

Rivers United Church Council Meeting **March 11, 2025**

Present: Karen Cullen, Tara Bray, Monica Madden, Alastair McFadden, Dianne Kowalchuk, Lynn Madden, Rev. Barb Jardine.

Regrets: Heather Lamb

Vice Chair Alastair McFadden called the council meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Rev. Barb gave an opening prayer. The minutes of the December 10, 2024, meeting were reviewed. ****Moved by Tara Bray, seconded by Monica Madden, that the minutes of the December 10, 2024, Rivers United Church council meeting be accepted as circulated. Carried.**

Business arising from the minutes: None

Correspondence sent: letter to Hon. Wab Kinew re: Jeremy Bray

Correspondence received:

- United Church Youth Event poster (March 23rd, Prairie Breeze Stables)
- *How Can I Keep from Singing* poster (May 8, Wawanesa)
- Thank you from *Riverdale Harvest*
- Thank you from *Canadian Foodgrains Bank*
- Thank you from *Meals on Wheels*
- Request for support from *Broadview*

Reports

Spiritual Leadership: Tara Bray reported that the committee will meet on March 18th. She also updated the Pulpit Supply: March 16 – Dianne Kowalchuk/Debbie Johnston, March 23 – Rev. Barb, March 30 – Rita Friesen, April 6 – Spiritual Leadership, April 13 – Rev. Barb, April 17 (Maundy Thursday) – Rev. Glenna (communion), April 20 – Hannah Polasek, April 27 – Heather Lamb, May 4 – Rev. Barb, May 11 – Julie Hutton, May 18 – TBD, May 25 – Rita Friesen.

RUC will host the Maundy Thursday service; the Good Friday service will be held at the Anglican Church.

Outreach: Karen Cullen reported the following:

- The committee met on January 6th.
- They made Valentines for the Sunday School children to hand out on Feb.16, and Valentine cards were mailed to seniors who are not able to attend worship.
- Plans are being made for “Cookie Visits” in May.
- The committee will be helping with the UCC 100th anniversary service in June.

Ministry and Personnel: Lynn Madden reported the following:

- Megan Lelonde has resigned as outside caretaker as of March 31, 2025. Two teenage boys have expressed an interest in sharing the work. Council supports the hiring of these boys.
- There was some discussion about the work of the Inside Caretaker.
- Items are being removed from the thrift sale table in the basement.

Trustees: Karen Cullen had no report.

Prairie to Pine Region: Dianne Kowalchuk reported:

1. General Council Executive will host a national “town hall” via Zoom on April 2, 2025.

2. The next installment of training for Pastoral Care visitors throughout the Prairie to Pine Region will be on the evening of Wednesday, March 26, 2025, via Zoom. The focus will be on the topic of sadness, anxious minds, and depression – how to self-identify, recognize these tendencies in others we might visit, and tap into resources. Rev. Barb is one of the facilitators. Those interested in participating are asked to register by e-mail at cabad@united-church.ca.

Search: Nothing new. No student ministers are looking in our direction.

Stewardship (Property): Alastair McFadden reported the following:

- In January, the sewer drain under the nursery school floor was plugged again; Gill's Plumbing used the power rotor to fix the problem.
- In March, the east furnace needed a new main control module; hence, another bill from Gill's Plumbing.
- No word on the windows yet and no word on our request for a renewed quote for the stacked stone planter.

It was noted that Debbie Johnston is now on the Stewardship Committee, and she is the person in charge of *Use of Facility*.

