

Present: Alastair McFadden, Monica Madden, Dave Falkevitch, Tara Bray, Jamie McFadden, Lori Kiesman, Lynn Madden, Karen Kempe, Rev. Barb Jardine (Pastoral Charge Supervisor), Dianne Kowalchuk.

Regrets: Pat Dyck

Chair Al McFadden called the council meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Rev. Barb gathered us with an opening prayer. The minutes of the April 14, 2026, meeting were reviewed. ****Moved by Jamie McFadden, seconded by Tara Bray, that the minutes of the April 14, 2026, Rivers United Church council meeting be accepted as corrected. Carried.**

Business arising from the minutes:

- 1) Suzan Ramsey, on our behalf, attended the Women of the Rings donation event where RUC received a \$500 donation.
- 2) Dianne will ask Linda Clark if the Joyce Espey funeral will be entered in our "book" or in Cardale's.

Because Jamie McFadden had to go back to the seeder, two reports were received out of the usual order:

Stewardship (Property): RUC has received a \$250 grant from the RM of Riverdale to be used for the flooring replacement project. Jamie has spoken to Laura Gill at the RM office but will also send a note of thanks.

Jamie asked Treasurer Monica Madden to send a cheque for \$12,000 to Red Kayak as a down payment for the project, which could be done anytime after June 21. We will have to move all the small pieces of furniture out of Friendship Hall. Jamie will find out how much time the project will take start to finish.

Stewardship (Finance): The financial statement for the month of April 2026 was presented by Jamie McFadden. As of April 30, 2026, total RUC funds were \$235,349.63. Income for April: \$8,837.97; expenses for March: \$3,978.76. ****Moved by Jamie McFadden, seconded by Lori Kiesman, that the financial report for April 2026 be accepted for information only. Carried.** When Term 4 comes due, it will be rolled into the chequing account.

Correspondence:

- Canadian Food Grains Bank
- Rivers Collegiate re: grad award
- Pastoral Relations Commission re: Kempe appointment
- Amnesty International

Reports

Spiritual Leadership: Tara Bray reported that the committee will meet on May 13th. The committee was asked to consider how Sunday School could meet the needs of the older children.

Outreach: Lori Kiesman reported that the committee met on May 11th with Karen Kempe in attendance.

- Some ideas have been discussed about changing the usual practice of celebrating World Day of Prayer.
- A very successful lunch was held on March 15 to raise awareness for Amnesty International. Thanks to such great support, \$350 was sent to the organization.
- Plans are in the works for a Sundae Sunday on the last day of Sunday School, June 14.
- Karen Kempe is keen to connect with anyone in the community who might benefit from pastoral care, and her cell number could be included in the bulletin. It is best if anyone is putting forward names to Karen that they make sure they have asked for permission to do so. She hopes to get some business cards that could be passed out.
- After the meeting, we made up 18 bags of cookies with a Rivers United Church "spring" greeting tag. Deliveries were made that afternoon, and some will also be taken to church family members in the PCH.
- The next meeting will be held on September 14, 2026.

Karen will make an announcement about her desire to visit when needed, and her phone number will be made available. Council encouraged her to look into business cards.

Ministry and Personnel: Lynn Madden reported that the committee (Lynn, JoAnn Brandon, Connie Van Dixhoorn, Debbie Phythian) met with Karen Kempe on April 30th for lunch at Lee's Restaurant. The committee plans to meet with Karen monthly. A coffee-and-cookie reception was held after worship on May 3rd so that Karen could meet and visit with church members.

At this time, there is no outside caretaker.

Trustees: Dave Falkevitch reported that he has received the property insurance renewal notice. The cost has increased.

Prairie to Pine Region: Dianne Kowalchuk spoke briefly about an Immigration and Refugee Myth Busting Panel that was held on May 12th at Knox United in Brandon. Karen and Rev. Barb noted that Knox is also hosting a session on *Decolonizing Sexuality and Gender Identity* on May 23rd. It was noted that the United Church is a good source of reliable information available in live sessions, in print, and via videos. These resources and events could be publicized on our Facebook page. Karen will speak to Heather Lamb about this.

Karen and Dianne will be attending the Prairie to Pine AGM in Selkirk from May 29-31.

Search: Dianne noted that she was having some difficulty getting our "availability" removed from Church Hub. A covenanting service will be planned for September.

Stewardship (Property): Alastair remarked that he will be purchasing furnace filters, and there was some discussion about duct cleaning. We are still concerned that our caretaker is not doing a thorough cleaning.

Minister: Karen remarked that she has had a "wonderful start". She was thankful for the welcoming reception on May 3rd and for the opportunity to deliver cookies. She is anxious to make more connections through pastoral care visits.

****Moved by Tara Bray, seconded by Dave Falkevitch, that the reports be accepted. Carried.**

Old Business:

1. **Flooring: **Moved by Lori Kiesman, seconded by Lynn Madden, that RUC immediately begin a fundraising campaign to sell a carpet square for \$20 each. Carried.** Donations are tax deductible and can be made by cash, cheque, or e-transfer. Donations must be very well marked. Alastair will launch this project at the beginning of worship on Sunday. This will be a floor to be proud of!

2. **Spring Thrift Sale:** Lynn Madden reported on another successful thrift sale, held from April 23 -25, 2026.

- The sale included more items than we have had in the past.
- Set up was done on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.
- We used two cashiers on Thursday morning.
- On Saturday morning, purchasers could fill a bag for \$10. This worked very well.
- Thanks to Megan and Greg for advertising, those who worked shifts, Suzan for making coffee, and the clean up crew. Thanks to Gord and Michelle McFadden whose truck was loaded for delivery to Brandon and to Bill Kroeger who made a number of dump runs.
- Items went to Teen Challenge, Nearly New, Rivers Collegiate, Rollingdale, Westman Pregnancy Support, and Brandon Bear Clan. Leftover books will go to the Rotary Club Book Sale.
- Total sales were \$3,542.85, which surpassed the fall sale by \$787.

"Every year we see more people from other towns, which is nice to see. It takes many people to make the sales a success, and we do it twice a year!"

Lynn was thanked for her hard work. ****Moved by Lynn Madden, seconded by Lori Kiesman, that the proceeds from the thrift sale be disbursed as follows: \$542.85 to the RCI Breakfast Program, with the remaining \$3,000 earmarked for the flooring project. Carried.**

New Business:

1. **RCI Grad Award:** ****Moved, by Tara Bray, seconded by Monica Madden, that RUC provide a Graduation Award of \$200 for a deserving student who had been enrolled in the band program. Carried.**
2. **Planter:** ****Moved by Lynn Madden, seconded by Tara Bray, that the budget to purchase flowers for the stacked stone planter be \$100. Carried.** Lori Kiesman has volunteered to purchase, plant, and maintain the planter.
3. **Use of Facility:** It has been suggested that we increase our use of facility costs. Dianne will bring a draft proposal to the June meeting.
4. **Prairie to Pine Regional Meeting:** ****Moved by Tara Bray, seconded by Dave Falkevitch, that RUC pay the \$200 registration fee for Karen Kempe to attend the regional meeting at the end of May. Carried.**
5. **Baptism:** **Mercer McFadden, son of Gabby and Alastair McFadden will be baptised by Karen Kempe on Sunday, June 21, 2026.** This baptism has already been approved. If the family decides to offer refreshments, they will look after coffee.

Roundtable: It was suggested that when we move things out for the flooring replacement, some items may no longer be needed. Think about it!

Next meeting: **Tuesday, June 9, 2026 7 pm**

Dave Falkevitch adjourned the meeting at 8:42pm.

Karen Kempe gave a closing benediction.