

Rivers United Church Council Meeting **May 15, 2024**

Present: Lynn Madden, Tara Bray, Jamie McFadden, Dave Falkevitch, Lori Kiesman, Monica Madden, Heather Lamb, Sheila Deforest, Dianne Kowalchuk

Regrets: Alastair McFadden, Rev. Kathy Platt

Chair Heather Lamb called the council meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Sheila Deforest opened the meeting with a prayer from *Life Prayers from around the World* by The Terma Collective. The minutes of the April 9, 2024, meeting were reviewed. ****Moved by Jamie McFadden, seconded by Monica Madden, that the minutes of the April 9, 2024, council meeting be accepted as circulated. Carried.**

Business arising from the minutes: None

Correspondence:

- Thank you from Adam Gabrielle
- Request for Grad Award from Rivers Collegiate
- E-mail from Pastoral Relations Commission re: Church Hub posting
- Letter from Climate Finance Task Group, Prairie to Pine Region

Reports

Spiritual Leadership: Tara Bray reported the following:

- Our next Communion will be June 23rd. Megan will find another server, and Tara will set up. A new pottery pitcher has shown up in the cupboard.
- We would like to suggest to the board that we register again for *United in Worship* as a resource for services. It costs \$247 for July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.
- We discussed pulpit supply starting this fall. Glenna would likely be willing to help out every six weeks or so. Dianne, Lesley, Alastair, Heather, and possibly Barb Jardine are all options. There are apparently 2 people in Carberry who are willing to provide pulpit supply. Tara will check with Dianne to see if she has an updated pulpit supply list. Heather has agreed to do the first service back in September, the 8th, which will also be Sunday school.
- It was noted at the last Communion that some were reaching for the bread, instead of allowing it to be placed in their hands. Sheila will briefly review our procedure before we begin next time.
- Gwen Spring's funeral will be here on May 17th at 1 p.m. The family would like a choir, ushers, and the Legion ladies Auxiliary honour guard.
- We need to find the worship committee minute book, as it has the backup list for weddings, funerals and baptisms, which Jocelyn keeps track of.

Some resource books have been donated by Kathy Platt.

Outreach: Lori Kiesman reported that committee members supplied cookies that were delivered to elderly members of our church family. Seventeen visits were made by Sheila Deforest, Michelle McFadden, and Suzan Ramsey. The responses were gratifying. The committee is making plans for Sundae Sunday and the Farewell Reception.

Ministry and Personnel: Lynn Madden reported that the committee plans to review the job descriptions of the "staff". It was suggested that it would be valuable to do an exit interview with Sheila.

Trustees: Dave Falkevitch reported that he had watched Sheila's convocation, and she did indeed graduate.

Prairie to Pine Region: Dianne Kowalchuk reported the following:

- Sheila and I attended a gathering of United Church people at Knox Brandon on May 2nd. In the morning, we joined in worship and then moved to table groups to discuss our home churches, how we got there, and how we feel in those places. After lunch, we watched a short video on the “greening” movement in Brandon. The group *Sustainable* Brandon had its origins at Knox United, I believe, and has a deep commitment to fighting climate change. Resources can be found at For the Love of Creation. Later, Noel Suministrado spoke about “Deep Listening”. He reminded us that God has given us two ears and one mouth and that “Listening is an act of love”. We also talked in our table groups about the changing face of the United Church and how these changes affect our rural churches.
- On May 3rd, I attended a gathering of the Licensed Lay Worship Leaders (LLWLs) in Winnipeg, hosted by the regional committee of which I am a member. One thing that was pointed out clearly and is a good lesson for me: **the United Church is a denominational church, meaning that congregations do not make the rules.**
- I will be taking part in interviews for two LLWLs on May 22nd.
- Rural churches without ministers are asking for resources and training to do the pastoral care work of the church. If we have people who are called to do this work, we should line them up for this training.
- The United Church of Canada is celebrating its 100th anniversary from June 2024 to June 2025. We should probably mark that in some way. A kick-off service will be livestreamed from Toronto on June 9th. I have signed us up for the Centennial newsletter.