****Moved by Lynn Madden, seconded by Tara Bray, that the reports be accepted. Carried.**

Stewardship (Finance):

The financial statements for the months of December 2024, and January and February 2025 were presented by Alastair McFadden. December: Income - \$11,545.12, Expenses - \$8,301.49; January: Income - \$3,786.13, Expenses - \$2,686.46; February: Income - \$5,180.83, Expenses - \$4,443.61. As of February 28, 2025, total RUC funds were \$224,669.70. ****Moved by Lynn Madden, seconded by Karen Cullen, that the financial reports for December 2024 and January/February 2025 be accepted for information only. Carried.**

Old Business:

1. **Ramp project:** Heather Lamb submitted a report saying that our application for an *Enabling Accessibility* federal grant is still in the "active" status, with no decision yet.
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 submitted a report that she has made an application to the Thomas Sill Foundation for a grant of \$2,290. If successful, this grant will ensure that we have funds in hand to complete the project. Jamie has e-mailed New Look Gardening and Landscaping for an updated quote.
3. **Step 2:** RUC will continue its partnership with Assiniboine North Parent Child Coalition until March 2026. We will soon be paying out expenses for the session ending March 31, 2025, and then we will be receiving \$4,300, which is 75% of the money needed to fund the program until March 2026.
4. **Photo Directory:** Dianne Kowalchuk reported on what is happening with the photo directory. Advertising and phoning will start soon. Photography sessions are being held on April 22nd and 23rd. People can sign up after church starting on March 16, or they can phone Dianne. Lynn

Madden volunteered to do some phoning. We hope to have 50 individuals/families sign up. It was agreed that the size of our directory will be 6 by 9 inches, with a picture of the church on the cover. I have confirmed that as part of the Anniversary Specials, we will get two extra editorial pages (that makes 4 in total), free 20% overprint of directories, and 10 free submitted photos. The editorial pages will include a message from the Council Chair, a short history of the church and photos of Council, choir, and Sunday School. If there is room, Rev. Barb will put in a message as Pastoral Charge Supervisor. We may also include a photo and story about the quilt and the stained glass windows. We are also allowed to print a Roster which would include one phone number, one e-mail address, and the mailing address for each family. This information will be obtained when appointments are being made, if people wish to be included in the roster. Volunteers will be needed to do phoning reminders and to serve as hostesses on April 22 & 23.

5. **UCC Centennial:** At the Annual Meeting, it was decided that we would mark the 100th anniversary of the UCC with a special church service on June 8, 2025. Dianne reported that she and Megan Lelonde had met to begin making plans. We will make use of a Centennial service prepared by the UCC, but there will be no sermon. We hope to have participation of the Sunday School, and we will be incorporating some UCC videos (hopefully). We will have a number of hymns, and the choir will sing an anthem. Following the service, we will serve cake and ice cream. We are hoping that the Outreach Committee will look after the ice cream and toppings (taking the place of Sundae Sunday). We will need volunteers to help set up and to wash dishes. We hope to promote this event very heavily with an article in the Banner and posters. We are not necessarily looking for any outside attendance but rather wanting to make the church visible. Our intention is that the event will be upbeat and joyous. Dianne will make small notices that can be handed out to everyone who arrives to get their picture taken.

New Business:

1. **Broadview:** Council discussed ways that we could support *Broadview*, which is the only media organization in Canada which covers spirituality, justice, and ethics. It was decided that we will: 1) make supportive announcements prior to worship on a number of Sundays, 2) provide handouts (summarized by Rev. Barb) at a Sunday service, and 3) show the *Broadview* video when it is available. Furthermore, ****Moved by Tara Bray, seconded by Lynn Madden, that Rivers United Church make a one-time donation of \$500 to Broadview. Carried**
2. **Thrift Sale:** ****Moved by Lynn Madden, seconded by Karen Cullen, that the Spring Thrift Sale be held on Thursday, May 1 (9 a.m. to 8 p.m.), Friday, May 2 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and Saturday, May 3 (9 a.m. to 1 p.m.) Carried.** Items will be moved up from the basement after worship on April 27th.
3. **Summer closing:** ****Moved by Tara Bray, seconded by Lynn Madden, that RUC close from June 29th to August 30th inclusive. Carried.** The last service will be on June 22, with services resuming on September 7.

Roundtable:

- The service to officially make Forrest United an Affirming Church will be held on May 25, 2025.
- Alastair reviewed upcoming dates.

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 8, 2025

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm. By Karen Cullen. Rev. Barb gave a closing benediction.