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# ANNUAL REPORT

Neepawa United-Anglican Shared Ministry

Annual General Meeting, Sunday February 22, 2026

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**AGENDA**  
**Neepawa United-Anglican Shared Ministry**  
Annual Congregational Meeting for the 2025 Year  
Sunday, February 22, 2026

**1. Call to Order and Welcome** – Leona Kucher, NUASM Chair

**2. Opening Prayer** – Rev. Leith Saunders

**3. Approval of Agenda**

- a) Additions/Changes to the agenda
- b) Motion to approve agenda

**4. Approval of Minutes of the NUASM Annual Meeting for the 2024 Year, held February 9, 2025.**

**5. Reports:**

- a) NUASM Chairperson – Leona Kucher
- b) Pastoral Charge Supervisor – Rev. Leith Saunders
- c) Treasurer – Judy Elgert and Daphne Hall
- d) Worship – Pat Fedoruk
- e) GAP Committee - Kelly Sneesby
- f) Choir – Brian Bailey
- g) Ministry and Personnel – Jane Goudie
- h) Mission & Service and Outreach - Susan Phillips
- i) Stewardship – Lynda Lowry
- j) Pastoral Care – Betty Ebner
- k) Regional Representatives:
  - i) Prairie to Pine Regional Council –
  - ii) Brandon Diocese – Anita d’Armada
- l) Profile Committee - Lynda Lowry
- m) Website – Murray Hart
- n) Motion to accept reports

**6. New Business**

- a) Report from the Search Committee
- b)

**8. Nominating Committee** – report and motion to accept

**9. Closing Prayer** – Rev. Leith Saunders

**10. Adjournment**

**Minutes of NUASM Annual Congregational Meeting for the 2024 Year**  
held Sunday, February 9, 2025

**1. Call to Order and Welcome** – Don Walmsley, NUASM Chair

- Don welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

**2. Opening Prayer** – Rev. Chad McCharles

**3. Approval of Agenda**

a) **Additions/Changes to the agenda** - none

b) **Approval of Agenda**

**Motion:** Pat Fedoruk / Anita d'Armada

That the agenda for this meeting be approved as circulated. **Carried.**

**4. Approval of Minutes of the NUASM Annual Meeting for the 2023 Year, held February 11, 2024.**

**Motion:** Murray Hart / Leona Kucher

That the minutes of the NUASM Annual Meeting for the 2023 year, held February 11, 2024, be approved as circulated. **Carried.**

**5. Reports:**

The chair referred the meeting to the reports in the following areas which had been circulated in the NUASM Annual Meeting Booklet:

- a) NUASM Chairperson – Don Walmsley
- b) Minister – Rev. Chad McCharles
- c) Treasurer – Judy Elgert and Daphne Hall
- d) Worship – Pat Fedoruk
- e) Sunday School – Nancy Hunter
- f) Choir – Brian Bailey
- g) Ministry and Personnel – Jane Goudie
- h) Mission & Service and Outreach - Susan Phillips
- i) Stewardship – Lynda Lowry
- j) Pastoral Care – Betty Ebner
- k) Regional Representatives:
  - i) Prairie to Pine Regional Council – Susan Phillips
  - l) Website – Murray Hart

**Discussion:**

- the Chairman expressed thanks to all members of the NUASM board and the members of all committees for their dedicated and cooperative work on behalf of our community of faith. He also expressed a thank you to Rev. Chad, Pastoral Charge Supervisor Rev. John Lea, and Bishop Rachael Parker for their support and leadership during his term.  
- those who had authored reports were given the opportunity to add comments; and those in attendance were given the opportunity to ask questions about any of the reports.

**Acceptance of Reports**

**Motion:** Brian Bailey / Eleanor Nicholson

That the annual reports be accepted as circulated, presented and discussed. **Carried.**

**6. New Business**

**a) Approval of April 2024 Revision of the NUASM Policies and Procedures Manual**

**Background:**

- the NUASM Policies and Procedures Manual lays out the duties and responsibilities of NUASM board members and the committees they oversee.  
-as these committees grow more mature in their functioning, our manual is periodically examined to ensure that it correctly describes the current functioning of our board and committees.  
- this year some small wording changes have been suggested by the NUASM board, primarily in the Worship area, to reflect the desire of the Neepawa United Church board that the Worship Committee be responsible for approving weddings, baptisms and changes in membership.

