- Melody put together and submitted our annual report.
- We planned a Valentine card event with the Sunday School on February 8th. We also mailed out Valentines to our seniors at home.

- We are planning an Amnesty lunch (soup/buns/cookies) for after church on March 15. Glenna is choosing our “calling” and will draft letters for us to sign for mailing out to our MP, etc.
- Seniors enjoy a little visit and a treat after a long winter, so we are planning a spring cookie delivery.
- We will be sharing news of upcoming church events online, especially any changes in the usual schedule.

The committee had scheduled a meeting for April 27th, but it was decided that they would postpone that meeting until May so that Karen Kempe could attend. Karen also hopes to take part in the cookie delivery.

It was suggested that an explanation of Amesty International should be given during the service on the 15th.

Ministry and Personnel: Lynn Madden had no report. The committee will meet soon. Questions were asked about both the outside and inside caretakers.

Trustees: Dave Falkevitch had no report.

Prairie to Pine Region: Dianne Kowalchuk spoke briefly about PIE Day, Bill C-9 as it affects churches, and *Toward 2035*, the national church’s vision. A resource is available for this congregation to use in the discussion of *Toward 2035*. Also, an online survey has been received, and we are asked to send this on to our church family. Before this is done, an explanation will be made available at worship about what *Toward 2035* is all about.

Search: Dianne reported on how we managed to acquire a student minister within a period of two weeks (January 15 – 29). The congregational meeting to approve this recommendation will be held on Thursday, March 12th, at 6:15. Rev. Harold Kenyon will serve as the Pastoral Relations Commission Liaison (via cell phone). Al is unable to chair this meeting; it was decided that Dianne will chair and someone will be persuaded to serve as secretary.

Stewardship (Property): Jamie McFadden had no report.

It was noted that the Nursery School is hosting a Book Fair in Friendship Hall from March 23 – 26th.

****Moved by Lori Kiesman, seconded by Dave Falkevitch, that the reports be accepted. Carried.**

Stewardship (Finance):

The financial statement for the months of January and February 2026 were presented by Jamie McFadden. As of February 28, 2026, total RUC funds were \$227,262.78. Income and expenses for January: \$4,310 and \$2,839.48; income and expenses for February: \$4,360 and \$5,026.96. ****Moved by Jamie McFadden, seconded by Lynn Madden, that the financial report for January and February 2026 be accepted for information only. Carried.**

Old Business:

1. Flooring: At the annual meeting, a motion was accepted that “we will move ahead with a project to replace the flooring in Friendship Hall and the foyer.” A recommendation from Red Kayak was to purchase carpet tiles, which are widely used in commercial settings. Jamie had received a quote of around \$25,000 which includes removal and disposal of the carpet and sub-floor, and laying of a new sub floor and carpet tiles. It was thought that we could empty the room ourselves. Lori and Pat will pick the colour. This will be a significant expense, and it may be too late to acquire grants (although Heather Lamb will be asked to investigate grants). We will reach out to the congregation for donations. Perhaps we can sell a square or sell a tile bundle? It was also suggested that we designate the funds from the Thrift Sale and the Fall Supper to this project. ****Moved by Jamie McFadden, seconded by Lori Kiesman, that a congregational meeting be held immediately following worship on Sunday, April 19, 2026, to discuss the recommendation to replace the flooring in Friendship Hall and the foyer. Carried.**

New Business:

- 1. UCC Statistics Report:** This report has been completed by Dianne and Monica.
- 2. Funeral question:** We have had a request from a funeral celebrant (Linda Clark) to do a service in our church in June for a person who lived in this community but was not part of our church family. The family has not yet requested the use of the church. As of May 1st, we will have our own minister who will likely wish to take part

in the service. Dianne will reply to Linda that the family needs to speak to Debbie Johnston to book the church and that Karen will be given the option to take part in this service.

3. **Summer closing: **Moved by Dianne Kowalchuk, seconded by Pat Dyck, that there will be no Sunday services at Rivers United Church from June 28 – September 6 inclusive. Carried.** Last service will be June 21st and first service back will be September 13.
4. **Thrift Sale: **Moved by Lynn Madden, seconded by Lori Kiesman, that the Thrift Sale be held on Thursday, April 23 (9-7), Friday, April 24 (9-5), and Saturday, April 25 (9-1). Carried.** The articles will be carried upstairs after worship on Sunday, April 19th. Lynn suggests that we offer a bag sale on Saturday morning. She will arrange for two cashiers on Thursday morning, because it is so busy.

Roundtable:

- AI reviewed the upcoming dates.

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 7 pm

Jamie McFadden adjourned the meeting at 8:55 pm.
Rev. Barb gave a closing benediction.