

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

Megan Lelonde attended briefly to take a photo of the council for the photo directory.

Chair Heather Lamb called the council meeting to order at 7:08 pm. Rev. Barb gave an opening prayer. The minutes of the March 11, 2025, meeting were reviewed. ****Moved by Tara Bray, seconded by Alastair McFadden, that the minutes of the March 11, 2025, Rivers United Church council meeting be accepted as circulated. Carried.**

Business arising from the minutes: We have had no response from *Broadview* about our donation, and the video that we promised to show is not yet available. Rev. Barb still plans to write a blurb about *Broadview* to distribute to the congregation.

Correspondence:

- Credence & Co re: UCC restructuring evaluation
- Assiniboine North Parent Child Coalition re: overpayment and new agreement
- Friends of the Foundation

Reports

Spiritual Leadership: Tara Bray reported that the committee met on March 18th and discussed the following:

- All positions on the committee have remained unchanged.
- Robin is on a cancellation list for hip surgery; if she gets called for surgery, Megan will step in.
- The next Sunday School dates are April 13, May 11, and June 8.
- Holy Week Services:
 - April 13 Palm Sunday – The choir and Sunday School will lead a processional with palms. Myles Wotton to be confirmed.
 - April 17 Maundy Thursday – 7pm. Glenna and Sally are officiating. Communion and foot washing will occur.
 - April 18 Good Friday – At the Anglican Church
 - April 20 Easter -- Hannah Polasek from Carberry is officiating.
- June 8 - Megan and Dianne are looking after service to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the United Church. It will also be Sundae Sunday, with an Anniversary cake after church.
- June 22 will be our last service for the summer. Services to resume on Sept 7th.
- The committee pre-approved the Baptism of Mercer McFadden.
- Next meeting is September 2, 2025.

Tara later updated Pulpit Supply: April 27 – Heather Lamb, May 4 – Rev. Barb, May 11 – Julie Hutton, May 18 – Lesley McFadden, May 25 – Jocelyn Beever, June 1 – Rev. Glenna (communion), June 8 – Anniversary service, June 15 – TBD, June 21 – Heather Lamb.

Outreach: Lori Kiesman reported that the committee will meet in the next couple of weeks.

Ministry and Personnel: Lynn Madden reported that the committee recommends that Emerson and Edison Braun be hired as outside caretakers.

Trustees: Karen Cullen had no report.

Prairie to Pine Region: Dianne Kowalchuk reported:

1. The United Church of Canada has decided to cease using X.com (formerly Twitter) because of concerns about harmful rhetoric, misinformation, and hate speech.
2. The UCC has issued an election statement urging UC people to use their voice, to act justly, and to speak the truth.

3. The Sunday before September 30 (National Day for Truth and Reconciliation) is now officially a Special Sunday in the United Church called *Orange Shirt Day*.

Search: Nada

Stewardship (Property): Jamie McFadden reported the following:

- The ignitor has been replaced on the east furnace.
- The windows for Friendship Hall are sitting at Home Hardware. They will be installed by Dawson Lawrence.
- New Look Gardening and Landscaping will honour the original quote for the stone stacked planter. We have not obtained any other quotes. All materials will come from Home Hardware, and the planter will be consistent with the other planters in town. Hopefully, the work will be completed in May.

****Moved by Lynn Madden, seconded by Lori Kiesman, that the reports be accepted. Carried.**

Stewardship (Finance):

The financial statement for the month of March 2025 was presented by Jamie McFadden. Income - \$10,066.16, Expenses - \$6,896.90. Income includes interest of \$3,798.53 from Term 6. As of March 30, 2025, total RUC funds were \$229,675.85. ****Moved by Jamie McFadden, seconded by Lynn Madden, that the financial report for March 2025 be accepted for information only. Carried.**

Old Business:

1. **Ramp project:** Heather Lamb reported that there is still no word on our application for an *Enabling Accessibility* federal grant.
2. **Stacked Stone Planter project:** The original amount of the quote from New Look Gardening and Landscaping for the Stacked Stone Planter on the west side of the church was \$8,242. RUC has received a grant from Rivers and Area Community Foundation for \$4,400, and RUC has earmarked \$1,552.35 (half the proceeds from the fall thrift sale) for the project. Heather Lamb reported that RUC has received \$1,000 as a Thomas Sill grant through the Rivers and Area Community Foundation. The remaining costs of \$1,290 will come from RUC general funds.
3. **Outside caretakers:** ****Moved by Lynn Madden, seconded by Alastair McFadden, that Rivers United Church hire Emerson and Edison Braun as outside caretakers at a wage of minimum wage plus 50 cents. Carried.** They will supply the lawn mower.
4. **Photo Directory:** Dianne Kowalchuk reported on what is happening with the photo directory. Photography sessions are being held on April 22nd, 23rd, and 24th. The response has been very good. The booklet will be 9 by 11½ and will contain messages from the council chair and the Pastoral Charge Supervisor and a brief history. Dianne asked for some volunteers to do the reminder phoning and to act as hostesses.

New Business:

1. **Statistical report:** The 2024 Statistical Report has been completed by Dianne and Monica and submitted.
2. **Thrift Sale:** Lynn Madden noted that set-up for the thrift sale will take place during the days of April 29th and 30th. Items will be moved up from the basement after worship on April 27th.

Roundtable:

- Jamie will be replacing the two outside lights and cleaning the fixtures.
- The Outreach Committee will look after the cake and ice cream for the service on June 8th. Megan and Dianne will do set up, including coffee.

- The light bulb in the choir room needs to be replaced.
- Sheila Deforest's name needs to come off the church sign.
- Water for the piano is found in the photocopy room.
- The Palliative Care Committee is hosting a fundraiser in Friendship Hall on May 10th.
- Heather reviewed upcoming dates.

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 No meeting in May.

The meeting was adjourned by Jamie McFadden, seconded by Lynn Madden. Rev. Barb gave a closing benediction.