- copies of the revised NUASM Policies and Procedures Manual have been available in the narthex and distributed with the NUASM Annual Report Booklet. The NUASM board is recommending approval of the wording changes that have been suggested.

**Discussion/Questions:**

**Motion:** Leila Hildebrand / Elsie Slimmon

That the revised NUASM Policies and Procedures Manual dated April 2024, be approved.

**Carried.**

**7. Nominating Committee Report**

- the Chairman expressed appreciation to folks who have either volunteered to stay on in their positions or have accepted new roles on the NUASM board and its committees.

- the Nominating Committee report was presented as follows:

**Nominating Committee Report  
2025 Neepawa United-Anglican Shared Ministry Board**

Term Ends		
<b>Chairperson</b>	<b>Leona Kucher</b>	Dec. 2026
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Vacant/pending	Dec. 2026
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Murray Hart</b>	Dec. 2025
<b>Treasurers</b>	<b>Judy Elgert &amp; Daphne Hall</b>	
<b>Regional Representative</b>	Vacant/pending	Dec. 2025
<b>Synod Representative</b>	<b>Anita d’Armada</b>	Dec. 2025
<b>Stewardship</b>	<b>Lynda Lowry</b>	Dec. 2025
<b>Pastoral Care</b>	<b>Betty Ebner</b> (Chair)	Dec. 2025
	Michelle Babcock*, Bea Betts*, Ellie Taylor*	
<b>Mission &amp; Service &amp; Outreach</b>	<b>Susan Phillips</b> (Chair)	Dec. 2026
	Donna Newton*, Elsie Slimmon*, Bea Betts*, Daphne Hall*, Nancy Hunter*	
<b>Ministry &amp; Personnel</b>	<b>Jane Goudie</b> (Chair)	Dec. 2025
	Susan Phillips*, Nancy Hunter*, Anita d’Armada* Jackie Snider*	
<b>Worship</b>	<b>Pat Fedoruk</b> (Chair)	Dec. 2026
	Lynda Lowry*, Linda Dick*, Murray Hart* Colleen Taylor*, Anita d’Armada*, Nancy Hunter*	
<b>Minister</b>	<b>Rev. Chad McCharles</b>	

\*Non-voting members

Submitted by: Don Walmsley, Kelly Sneesby, Jane Goudie, Leona Kucher

**Motion:** Judy Elgert / Vivian Oswald

That the Nominating Committee report for the 2025 NUASM board and committees be accepted; and further that the NUASM board be given authority to fill any vacant positions. **Carried.**

**8. Remarks by Incoming Chair**

- Leona Kucher expressed thanks to Don Walmsley for his dedicated work and fine leadership during his term of office. She also expressed optimism and enthusiasm for the coming year in which we will celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Church of Canada and the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NUASM.

**9. Closing Prayer** – Rev. John Lea

**10. Adjournment** – by the Chair at 12:15 pm

## **Chairperson's Message**

As you all know, this has been a very busy year for our NUASM board. I am so grateful for the board committees: the leaders; those appointed to special committees; and all those who are still involved. They have accomplished the tasks put to them with hard work, many meetings, and great thought and prayer. I cannot forget Vesty and Bishop Rachael for all their work and input in all the committees. We are truly a shared ministry. Reverend Chad McCharles was our faith leader. We all appreciated his steady faith, prayers, stories, humor and of course.... food. Rev. Chad had let his name stand in the election for Bishop of Saskatoon. On March 5, the people of the Anglican Diocese of Saskatoon elected him to be their 14<sup>th</sup> Bishop. His service of Consecration was held on June 14<sup>th</sup> in the Cathedral Church of St. John the Evangelist in Saskatoon. His final day of service with us was on May 31, 2025.

As an initial step in our search for a new minister, Judy Hare Pastoral Relations Minister of the Prairie to Pine Regional Council of the United Church provided information on the process and documents which our Profile Committee would use as a guide in producing our Community of Faith profile. Members of the Profile Committee chosen from each of the three boards, NUASM, NUC and Vestry were: Jane Goudie, Murray Hart, Nancy Hunter, Lynda Lowry, Jackie Snider and Don Walmsley. Bishop Rachael also provided information on what needed to be included in our profile document from the Anglican perspective.

