

**Rivers United Church Council Meeting**                      **November 12, 2024**

**Present:** Tara Bray, Jamie McFadden, Debbie Johnston, Monica Madden, Heather Lamb, Alastair McFadden, Lynn Madden, Dianne Kowalchuk.

**Regrets:** Lori Kiesman, Rev. Barb Jardine

Chair Heather Lamb called the council meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Heather opened the meeting with a reading from the *Friendship Book* and a prayer. The minutes of the October 8, 2024, meeting were reviewed. **\*\*Moved by Tara Bray, seconded by Jamie McFadden, that the minutes of the October 8, 2024, council meeting be accepted as circulated. Carried.**

**Business arising from the minutes:**        none

**Correspondence:**

- E-mail from Sheila Runions re: Christmas Cheer
- E-mail from Kids Club with request for more outdoor space
- Church Web Support pricing
- E-mail from Debra Dandy re: Peace Train
- Letter from Rivers and Area Community Foundation re: grant
- Information from UCC Foundation re: Centennial activities

**Reports**

**Spiritual Leadership:** Tara Bray reported that the Spiritual Leadership Committee met on November 11th and discussed the following:

- Rev. Glenna will serve Communion on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Megan will set up and find servers. No Communion again until March. The usher and scripture lists are filling up. Tara has started to fill spots in the New Year for pulpit supply. Glenna is doing the PCH service in December.
- We will host a Christmas eve service. Megan will lead the service; Tara will lead the Carol Sing. Tara will look for a simple service of readings and carols. She will find readers for the scriptures. Jocelyn will do the Advent candle lighting and reading.
- Glenna has an Advent liturgy for us to use during the season of Advent. Tara will find candle lighters and readers for each Sunday. Advent decorating will take place after church on Sunday Nov.24th. Tara will go through the decorations prior. Banners change to blue for the season of Advent until Christmas Eve when they are changed to white.
- As there are some new people in church, we wondered if continuing with the name White Gift Sunday for our kids' service is confusing. We suggest changing the name and make announcements in advance of what it's all about and how we collect for Christmas Cheer. Tara will talk to Donna about the announcement. Tara will also speak to Carolyn Phillips from Christmas Cheer to get some ideas about what they are looking for to fill the hampers. It will be the Outreach Committee's responsibility to deliver the donations.
- It was suggested that the congregation might remain seated during the offering hymn, as we did last Sunday. There is not always a hymn after the offering prayer but when there is, we suggest the choir and congregation stay seated. We will have Donna add "remain seated" in the PowerPoint, and we will make the choir aware we will stay seated.
- We discussed our budget for next year. We had \$4000 for pulpit supply and \$2000 for Sunday school last year. Due to increased need for pulpit supply with no minister, we suggest an increase to \$5000 for pulpit supply.

Dianne asked about the two accompanist hymn books that have appeared on the table in the choir room. Nobody knows where they came from. Dianne will gladly use the *Voices United* copy, as the pages are falling out of the book on the organ.

**Outreach:** No representative. No report.

**Ministry and Personnel:** Lynn Madden reported that the committee will meet on Monday, Nov. 18.

**Trustees:** Debbie Johnston had no report.

**Prairie to Pine Region:** Dianne Kowalchuk reported the following:

- The Retreat for the Northern Ministers to which we donated took place the week of October 13<sup>th</sup>. Donations totalled \$45,000.
- Sunday pulpit supply rate for 2025 will be \$254.
- *Equipping the Saints* is the name given to the training for pastoral visitors which took place on November 9<sup>th</sup> at Carberry United Church. Rev. Barb Jardine was one of the facilitators.
- Prairie to Pine Region has launched a Facebook Group.
- We really should make some plans about the Centennial of the UCC. Gower Street United Church in St John's, Newfoundland, will host the Centennial Worship Service on June 8, 2025. This will be live-streamed, and we could consider hosting a watch party. Also, a special worship service is being prepared for congregations to use. The invitation that we have received from the UCC Foundation to take part in specific Centennial activities is not a directive or a request from the UCC.
- I attended the second of the two evening meetings designated as the Regional Annual Meeting. This zoom gathering included the financial report and the Nominating Committee's report on the Commissioners for General Council. The archivist spoke about the Centennial of the UCC. She told us:
  1. Be sure to post your events on the United Church's Centenary page.
  2. Download a "toolkit" for logos, etc.
  3. Take a look at the Centennial suggestions that she has made available.
  4. Think about doing "storytelling" at worship
  5. Use the "language of commemoration" rather than the "language of celebration".The meeting closed with a reading from Corinthians 1 which I find particularly apt. *There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to all for their particular service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.*

Information from the Regional annual workbook:

- UCC Protect United is an insurance program aimed at helping participating UC ministries to reduce and then contain their insurance costs. This program, started in 2022, has so far been successful financially, but customer service and administration has been very poor and has created a great deal of frustration for the users.
- 27 people across Canada are training to be ministers.
- In 2023, there were 8 new collaborative ministry arrangements. Six churches disbanded (Elm Creek, Ashern, Minitonas, Winnipeg Korean, Alexander, and St. Rose). Nine pastoral charges were designated as Ecumenical Shared Ministries. 45 PCs were without ministers.
- The Region has reached its limit for international ministers.

