

Rivers United Church Council Meeting **April 9, 2024**

Present: Debbie Phythian, Tara Bray, Jamie McFadden, Dave Falkevitch, Melody Stewart, Monica Madden, Alastair McFadden, Sheila Deforest, Dianne Kowalchuk

Regrets: Heather Lamb, Rev. Kathy Platt

Vice Chair Alastair McFadden called the council meeting to order at 7 pm. Sheila Deforest opened the meeting with a prayer. The minutes of the March 12, 2024, meeting were reviewed. ****Moved by Tara Bray, seconded by Debbie Phythian, that the minutes of the March 12, 2024, council meeting be accepted as circulated. Carried.**

Business arising from the minutes:

- The donor of the \$40 transfer to the RUC account has been identified.

Correspondence:

- E-mail from Rivers Kids Club re: summer plans for upgrades in their space

Reports

Spiritual Leadership: Tara Bray had no report.

Outreach: Melody Stewart reported that the committee has plans for cookie deliveries to the elderly.

Ministry and Personnel: Debbie Phythian reported that the committee will be updating the job descriptions.

Trustees: Dave Falkevitch had no report. (maybe next month)

Prairie to Pine Region: Dianne Kowalchuk reported the following:

- The southwest area of the region is hosting a day entitled *Talking with our Neighbours* on Thursday, May 2, 2024, at Knox United Church in Brandon. 10 – 3:30 pm. This is a day for worship, talking, listening, and making new friends with UC people from rural churches just like ours. Tanis Podobni will lead worship and Noel Suministrado will give a reflection on *Deep Listening and Discipleship*.
- The regional meeting will be held via zoom on the evenings of October 10th and 17th. The Regional Executive has decided that we cannot meet in-person every year.
- As a member of the Committee for Lay Ministry Support, Dianne will be attending a gathering of Licensed Lay Worship Leaders on May 3rd in Winnipeg.

Pastoral Relations: Dianne reported that the congregational meeting was very well attended, and the motions to remain as a Supervised Ministry Education site were successfully passed. These have been forwarded to the Pastoral Relations Commission to be approved at its meeting tomorrow. Then the posting will go on Church Hub, and we will start to troll the waters.

Stewardship (Property): Jamie McFadden reported the following:

- An e-mail and an invoice have been received from Brandon Elevator and Electric. The bill for \$682.50 is for a service call (wires were removed, cleaned, and replaced). Apparently, all is well now with the elevator. The disconnect switch has arrived and Brandon Elevator will install it.
- A new cartridge was placed in the printer.

- William McFadden has used his 3D printer to fix the broken piece on the microphone stand. Well done! Thank you.
- The bulb in the printer room has been changed, but we probably need a new fixture.
- We will have to ask the Town to lay some gravel in our parking area.
- Some ducting in the choir room needs to be re-attached.
- Alastair changed the furnace filters. There was some moisture there so we need to keep our eye on it.

Jamie also read a few examples of on-line scams. Please do not be fooled!

Minister: Sheila Deforest gave her report for March. A summary is provided below; the full report is attached to the official minutes.

- Sheila gave us a copy of the letter from the Prairie Candidacy Board. The Board has approved Sheila as ready for ordination with the caveat that she completes her schooling and the SME final evaluation. The Candidacy Board interview was in the middle of her final Learning Circle, a time that Sheila describes as “tense”. She has completed her degree requirements for St. Andrew’s College; the convocation will take place on Friday, May 10, 2024.
- Sheila reported, “Of course all of this was going on during Lent and Holy Week... To say it was an emotional roller-coaster ride is an understatement, but I was able to channel that into my writing and reflecting. My Palm Sunday service and the appearance of “Colt” was, I feel, one of my best sermons. The Holy Spirit was very much at work in me throughout the entire month of March.”
- Sheila led the service at the Personal Care Home on Maundy Thursday. She read the passage from John where Jesus washed the feet of the disciples, and she created a “hand washing” with pieces of fabric that were soft and smooth. She received some good feedback on this.
- Sheila has also received positive feedback about the Lenten prayer bead practice. She was pleased to have found a way to continue the breath prayers into the weeks of Easter. The prayer bead practice helped her tremendously through Lent.
- “Looking ahead to April, my calendar is filling up. I am looking forward to Holy Humour Sunday with the Sunday school children and celebrating communion on April 21. I am also looking forward to the end of winter with the melting of the snow.

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

Stewardship (Finance):

The financial statement for the month of March 2024 was presented by Jamie McFadden. As of March 31, 2024, total RUC funds were \$221,254.30. Income for the period - \$9996.60; expenses for the period - \$6,303.72. The surplus is mainly due to interest income (\$3,459.92) for Term #6. ****Moved by Jamie McFadden, seconded by Melody Stewart, that the financial report for March 2024 be accepted for information only. Carried.**

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. **Closing Covenant:** Sheila asked Council to approve her request to have a formal closing of covenant during her final worship service on June 23, 2024. Sheila said, “...From our time together, there is much to celebrate. My time here has been, overall, a time of joy. I want the closure to be special, to express gratitude and thanksgiving to each other and to God.” ****Moved by Jamie McFadden,**

seconded by Debbie Phythian, that the RUC Council bless and support Sheila Deforest's request to include a "closing of covenant" at her last service with us on June 23, 2024. Carried.

2. **Zoom account:** It was noted that we are currently using Sheila's zoom account. Do we need to have our own account again after Sheila leaves? Is Zoom the best service to use? It was decided to put this on the agenda of the May meeting.
3. **Sacrament Elder:** A discussion was held about the sacraments after Sheila leaves us. We are very grateful for the willingness of Rev. Glenna to administer the sacraments of communion and baptism if she is able. It is possible to have Dianne as a back-up, as she has already taken the training.
****Moved by Tara Bray, seconded by Debbie Phythian, that RUC Council ask the Prairie to Pine Region of the United Church of Canada to re-license Dianne Kowalchuk as a Sacrament Elder, effective on July 1, 2024. Carried.**
4. **Baptism:** The baptism for Burke Allan McFadden (approved at the March meeting) will be held on June 9, which is also Sundae Sunday. Alastair and Gabby will supply the cake; the Outreach Committee will supply the ice cream and toppings.

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 15, 2024 (note the day change)

The meeting was adjourned by Dave Falkevitch. Sheila led us in a closing prayer.

Dates

April 14-	Holy Humour Sunday and Sunday school
April 19-	Funeral service for George Kroeger 10:30 a.m.
April 21-	Communion
April 24-	Thrift sale set-up
April 25-27	Thrift sale
May 12-	Service leader Lesley McFadden Sunday school
May 15-	Council meeting
June 9-	Baptism of Burke McFadden, Sundae Sunday, and Sunday school
June 11-	Council meeting
June 14 -	Funeral service for Hall Sveistrup
June 16-	Service leader Rev. Glenna Beauchamp
June 23-	Closing of Covenant and Farewell Reception. Last service before summer break