On May 25, after the service, a tribute was paid to Rev. Chad McCharles, his wife Dawn and his family. Messages were presented from each of the three boards. Gifts were presented to Rev. Chad and Dawn McCharles from UCW/ACW; a painting by Weiming Zhao of the United-Anglican church and a photo of the choir. Lunch was served afterwards.

The GAP pulpit supply committee has filled all Sundays until June.

Our June 8 United Church 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration was well attended. A big thank you to Joe Ball, Rev John Lea, and Rita Friesen for making the service meaningful and memorable. Thanks to all who took part. The lunch was served to about 90 people, and the donations were given to Habitat for Humanity, a total of \$953.00. With other donations given to the same organization our total donations were \$1,700.00. Two quilts were also made and presented at the Grand Opening to the owner and her daughter.

The Community of Faith profile committee received a 43-page handbook to use in their deliberations. Judy Hare of Prairie to Pine met with the group for a two hour "training conversation". A financial viability form was also completed. There were reports on our living faith story, financial statements, demographics, real property, financial viability review, position description and expectations of the minister/priest in these areas. All reports were presented to the Prairie to Pine region, and Bishop Rachael, our local governing boards and our Community of Faith.

No regular meetings of NUASM board were held in July and August. Before church coffee and tea resumed after the summer months.

Meetings began again in September of 2025. Our 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service was held with Rita and Bishop Jim

Njegovan leading the service. Rita invited Rev. Leith Saunders, our new Pastoral Charge Supervisor who is replacing Rev. John Lea while he is on sick leave, to attend.

On September 17<sup>th</sup> a Congregational meeting was held and included the following: Call to order and Introductions- Leona Kucher. Rev Judy Hare Pastoral Relations Minister, Prairie to Pine Regional Council opened with a prayer. Meeting was turned over to Lynda Lowry chair of Profile Committee. Motion 1 – Approval of the Community of Faith Profile including outlining the terms of employment. Lynda provided the necessary background explanation. This was moved and seconded, discussed, and passed. Motion 2 –Appointment of a Search Committee consisting of these members: Jane Goudie, Nancy Hunter; Jackie Snider; Don Walmsley, Lynda Lowry and Brian Bailey; it was moved and seconded, discussed and passed. Motion 3 - Lynda gave an explanation about the necessity of forwarding our documents to our United and Anglican judicatories for their final approval, and for Dawn Gardy to post the position on “ChurchHub” after final approval is given. The motion was moved and seconded, discussed and passed. Lynda made closing comments and a closing prayer. Leona declared the meeting adjourned.

In August, I had a nasty fall resulting in two broken ribs. Then in December on the first Thursday, I wound up in Neepawa Hospital for two weeks and have still not fully recovered. (I also picked up a bad cold virus, still on my chest). I thank all those who covered for me and are still doing so. I especially thank the Committee chairs who have been keeping me informed and the committee workers who are still doing their jobs. I hope to be able to be back with you all at the Annual General meeting at the end of February.

Thank you to all the members of our joint congregation for your attendance, your faith and your prayers. Thank you to all those who have and are filling in pulpit supply for every Sunday since Rev. Chad’s end of service.

Respectfully submitted by Leona Kucher  
Chairperson

## **Pastoral Charge Supervisor's Report – Rev. Leith Saunders**

My name is Leith Saunders and it is my privilege to be the appointed supervisor for NUASM and Neepawa United Church during this time of transition. Although I have only met a few times with each body, I have enjoyed meeting folks in leadership (and re-meeting some I have known for years), learning about the faith community and this exciting joint ministry in Neepawa. You are blessed to have the dedicated folks in your midst!

As we look to the future – 2026 and beyond - may we keep the words of the prophet Isaiah in mind:

God says: “I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”

My hope and prayer for 2026 and beyond – because I believe the ministry of this congregation will continue – is that you will “believe” that God is doing a new thing within this community of faith, and that, through worship, prayer, outreach and pastoral care, this congregation and the community of Neepawa will “perceive” it.