Search: Dianne reported that our vacancy for a halftime student minister has been posted on Church Hub. Search team members are taking part in a zoom training session on May 25.

Stewardship (Property): Jamie McFadden reported that two windows in the nursery school are leaking and that the disconnect switch for the elevator has been installed.

It was noted that the STEP 2 program is storing material in a cupboard in Friendship Hall. Dianne is looking for the plaque commemorating Dorothy Hart’s bequest.

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

- Sheila found April to be very busy, recovering from a hectic Holy Week and beginning the transition from student to ordained minister.
- Sheila has agreed to serve on one of the committees at St. Andrew’s College.
- She is officially done school, but, because learning is something she enjoys, she signed up for a two-day on-line conference *Rethinking Preaching* put on by Emmanuel College, Toronto.
- Heather Lamb and Sheila took part in a workshop sponsored by the United Church Rural Ministry Network entitled *Social Media for the United Church*.
- Sheila officiated at the funeral service for George Kroeger. Sheila wrote, “The family had a couple of requests that we wouldn’t normally entertain, but with some extra planning, I think it came together in a very meaningful way.”
- Holy Humour Sunday was moved so that the Sunday school children could take part. It was an enjoyable service. “And the butterflies we made and hung up in the sanctuary – they are gorgeous! Their differences make them look like they are in flight. Having these in the sanctuary

makes it feel like I am surrounded by the people of this church, even when I am the only one here. What a gift!"

****Moved by Tara Bray, seconded by Lori Kiesman, that the reports be accepted. Carried.**

Stewardship (Finance):

The financial statement for the month of April 2024 was presented by Jamie McFadden. As of April 30, 2024, total RUC funds were \$218,593.38. Income for the period - \$7,530.22; expenses for the period - \$10,173.14. Elevator repairs cost \$2,219.55; Thrift Sale proceeds were \$2,400.05. Monica has completed the Charities Report for 2023. ****Moved by Jamie McFadden, seconded by Lynn Madden, that the financial report for April 2024 be accepted for information only. Carried.**

Old Business:

1. **Zoom account:** Jamie will investigate the use of *Teams* as an on-line meeting site.

New Business:

1. **Grad award:** ****Moved by Jamie McFadden, seconded by Dave Falkevitch, that Rivers United Church present \$200 to a deserving graduating student who was part of the band program. Carried.**
2. **United in Worship:** ****Moved by Tara Bray, seconded by Lori Kiesman, that Rivers United Church enroll in the United in Worship program at a cost of \$247 for a year, starting on July 1, 2024. Carried.**
3. **Outside plant pots:** Megan Lelonde, our outside caretaker, is asking council to purchase some plant pots and plants for the north side of the church. She will care for these. Jamie offered to donate two large pots that had belonged to his father. He will ask Lesley if she will plant some flowers in them.
4. **Kids in the nursery school:** After discussion, it was decided that RUC's *Use of Facility Policy* should include a line stating that unsupervised children are not allowed in the nursery school area. Dianne will look after this.
5. **Ina Hyndman painting:** Ina Hyndman has donated one of her paintings to hang in the church. This is much appreciated. Ina is a longtime member of our congregation and an accomplished artist. The painting now hangs on the east wall of Friendship Hall.

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 11, 2024

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

Dates

May 17- Celebration of Life for Gwen Spring

May 23 - Choir practice

June 9- Baptism of Burke McFadden, Sundae Sunday, and Sunday school

June 11- Council meeting

June 13 - Choir practice

June 14 - Funeral service for Hall Sveistrup

June 16- Service leader Rev. Glenna Beauchamp

June 23- Communion, Covenant Celebration, and Farewell Reception. Last service before summer break.