

Rivers United Church Council Meeting September 10, 2024

Present: Lynn Madden, Tara Bray, Jamie McFadden, Dave Falkevitch, Monica Madden, Heather Lamb, Alastair McFadden, Megan Lelonde, Rev. Barb Jardine, Dianne Kowalchuk.

Regrets: Lori Kiesman

Chair Heather Lamb called the council meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Rev. Barb opened the meeting with a reading from the book *Embers* (by Richard Wagamese) and a prayer. The minutes of the June 11, 2024, meeting were reviewed. ****Moved by Megan Lelonde, seconded by Tara Bray, that the minutes of the June 11, 2024, council meeting be accepted as circulated. Carried.** The minutes of the July 17 e-mail meeting were read. ****Moved by Lynn Madden, seconded by Tara Bray, that the minutes of the July 17, 2024, e-mail meeting be accepted as read. Carried.**

Business arising from the minutes: 1) the photo taken of Council at the June meeting will be hung

Correspondence:

- Thank you from Riverdale Harvest
- Thank you from Laura Fohse, UCC Minister of Vocations
- Thank from Emily Oldenburger (award winner)
- Notice of Sacrament Elder re-licensing approval (Dianne Kowalchuk)
- Letter from Rev Barb Jardine re: association and pastoral charge supervision
- Letter from St. Andrew's College re: College Sunday
- Invitation to attend area gathering on September 26, 2024

Reports

Spiritual Leadership: Tara Bray reported that the committee met on September 9th.

- An Usher sign-up list is now posted. Tara will put up a Scripture sign up list by Sunday.
- Glenna will be doing Communion on October 6th. Tara will set up, and she and Megan will serve. Barb Jardine has offered to do Communion on Dec. 8th, so we thought it would be a good opportunity for the children to join.
- Banners are orange for Creation until Oct. 13th; then they turn to green.
- The last two PCH services have been led by Glenna, with Dianne playing. Glenna is willing to continue doing them monthly.
- Since October 20th is World Food Day, and there is a service prepared on the United Church website, our committee will look after doing the service that day. Tara will prepare the service and read scriptures, Jocelyn will lead the service and Megan will look after the reflection.
- Pulpit supply is covered until Dec. 15th. We discussed options for a Christmas Eve service -- would need to find someone to lead it. Glenna is a possibility.
- Our next meeting is November 12th by Zoom

Outreach: Dave Falkevitch reported that a meeting will be held when possible.

Ministry and Personnel: Lynn Madden reported that the committee will meet soon. The indoor caretaker has been ill. Megan volunteered to step in to do that work if needed. It was suggested that the floor downstairs should be washed before the fall supper (including the kitchen).

Trustees: Dave Falkevitch had no report.

Prairie to Pine Region: Dianne Kowalchuk reported that the Region will hold an on-line meeting on the evenings of October 10 and 17th. She will attend the 17th but not the 10th. She encouraged people to attend the area gathering in Minnedosa on September 26th.

Search: Dianne reported that we have had no “bites” on our posting for a student. It is quite likely that we will not have anyone interested until March. Dianne had an informal conversation with Vicki Smith, chair of the Hamiota United Church Board. At this time, Hamiota is not looking to create a partnership with another church. A letter will be sent to Hamiota UC requesting that they be in touch with us if they ever decide that they would like to be part of a collaborative arrangement.

Stewardship (Property): Jamie McFadden reported that some flashing on the west side of church building needs to be re-attached. This will be done soon. He has asked for a quote from Home Hardware for new windows on the south side of Friendship Hall. It was suggested that we need more gravel for the west parking area.