May God who creates you give you light;  
May God who sustains you make you wise;  
May God who protects you give you joy;  
May God who surrounds you give you peace.  
(Luise Skibstead VU454)

I look forward to continued ministry together with you.

Mizpah

Rev. Leith Saunders

**Treasurer’s Report – Judy Elgert/Daphne Hall**  
**Neepawa United Anglican Shared Ministry 2025 Financial Report**

The Neepawa United Anglican Shared Ministry (NUASM) budget is reported as a line in the Neepawa United Church financial expenses as the Neepawa United Church pays all expenses for the annual budget approved at the Neepawa United Church Annual Meeting. The budget covers expenses of Sunday School, Worship and Mission & Service Committees. The budget for 2025 was \$1500.00.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Memo</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Budget Balance</u>
NUASM					<b>1,500.00</b>
2025-04-04	Oil refills for the candles communion supplies, palm branches and fellowship time supplies	162.40		162.40	<b>1,337.60</b>
2025-04-14		55.86		218.26	<b>1,281.74</b>
2025-05-29	Chad's farewell	7.84		226.10	<b>1,273.90</b>
2025-05-31	Chad's farewell	100.09		326.19	<b>1,173.81</b>
2025-05-31	Chad farewell gift		100.00	226.19	<b>1,273.81</b>
2025-06-08	farewell gift for Chad	260.00		486.19	<b>1,013.81</b>
2025-06-30	Appreciation gift	25.00		511.19	<b>988.81</b>
2025-08-15	Chad's farewell working lunch for profile committee & Bishop Rachael	40.82		552.01	<b>947.99</b>
2025-08-31	UC communion and milk for fellowship coffee	38.02		590.03	<b>909.97</b>
2025-10-08		12.59		602.62	<b>897.38</b>
2025-12-07	UC communion	10.02		612.64	<b>887.36</b>
Total NUASM		<u>712.64</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>612.64</u>	<u><b>887.36</b></u>
		<u><b>712.64</b></u>	<u><b>100.00</b></u>	<u><b>612.64</b></u>	<u><b>887.36</b></u>

2026 Draft Budget NUASM expense line is \$1,500.00

Treasurer, Neepawa United Church  
Judy Elgert

## **Worship Committee Report**

The Worship Committee's function is to assist the minister with Sunday services and special events in relation to the church year calendar, (Advent, Christmas, Ordinary time including Epiphany and Pentecost, Lent and Creation time). Since we are a United-Anglican shared ministry it is imperative that traditions familiar to both faiths are blended and shared. Our committee included members from both faiths: Lynda Lowry, Murray Hart, Colleen Taylor, Linda Dick, Anita d'Armada, Nancy Hunter and Pat Fedoruk. Through our discussions we have learned much about one another's faith and how to equitably reflect that to our parishioners.

We prepared the sanctuary with banners and décor appropriate to the church season and assisted with selecting appropriate liturgy. 2025 held some special Sunday services including the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Church, the fifth anniversary of our NUASM union and sadly, our beloved Rev. Chad's farewell service.

An Indigenous land acknowledgment message continues to scroll on the overhead screen and be read once per month, prior to the Mission & Service & Outreach story. We continue to consider other ways to show our reconciliation efforts. In June, we sent cards to high school graduates who were associated with our faith community. Holy week services, Communion and Holy Eucharist services, a Remembrance service and a Christmas eve service were held.

When notice of Rev. Chad's departure to become Bishop of Saskatoon was made known, the GAP committee immediately went to work on pulpit supply. Long-time GAP member Ruth Hanke, and Kelly Sneesby worked together to fill the Sunday pulpit vacancies to the end of December. Thank you, ladies and assistants, Dawn and Nancy. Betty Ebner will now be assisting Kelly on this committee, which reports to the Worship Committee.

Judy Elgert continues to capably manage the sound booth and technology for our services, both in house and through live streaming. Thank you to Judy for her many dedicated hours of work and to her sound and camera crew, Tracey and Dwayne.

Much gratitude is extended to Nancy Hunter for always trying to keep the children engaged, using bagged activities when there was no formal Sunday School. Nancy has left our committee for 2026, and we will truly miss her and her tremendous insight. Kelly Sneesby will replace Nancy on the committee and is sure to provide her knowledge of the Anglican faith to keep our worship services balanced for both faith families.

