

**Present:** Heather Lamb, Dave Falkevitch, Tara Bray, Monica Madden, Alastair McFadden, Dianne Kowalchuk, JoAnn Brandon, Jamie McFadden, Rev. Barb Jardine.

Chair Heather Lamb called the council meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Rev. Barb gave an opening prayer. The minutes of the April 8, 2025, meeting were reviewed. **\*\*Moved by Tara Bray, seconded by Dave Falkevitch, that the minutes of the March 11, 2025, Rivers United Church council meeting be accepted as corrected. Carried.**

**Business arising from the minutes:** None

**Correspondence:**

- George Bott re: United in Worship
- *Broadview* receipt and thank you
- Rev. Michael Blair, General Secretary, UCC re: *Toward 2035*
- Rivers Collegiate re: grad award
- Prairie to Pine Regional Council re: forest fires
- Carberry United Church re: response to forest fires
- UCC re: Northern Ministers Retreat
- Debbie Phythian, Palliative Care Committee

**Reports**

**Spiritual Leadership:** No recent meeting. It was noted that OneLicense (our copyright license) was paid in April. Tara Bray reported on Pulpit Supply for the fall: Sept 7 – Dianne Kowalchuk, Sept 14 – Julie Hutton, Sept 21 – Heather Lamb, Sept 28 – ? Orange Shirt Day Sunday, Oct 5 – Rev. Glenna, Oct 12 – Julie Hutton. Tara welcomes all suggestions for pulpit supply.

**Outreach:** Dave Falkevitch read Lori Kiesman's report:

- The committee met on April 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Valentines decorated by the Sunday School were handed out at church. Some were mailed to members not in church.
- A short video about Cain Burgess's cancer journey was shown during a worship service in May.
- A spring cookie delivery to shut ins and seniors took place on April 29<sup>th</sup>.
- The committee organized Sundae Sunday which was combined with the Anniversary service on June 8<sup>th</sup>. The leftover cake has been frozen and will be used for an occasion in the fall.
- In the fall, the committee will discuss how best to mark Orange Shirt Day. A video? Orange ribbons for those not wearing orange? They will also revisit the idea of doing something for Amnesty International
- Next meeting: September 4 at 11 a.m.

**Ministry and Personnel:** JoAnn Brandon reported that Emerson and Edison Braun have begun work as outside caretakers.

**Thrift Sale:** JoAnn Brandon read a report written by Lynn Madden. All of the left-over items have been delivered and donated to Rollingdale, Rivers Collegiate, Rivers Elementary, and Teen Challenge in Brandon. We were able to donate some items to a family from Rapid City who lost everything in a fire. Some of the jewelry that was donated was taken to the Gold Buyer in Brandon, and we received \$1,200 for it, which was totally unexpected. The total for the sale was \$5,400 plus money for a couple of items sold after the sale. Lynn writes, "It was an amazing sale – our best ever!! Thanks again to everyone for all their hard work in making it happen. September will be here before we know it, and we will do it all again." Lynn had some suggestions about where the proceeds might be donated.

**Trustees:** Dave Falkevitch did indeed have a report. Dave has been dealing with Lawrence Donald (a lawyer and former member of this church) and the Land Titles Office with the aim of changing the names on the Status of Title

for Rivers United Church. Out of the eight names currently on the tax roll, only one is still living. The last change was completed in August 1999. The plan is to have the names of all the current trustees on the property tax notices. The process has been ongoing but should be finished soon. Dave has been in contact with the Prairie to Pine Regional Council, and there are no issues at that end.

**Prairie to Pine Region:** No report from Dianne Kowalchuk.

**Search:** Dianne reported that she had a conversation with Laura Fohse, Office of Vocation, on April 29<sup>th</sup>. There are no candidates looking for positions at this time, but in a year or two, there will be.

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

- In April, a \$1000 RACF grant (from the Thomas Sill fund) was received to go towards the stacked stone planter project. Four new windows purchased from Rivers Home Hardware were installed by H25 Construction (Dawson Lawrence): in both bathrooms, the southwest corner of Friendship Hall, and the furnace room. The window frames were primed inside and out but need to be painted.
- In May, a very successful thrift sale was held. Kudos to Lynn et al. The stacked stone planter was erected at west side of church by New Look Gardening and Landscaping.
- In June, New Look filled the planter with soil, and Heather Lamb and Eleanor Beever planted the flowers. Sheila Deforest's name plate was taken off the church sign.