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

Stewardship (Finance):

The financial statements for the months of June, July, and August 2024 were presented by Jamie McFadden. As of August 31, 2024, total RUC funds were \$211,259.12. ****Moved by Jamie McFadden, seconded by Megan Lelonde, that the financial reports for June, July, and August 2024 be accepted for information only. Carried.**

Old Business:

1. **Carnival:** The Kids’ Carnival will be held on September 21st. Megan Lelonde reported that she had gone \$82 over the original budget of \$100. ****Moved by Tara Bray, seconded by Dave Falkevitch, that the budget for the Carnival be increased to \$250. Carried.** Unfortunately, as of this date, no people have signed up to help. Megan will be looking for volunteers from outside the church. She was encouraged to ask the parents of those who attend Sunday school. She was also invited to have promotional material at the Chamber luncheon on Saturday.
2. **Step 2:** The Step 2 program will be held in Friendship Hall on certain Friday mornings until the end of March. We have received grant money of \$2,257.50, which is 75% of the total amount. Dianne is looking after the paperwork, and Monica will send out the payments at the end of December and the end of March. Dates for the first sessions are Sept 6 & 20; Oct 4 & 18; Nov 1, 15, & 29; Dec 13. RUC will receive \$30 for each session.

New Business:

1. **Ramp:** Heather Lamb reported that our federal grant application is “active” (meaning “in the works” but nothing confirmed. The estimate of \$17,136 from G2J’s Mobile Welding at Rapid City includes demolition and removal of the existing ramp and construction of a wrought-iron ramp. If the grant application is successful, we will pay 25% of the cost.
2. **Further projects:** It was suggested that we might look at getting grants from the Rivers and Area Community Foundation to do other work, such as replacing the back stairs, installing waterless planters, and replacing the carpet. Regarding the back stairs, a quote for \$5,600 had been received. There was a lengthy discussion. ****Moved by Alastair McFadden, seconded by Megan Lelonde, that**

we apply to the Rivers Area Community Foundation for a grant to purchase and erect waterless planters for the west side of the church. Carried. Jamie will get the estimate; Heather will complete the application. The Stewardship Committee will take a look at the back stairs.

3. **Thrift sale: **Moved by Lynn Madden, seconded by Tara Bray, that the Thrift Sale will be held on Thursday, September 26th (9 a.m. to 7 p.m.), Friday, the 27th (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.), and Saturday, the 28th (9 a.m. to 1 p.m.) Carried.**
4. **Fall Supper:** The fall supper will be held on October 20th (3rd Sunday in October) and will be a take-out turkey dinner. \$20 per plate. 4:30 – 6 pm. 150 people maximum. Convenors are Dianne Kowalchuk, Pat Dyck, and Leslie McFadden. Phoners are Tara Bray, Suzan Ramsey, and Michelle McFadden. ****Moved by Dianne Kowalchuk, seconded by Lynn Madden, that the proceeds of the fall supper be split between the Canadian Foodgrain Bank and Riverdale Harvest. Carried.**
5. **Kids' Club:** Dianne reported that she had met with Kids' Club president Jason Wood on August 29th, and the annual contract for nursery school was signed. A clause was added: "RUC is responsible for snow removal on the sidewalks and stairs." It was noted that this work should be done by 8:45 a.m. Nursery school staff have asked that we be quicker in having the parking area cleared after a large snowfall. Jason drywalled the nine poles in the nursery school area, and the entire room has been painted blue.
6. **UCC Centennial:** It was noted that we really should put some thought into marking the centennial of the United Church of Canada. Perhaps we should have a tea in the spring? Rev. Barb is going to investigate the idea of a theme each month.
7. **50th anniversary of Glenna's ordination:** We would like to mark this anniversary. We will serve coffee and cake after the service on October 6th. (No coffee on Thanksgiving Sunday.)
8. **Pastoral Relations Supervising Report:** Barb is responsible for doing this report for July 2023 – January 2024. She asked a few questions of the council. Dianne will find out if Glenna has to have an annual approval to "be in association". We are happy that Barb is with us once again, and thankful that she has recovered well from her open-heart surgery.

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 8, 2024

The meeting was adjourned by Dave Falkevitch.
Rev. Barb sent us off with a benediction.