The choir, under the direction of Brian Bailey, continues to thrive. We are blessed with all of the voices of the choir members and the musical accompaniment of our four organists: Blair, Belinda, Marg and Myra.

In September, the Worship Committee asked Rita Friesen, our Pastoral Assistant, to join our committee. She graciously accepted, along with the many other commitments she makes to our faith family. Since Anita, a Worship Committee member, and Rita lead many of our Sunday services, their input at our meetings is vital and most welcome.

A special mention of thanks to Murray Hart for all of the great work he does to keep the NUASM website current and interesting. He also maintains the United Church membership roster.

It is much easier for our committee to work alongside a full-time minister. Dawn Gardy, our office manager, deserves a huge thank you for all of the extra roles that she has taken on since Rev. Chad's departure. It is a pleasure to have Dawn working with us. The work that she does behind the scenes is amazing.

The phrase "it takes a village" certainly applies to our community of faith, especially in this transition time. We acknowledge all who make our worship services possible:

...to Doug and Marivi for keeping our worship space clean and inviting, to pulpit supply people, to scripture readers, candle lighters, communion servers, fellowship coffee helpers, greeters, choir and organists, sound and camera crew, outreach members, to all who work on committees/boards, to profile and search committees and to all who faithfully attend services, (in person or virtually) THANK YOU!

Let us join in a prayer of gratitude for all of our NUASM family and in a prayer of faith, that soon there will be a caring and capable shepherd to lead us.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Fedoruk  
On behalf of the Worship Committee

### **GAP Committee Report**

With the departure of Father Chad, the GAP committee has been busy for the last few months. The committee consisted of Ruth Hanke and Kelly Sneesby. All Sundays from June 2025 to December 2025 were covered.

The pulpit supply list included: Rita Friesen, Anita d'Armada, Reverend Raymond Knight, Bernie Mullins and Don Walmsley. It has been a blessing to enjoy a variety of leaders during the last six months.

Ruth has decided to step down from the GAP committee after many years of service—Thank you for all you have done, Ruth!

Betty Ebner has volunteered to fill the vacant position. We are currently working on filling the Sundays from January to June 2026, we are praying that the Search Committee will find a suitable candidate soon to lead NUASM.

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Sneesby

## **Choir Report for 2025**

The church choir continues to thrive thanks to the volunteer choir and the fine efforts of the four keyboard musicians, Myra Bennet, Blair Chapman, Belinda Critchlow and Marj Goodwin. The choir membership includes Leland Cargo, Murray Hart, Tara Ross, Donna Newton, Sheila Bremner, Myra Bennet, Leona Kucher, Yvonne Ferguson, Colleen Taylor, Susan Phillips, Lane Englund, Sherry James, Marg Wopnford, Connie-Lou Priesentanz, Elsie Slimmon and Brian Bailey (Leader). We are always on the lookout for new members. If you love to sing, please consider joining the ranks of this fun-loving group. Our rehearsal schedule includes every Sunday morning at 9:45 as well as a monthly meeting (usually the first Thursday of the month) at 7 pm followed by social time.

We continue to provide a choral offering each week regardless of the number in the choir. We have continued to present a hymn of the month to familiarize the congregation with one of our newer hymns. Each Sunday we provide an Introit and a Closing that we use for a full month. Each Sunday we try to coordinate the selection of music with the theme of the day. We are also available to lead the music at funeral services. The choir does not meet during July and August.

This past year we have been very grateful to the Men's Shed as they have redone the wood valence that divides the choir from the congregation to better suit the contour of the choir loft. As usual, we helped celebrate the Christmas season with an evening of caroling, singing at the hospital, Yellowhead Manor and a private residence.

We are grateful to the team of worship leaders that we are happy to work with each week.

Respectfully submitted by Brian Bailey

## **Ministry & Personnel Committee Report**

The NUASM Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Committee has a maximum of six members which includes three representatives from both denominations and include members named by staff to represent their concerns.

Meetings may be called at any time to address personnel issues that may arise.

The M & P Committee is to provide a consultative and supportive agency for the staff of the church and for Members, Adherents and Friends in the community of faith to the NUASM Board. Some situations are not resolved by M & P but by the judicatory systems of the two churches.