- The Region has only 2 full-time staff, and one is the secretary.
- Rev. Barb Jardine was ordained 40 years ago. That's a milestone!

**Search:** Dianne reported that there is nothing new.

**Fall supper:** Dianne reported that 148 meals were sold. Income was \$3,347 including \$387 in donations. It was a successful event with good support from the church family.

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

- The vacuum is not working. Might be that the power head is dying.
- The four windows will be ordered soon and installation will likely be in the early spring. The money from the Memorial Fund has not yet been transferred.

**\*\*Moved by Debbie Johnston, seconded by Alastair McFadden, that the reports be accepted. Carried.**

**Stewardship (Finance):**

The financial statement for the month of October 2024 was presented by Jamie McFadden. Income for the month - \$10,826.70; expenses - \$3,151.06. As of October 31, 2024, total RUC funds were \$219,790.

**\*\*Moved by Jamie McFadden, seconded by Lynn Madden, that the financial report for October 2024 be accepted for information only. Carried.** It was noted that in 2024, Term numbers are 1, 4, 6, and 7.

#### **Old Business:**

1. **Carnival:** Megan Lelonde submitted a report about The Kids' Carnival that was held on September 21<sup>st</sup> (attached). Donations for the event totalled \$302.50. Council had set a budget of \$250. Actual expenses were \$240 at the Co-op, and Megan also put out \$150 of her own money, which she was happy to do. Megan would like to make this an annual event, and Council certainly appreciates her initiative and hard work. Thanks so much, Megan! Council asks that next year's event adhere to the budget and be followed up with a complete and timely report. Council has no intention of making money from this event. **\*\*Moved by Tara Bray, seconded by Monica Madden, that Rivers United Church give Megan Lelonde \$60 towards her Carnival expenses. Carried.**
2. **Stacked Stone Planter Project:** RUC has been notified that it will be granted \$4,400 from the Rivers and Area Community Foundation for the Stacked Stone Planter Project. **\*\*Moved by Jamie McFadden, seconded by Monica Madden, that Rivers United Church proceed with the Stacked Stone Planter Project. Carried.** It was suggested that two more estimates should be acquired. The project must be completed within a year. The original estimate of \$8,242 was obtained from New Look Gardening and Landscaping in Brandon. Heather and Lynn will be attending the "Giving Night" on November 15<sup>th</sup>.
3. **Thrift Sale proceeds:** **\*\*Moved by Lynn Madden, seconded by Debbie Johnston, that the proceeds of the Fall Thrift Sale be split evenly between the Rivers Collegiate Breakfast Program and the Stacked Stone Planter Project. Carried.**
4. **Photo Directory:** We have received many positive responses about this project. **\*\*Moved by Alastair McFadden, seconded by Jamie McFadden, that Rivers United Church contact IPC Canada about moving forward with a Photo Directory Project for our church family. Carried.** We still need to find a co-ordinator. Dianne will make the initial contact with IPC Canada.

### **New Business:**

1. **Kids Club outdoor space:** Kids Club has asked the Church to consider allowing it to erect permanent fencing on the west side of the church and along the north side beside the sidewalk. This would give them more outdoor space and allow for the purchase of permanent outdoor equipment (covered sandbox and mud kitchen). **\*\*Moved by Alastair McFadden, seconded by Tara Bray, that Council deny the request made by the Kids Club to erect permanent fencing around an expanded area, with the suggestion that we would take out the trees on the west side of the church if that would give them more space. Carried.**
2. **Nominating:** **\*\*Moved by Debbie Johnston, seconded by Alastair McFadden, that Council appoint Dianne Kowalchuk to do the work of the Nominating Committee for 2025. Carried.**
3. **December 29:** **\*\*Moved by Tara Bray, seconded by Debbie Johnston, that no worship service be held at Rivers United Church on December 29<sup>th</sup>, providing that there is a Service of Lessons and Carols in the community. Carried.**
4. **White Gift:** Should the name of our Sunday School pageant and Christmas Cheer collection day be changed from White Gift? Council felt that it might suffice to give an explanation of the history of White Gift and why it is a tradition in our church.

### **Roundtable:**

- Council assured Lynn that she can set up for the Thrift Sale any day that she would like.
- Lynn, Dianne, and Greg took the leftovers from the last sale to Frontier in Minnedosa. The books will be delivered to the Rotary Club Book Sale in Brandon.
- 2025 offering envelopes are now available. The extra ones have been given to Barb Sveistrup.
- It was suggested that the "Minister" line on our outdoor sign should be covered.

### **Next meeting: Tuesday, December 10, 2024**

The meeting was adjourned by Debbie Johnston.  
Heather closed the meeting with a benediction.