

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

**Regrets:** Rev. Barb Jardine

Chair Heather Lamb called the council meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The Lord's Prayer was repeated. The minutes of the September 9, 2025, meeting were reviewed. **\*\*Moved by Lynn Madden, seconded by Lori Kiesman, that the minutes of the September 9, 2025, Rivers United Church council meeting be accepted as circulated. Carried.**

**Business arising from the minutes:** None

**Correspondence:**

- Thank you from UCC for Northern Ministers Retreat donation

**Reports**

**Spiritual Leadership:** Tara Bray reported that the committee met via e-mail to deal with requests for baptisms and a confirmation. The committee recommends that Council approve the request for baptism of Annika and Julia Raupers, daughters of Courtney and Jan Raupers. The committee also recommends that Council approve the request for the baptism and confirmation of Courtney Raupers. Courtney and Rev. Barb are meeting for confirmation preparation via zoom.

Upcoming service leaders: Oct 26- Rev. Barb, Nov 2- Lesley McFadden, Nov 9- Julie Hutton, Nov 16- Rev. Barb, Nov 23- Al McFadden, Nov 30- Dianne Kowalchuk.

It was noted that the return to the pre-COVID way of *Passing the Peace* was well received.

Sheila Runions will be the accompanist for practice on Nov 20<sup>th</sup> and the service on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. No choir practice on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Outreach:** Lori Kiesman reported that the committee has not met since September. It was again noted that congregation members will be encouraged to support *10,000 Villages* in Brandon.

**Ministry and Personnel:** Lynn Madden reported that a meeting will be held soon. There was some question if the building was fully vacuumed weekly.

**Trustees:** Dave Falkevitch had no report.

**Prairie to Pine Region:** Dianne Kowalchuk reported:

- She attended a zoom session of the Rural Ministry Town Hall. This was a national meeting, but there were only 21 participants from across the country. The topic was General Council's project called *Toward 2035*. It is possible and quite likely that the General Council and the rural churches are not on the same page about what the UCC will look like in 2035. How can the UC continue to have a presence in rural communities? Resources for discussion will be available soon.
- The 2026 *Salary and Ministers Reimbursement* handbook is now available online.
- Annika Raupers attended a church youth event near Brandon in the spring, and she is attending a weekend event in Virden at the end of October. This is great news!
- As a member of the regional committee for Lay Leadership Support, Dianne will be attending a gathering for the Licensed Lay Worship Leaders on October 17<sup>th</sup> in Portage.

**Search:** Dianne reported that there are no student ministers looking for placement at this time. There are, however, two other developments: 1) the minister at Hamiota UC will be leaving at the end of June; 2) Forrest UC will be without a minister at the end of December. Perhaps these places will be looking for a "partner".

**Stewardship (Property):** Jamie McFadden reported the following:

- The junk under the landing of the ramp has been removed.
- The temperature of the hot water tank will be turned down after the fall supper.
- Jamie has twice asked the Municipality to bring some gravel for the parking area.
- There have been inquiries about replacing the carpet in Friendship Hall and the lobby. This will be seriously considered in the New Year; it is really a summer project because all the items in the Hall must be moved to the sanctuary. The present carpet was installed in 2008 as one of our centennial projects.

Al McFadden reported that the furnace filters have been replaced.

Heather Lamb reported that there is no timeline for the ramp installation. Before snowfall ... hopefully.

The caretaker will order hand paper rolls for the bathrooms.

**\*\*Moved by Tara Bray, seconded by Al McFadden, that the reports be accepted. Carried.**

#### **Stewardship (Finance):**

The financial statement for the month September 2025 was presented by Jamie McFadden. As of September 30, 2025, total RUC funds were \$228,563.68. Income for the month: \$17,713.12; expenses for the month: \$7,876.51.

**\*\*Moved by Jamie McFadden, seconded by Lori Kiesman, that the financial report for September 2025 be accepted for information only. Carried.** Income included the Enabling Grant of \$12,158, which will be paid out when the ramp is installed.

#### **Old Business:**

**1. Fall Thrift Sale:** Lynn Madden reported on a successful sale:

- Total income of \$2,755.85. (Thursday - \$2,105.85; Friday- \$374; Saturday morning- \$276.
- There was not as much “stuff” as there had been in the spring, and few “big” items.
- Next year, the sale will be the last week in September, and Thursday hours will go back to 9 to 7 pm.
- Having few days to set up and price is very helpful and eases the pressure.
- Thanks to everyone who helped set-up, worked shifts, and helped with pack-up. Greg and Megan did a great job with advertising, and videos were made and placed on Facebook. Rollingdale, Rivers Collegiate, and Rivers Elementary came and bagged up what they could use, but there is still a lot to go to Brandon.

Lynn was thanked for her hard work. Her full report is attached.

**\*\*Moved by Jamie McFadden, seconded by Lynn Madden, that the profit from the fall Thrift Sale be disbursed as follows: \$1,350 to the Rivers Collegiate Breakfast Program, \$500 to the UCC Healing Fund (for the survivors of residential schools), and the remainder for the installation of the ramp. Carried.**

**2. Pastoral Care Training:** On September 27, 2025, Debbie Johnston travelled to Portage la Prairie to attend the in-person *Equipping the Saints: Pastoral Care Visitors Training* at McKenzie United Church. (Complete report attached.) Sessions were on the topics of *About Dying*, *Palliative Care Visiting*, *Medical Assistance in Dying*, and *Active Listening*. Throughout the day, the participants split into small groups for discussion and to examine different scenarios. Debbie was particularly impressed by the sessions led by Rev. Joe Ball from Brandon. Rev. Barb Jardine was one of the facilitators.

**3. Fall Supper:** Dianne gave an update on the Fall Supper which will be held on Oct 19<sup>th</sup>. We are currently at 90 take-outs (planning for 150) with 29 deliveries.

#### **New Business:**

**1. Sunday closings:** **\*\*Moved by Tara Bray, seconded by Dave Falkevitch, that RUC close on December 28 and January 4. Carried.** It was noted that Jan 4<sup>th</sup> is the last day of the Provincial Ladies' Curling Championship held at Riverdale Community Centre.

**2. Baptism:** **\*\*Moved by Tara Bray, seconded by Al McFadden, that the RUC Council approve the baptisms of Annika Emmy Raupers and Julia Diana Christine Raupers (daughters of Courtney and Jan Raupers) by Rev**

**Barb Jardine on October 26, 2025. Carried.** It was noted that Courtney and Jan will be supplying cake to be shared with the congregation after the service. The Outreach Committee will make the coffee.

3. **Baptism and Confirmation: \*\*Moved by Tara Bray, seconded by Lynn Madden, that the RUC Council approve the baptism and confirmation of Courtney Raupers on November 16, 2025, by Rev. Barb Jardine. Carried.**
4. **Remuneration: \*\*Moved by Tara Bray, seconded by Al McFadden, that Rev Barb Jardine be paid the equivalent of one pulpit supply amount for confirmation and baptism preparation. Carried.**

**Roundtable:**

- Term #1 (Memorial Fund) will be “rolled over” when it comes due on October 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Tara reported that filling Sundays with pulpit supply in January and February will be challenging.

**Next meeting: Tuesday, November 11, 2025 7 pm**

The meeting was adjourned by Dave Falkevitch at 8:10 pm.