Over the past year the Ministry and Personnel Committee has dealt with several items:

- Leaving interview with Reverend Chad McCharles.
- Notifying GAP committee of a need for weekly ministers.
- Allocation of holiday time for Office Manager Dawn Gardy.
- Salary update for Dawn Gardy for 2026.
- Changing Dawn's working hours to include working from home on Mondays.
- Opening times over Christmas and New Year holidays.

Our deliberations are often personal and therefore confidential. We also make recommendations to the Neepawa United Church Board.

The Committee membership includes, Susan Phillips, Nancy Hunter, Anita d'Armada, Jackie Snider and Jane Goudie.

Submitted by Jane Goudie

## **Mission & Service and Outreach Committee Report – Susan Phillips**

Mission, Service and Outreach Committee has seven members: Bea Bets, Nancy Hunter, Leona Kutcher, Donna Newton, Elsie Slimmon, Susan Phillips, and our newest member—Lane Englund! We meet as required, to discuss ways of making M & S and O relevant in our world. We look for opportunities to pass on information about Mission and Service and Along Side Hope. We share, through stories and videos, how you are making a difference here and around the world, with your donations!

Locally, we collect mittens and hats and socks and toys at Christmas and non-food items during Lent and deliver these to Salvation Army. This year we are keeping the mitten tree up until the end of January and any items donated after Christmas will go to the Bear Clan in Brandon. We worked with the women of Prairie Alliance Church (Neepawa) to make denim quilts for the Bear Clan. Thank you for all the blue jeans that were donated! We delivered six quilts in February and four in October. We ran a ride – to – church program on a trial basis, but it turned out not to be needed at this time. We, with the help of The Hims, hosted a coffee time at Kinsmen Kourts. We also hosted a games night in April—it got noisy! And the snacks are the best! As an outreach project to tie into the United Church of Canada's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we collected \$1,591 for Habitat for Humanity, Neepawa Project. We also helped make two quilts to donate to the new owners of the Habitat house. In the fall we presented a cheque for \$503 to the high school for their breakfast program.

As for a global project, Nancy Hunter ran her Cookies for a Cause program again this year and raised \$3,555. Through Nancy's careful planning, those funds were matched, making for a total donation of \$7,110 to Doctors Without Borders!

We want to thank you for your on-going support, participation and generosity. Loving our neighbor is at the heart of what we do!

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Phillips

## **Stewardship Report 2025-26**

Stewardship is rooted in our church community, grounded in compassion for the needy and gives us the opportunity to share our gifts with others.

Hopefully you have continued to enjoy the Stewardship Seconds which appear in the Friday newsletter, on our website and on the slides, we watch prior to Sunday services. They encourage us to share what God has given us, with those who are in need.

Branches in 2025 focused on celebration as we honoured Rev. Chad as he moved to Saskatoon as their Bishop. We recognized the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Church of Canada as well as the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NUASM. Donations for these events were shared with Habitat for Humanity and Salvation Army.

In 2025, our Narrative Budget showed that 29% of our budget goes toward Worship, 8% to Christian Development activities, 23% to Pastoral Care in our community, 20% to Mission and Service initiatives, and 20% goes toward Outreach to our community, our country and countries around the world. As our mission statement says, “We seek to be a caring and compassionate Christian community, open and welcoming to all people. We seek to worship and serve God in our community and in the world by following the teaching and example of Jesus Christ, our Lord.”

The Fall Stewardship Campaign was successful as 75 members donated, and five PAR donors increased their monthly givings. This campaign is so important to balancing our budget and allowing us to continue to do our good work in the community. This year donations in November and December totalled over \$33,000. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped in the campaign and to Dawn who managed the process. And, special thanks to all the donors who shared their gifts with NUASM.

Lynda Lowry

Stewardship Chair

## **Pastoral Care Committee Report – Betty Ebner**

Cards sent in 2025...

- Sympathy..34
- Get Well..28
- 1 Year Anniversary of Death..37
- Celebration..46
  
- Visits/Calls..11

Submitted by:

Betty Ebner

Bea Betts

Michelle Babcock

## **Regional Representative for the Diocese of Brandon**

Throughout the year a link to the monthly edition of the “Mustard Seed” Diocese of Brandon Journal is sent to all members of the board. This publication brings us news not only from Brandon but also from rural parishes in the Diocese.