It was noted that the flowers were purchased from Trestle Greenhouse. Heather has donated a 100-foot hose. The water tap in the basement will be left on in the summer months, and the hose will be taken in and out. There were a few other items for property to think about:

- A broken table in Friendship Hall
- Water leaked through the foyer ceiling during that big rain in April.
- More gravel is needed for parking area.
- It would be great if an electrical outlet could be installed on the south wall of Friendship Hall and outside.

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

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

The financial statement for the months of April and May 2025 were presented by Jamie McFadden. April Income - \$4465.12, Expenses - \$7034.21. Purchase and installation of the windows was the main expense. May income -- \$10,361.94, expenses -- \$3,278.82. Profit from the Thrift Sale was \$5,437.14. As of May 31, 2025, total RUC funds were \$234,189.88. **\*\*Moved by Jamie McFadden, seconded by Tara Bray, that the financial report for April and May 2025 be accepted for information only. Carried.**

#### **Old Business:**

1. **Church Photo Directory:** Dianne reported that this was a successful project. Photos were taken on April 22-24. 52 photos were taken and seven photos were submitted. Lynn Madden, Karen Cullen, and Tara Bray helped Dianne with the phoning. Hosts were Dave Falkevitch, Suzan Ramsey, Barb Sveistrup, Lori Kiesman, and Dianne. Suzan and Dianne proofread the draft on June 6. Books will probably arrive in August. We will receive 10 extra books. The only expense was for postage.
2. **100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UCC:** A service to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Church of Canada was held on June 8<sup>th</sup> with Sunday school participation. It was followed by Sundae Sunday and birthday cake.
3. **Accessibility grant:** Heather Lamb reported that our application for the federal grant for the ramp is still active.

#### **New Business:**

1. **Carnival:** Council received a request from Megan Lelonde to find 12 volunteers to help run the fall carnival. After much discussion, it was decided that RUC will not hold a carnival in September. We very much

appreciate Megan's hard work, and we feel that if a carnival is held in the future, a committee should be set up well in advance.

2. **UCC Structure Evaluation:** All pastoral charges have been asked to complete an evaluation of 77 questions about the change to a three-council system that took place in 2019. This took 30 minutes to complete, and it was felt that our input was of little use because we have very little knowledge about the current structure. Dianne will enter our answers and send the questionnaire away.
3. **Grad award: \*\*Moved by Tara Bray, seconded by Alastair McFadden that RUC give a \$400 award to a deserving graduate who had been enrolled in the band program. Carried.**
4. **Sacrament Elder: \*\*Moved by Alastair McFadden, seconded by Dave Falkevitch, that the council of Rivers United Church ask Prairie to Pine Region to relicense Dianne Kowalchuk to administer the sacraments. Carried.**
5. **Fall supper:** The take-out fall supper will be held on October 19, 2025. Convenors will be Pat Dyck, Lesley McFadden, and Dianne Kowalchuk (unless someone says "no".)
6. **Thrift sale proceeds: \*\*Moved by Tara Bray, seconded by Monica Madden, that \$2500 be given to the Manitoba Red Cross for use in forest fire relief. Carried.** It was noted that at this time, all donations to the Red Cross will be matched by both the Federal and Provincial governments.  
**\*\*Moved by JoAnn Brandon, seconded by Jamie McFadden, that the Riverdale Palliative Care Committee, Northern Ministers Retreat (UCC), and the Rivers Early Learning Centre each be given \$1000. Carried.** We are very thankful that we have the financial ability to make these donations. Many thanks to Lynn Madden and the thrift sale crew.
7. **September opening: \*\*Moved by Tara Bray, seconded by Alistair McFadden, that RUC place an ad in The Banner to announce our first service back after the summer break. Carried.**

**Roundtable:**

- Rev. Barb noted that she was "proud" of council for making those donations
- In turn, we expressed our thanks to Rev. Barb and our hopes that she is returning to good health.
- Dave noted that Friends of Rivers Lake is hosting a Grand Opening of the accessibility dock on July 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Heather Lamb informed us that during this week she is doing a Facebook Challenge and placing links to UCC centennial events on the RUC Facebook page.
- Heather reviewed upcoming dates. The last service is June 22<sup>nd</sup>, and services will resume on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Choir practices will begin on September 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Next meeting: Tuesday, September 9, 2025**

The meeting was adjourned by Dave Falkevitch. Rev. Barb gave a closing benediction.