In each edition Bishop Rachael writes a letter. This is a prayerful letter that is both informational and inspiring and is entitled “A Word from the Bishop”.

Starting in September Bishop Rachael began hosting a monthly Zoom chat meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month. Sessions are held from 7-8 pm via zoom, and the Bishop discusses many topics including, Synods, Prayer, Worship, the Church and who we are. The zoom link is posted, and all are welcome to join the Bishop.

There is always a section in the Mustard Seed for news from around the Diocese. NUASM has frequently sent in photos and relevant news items for this column.

This publication always includes any educational sessions available together with Lay Reader courses. Archdeacon Cheryl will always post all courses available plus email the parishes; these include courses from Huron University, Henry Budd College and College of Emmanuel and St. Chad.

St. Mathews Cathedral and property has been undergoing extensive changes, these changes include the establishment of Westman Immigrant Service building and Diocese of Brandon Synod Offices. The Worship space at St. Mathews Cathedral has been transformed into a versatile multi use area, the most noticeable change being in the Nave where the pews have been removed and replaced by chairs. This space is to be used for gatherings, concerts, etc. while still honouring the sacredness and the history of the original Cathedral. Space has also been developed for the Anglican Centre downstairs.

With the loss of incumbent Anglican Priests, Bishop Rachael together with Archdeacon Cheryl have been very actively involved in making sure that parishes have at least one Eucharist Service each month. This is true for us at NUASM as we are now without an Anglican Priest and Bishop Rachel, Archdeacon Cheryl and other Anglican Priests have presided over our mid-week Eucharist Services.

Bishop Rachael has also presided over some Sunday Worship services that have included joint Anglican and United Church Communion. We are very grateful and I believe we all feel that Bishop Rachael and Archdeacon Cheryl are truly our Shepherds.

Respectfully submitted by Anita d’Armada

## **Profile Committee Report**

The Profile Committee met nine times during the summer to write the following documents which are required by our judicatories as part of the process of searching for a new minister/priest to provide spiritual leadership at NUASM. Together these documents make up what is called our “Community of Faith Profile”:

### **1. Financial Viability Reviews**

- three financial viability documents ... for St. James’, NUC and NUASM, were completed with figures gratefully supplied by the treasurers. The financial reviews chart and look for patterns over the last six years in many aspects related to the financial health of the congregation: revenue and expenses, payroll amount, utilities and repair costs, the number of contributors, and investments or special funds which are available. These reviews showed that our community of faith is in a very good financial position, able to support a minister/priest for at least a five-year period.

### **2. Living Faith Story**

- This document lays out the mission statement and origins of NUASM and then describes specifically what activities our community of faith has been involved with in these areas of our ministry: Administration; Community Outreach and Social Justice; Denomination and Communities; Christian Education and Faith Formation and Growth; Leadership; Pastoral Care; Self Care; and Worship.

- This section also describes what facilities and amenities our church and CEC have to offer. This document also includes a Community Information section which describes the Neepawa area in terms of industry, businesses, media, and the availability of health care, education, day care, recreation and other attractions.

### **3. Position Description**

- this is the place where we describe the knowledge, skills and abilities which we hope our new clergy will possess. This section includes a detailed list of the expected duties and responsibilities of our minister/priest in these areas: Administration; Community Outreach and Social Justice; Continuing Education; Denomination and Communities; Faith Formation and Christian Education; Leadership; Pastoral Care; Self Care; and Worship.

- there is also a Terms of Employment section which describes the salary and benefits for either a United Church minister or an Anglican priest filling our position.

### **In Summary:**

The Financial, Living Faith Story and Position Description documents are really the means through which we advertise our ministry to those searching for a change in position. In our documents we have continually tried to emphasize these ideas and themes:

- We are a dedicated, energetic and exciting mix of two denominations who have proven we have been able to form a single community of faith in which we are committed to walk together along a common path of service, mission and praise.
- We have one minister/priest, one building and one shared Sunday service.
- Sunday morning worship honours the traditions and practices of both of our founding denominations by including elements that each find familiar and meaningful.
- Through our worship, pastoral care, Christian education, community outreach, and social justice activities we minister to the needs of our community of faith members, plus attend to many needs in the wider community.

- NUASM is looking for a faith leader who can embrace the blending of the traditions of the two denominations that is the Christian reality of our shared ministry.
- We are looking for a leader who is a consensus builder a person who is able to relate to the broad demographic in our community of faith.
- There is much assistance available to support the leadership responsibilities of our minister. Many dedicated and engaged church members are available to help eg. Worship and other committees, choir director, and the chairs of our three boards.
- We want our minister to provide spiritual leadership, prepare and lead weekly Sunday worship services, be able to prioritize and manage multiple tasks, be a visible and positive presence while participating in church and community activities, take an active role in pastoral care, and provide direction and support to church committees as needed.
- Our church is a modern facility with excellent sanctuary and office space, and technological and office manager support.
- The Neepawa area is a vigorous and growing community, a safe place to live and raise a family, and which offers much in terms of businesses, education, health care and recreation.

Our Community of Faith Profile documents received approval from: the local boards and community of faith, Bishop Rachael, and the Pastoral Relations Committee of the Prairie to Pine Region. Following these approvals our ministry position and information was posted on the UCC ChurchHub website and thanks to Bishop Rachael was also advertised through the procedures of the Anglican Church of Canada.

**Profile Committee members:**

Lynda Lowry, Nancy Hunter, Jane Goudie, Jackie Snider, Don Walmsley, Murray Hart

**NUASM Website Report 2025**

Have you recently checked out our NUASM website at [www.nuasm.com](http://www.nuasm.com) ? Our main page gives basic background information, special announcements, and links which are important for our NUASM organization. From that main page you can follow links to the following webpages which describe the activities of various groups or provides information about a certain topic or area as follows:

- Staff
- Boards / Minutes
- Choir
- UCW
- Youth
- M & S and Outreach
- Events / Reminders
- Calendar
- Rental Information
- Contact Us
- Useful Links

In addition to these pages, a new initiative in 2025 was the addition of a Photo Page at [www.nuasm.com/photos.html](http://www.nuasm.com/photos.html) which helps to illustrate who we are and what is happening in our ministry. Pictures of our groups, events and activities will be changed on an occasional basis, so check back often to see what's happening.

In 2025 the NUASM website had 4781 visits (13/day) with a total of 6249 pages viewed, meaning each visitor on the average looked at 1.3 pages during each visit.

We hope you will visit our website in 2026 .... we're waiting for you at [www.nuasm.com](http://www.nuasm.com) .

- Murray Hart

**Nominating Committee Report  
2026 Neepawa United-Anglican Shared Ministry Board**

		Term ends
<b>Chairperson</b>	Leona Kucher	Dec. 2026
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Rita Friesen	Dec. 2026
<b>Secretary</b>	Murray Hart	Dec. 2027
<b>Treasurers</b>	Judy Elgert & Daphne Hall	
<b>Regional Representative</b>	Elizabeth Sumner	Dec. 2027
<b>Synod Representative</b>	Anita d'Armada	Dec. 2027
<b>Stewardship</b>	Lynda Lowry	Dec. 2027
<b>Pastoral Care</b>	Betty Ebner (Chair)	Dec. 2027
	Michelle Babcock*	
	Bea Betts*	
	Ellie Taylor*	
<b>Mission &amp; Service &amp; Outreach</b>	Susan Phillips (Chair)	Dec. 2026
	Donna Newton*	
	Elsie Slimmon*	
	Bea Betts*	
	Lane Englund*	
<b>Ministry &amp; Personnel</b>	Jane Goudie (Chair)	Dec. 2026
	Susan Phillips*	
	Nancy Hunter*	
	Anita d'Armada*	
	Jackie Snider*	
	Iris Kooting*	
<b>Worship</b>	Pat Fedoruk (Chair)	Dec. 2026
	Lynda Lowry*	
	Linda Dick*	
	Murray Hart*	
	Colleen Taylor*	
	Anita d'Armada*	
	Kelly Sneesby*	

**Minister**

\*Non-voting members

Submitted by Kelly Sneesby, Leona Kucher, Betty Ebner, Lynda Lowry, Jane Goudie