

## NUASM Board Meeting Minutes – May19, 2026

The May meeting of the NUASM Board was held by Zoom teleconference on Tuesday May 19, 2026 at 1:00 pm.

**Present:** Leona Kucher, Judy Elgert, Lynda Lowry, Jane Goudie, Betty Ebner, Anita d'Armada, Murray Hart, Rev. Leith Saunders, Pat Fedoruk, Susan Phillips, Rita Friesen, Liz Sumner

**Regrets:** Daphne Hall

**1. Welcome and Call to Order** - by Chair Leona Kucher at 1:00 pm.

**2. Opening Meditation** – Rev. Saunders

**3. Additions/Changes to Agenda** - none

**4. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion:** Judy Elgert / Lynda Lowry

That the agenda be approved as circulated. **Carried.**

**5. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting** (April 21, 2026)

**Motion:** Murray Hart / Jane Goudie

That the minutes of the April 21, 2026 meeting be approved as circulated. **Carried.**

**6. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**a) Affirming Church Information**

- at last meeting, Lynda Lowry was asked to find out what information the Prairie to Pine Region is able to provide on the subject of Affirming churches; and subsequently talked to Kristin Woodburke, Chair of the Equity and Diversity Committee which handles that area.

- On May 12, Lynda along with Nancy Hunter, Lane Englund, and Kelly Sneesby participated in a Zoom meeting which provided information and a sharing of experiences and ideas on the topic. Participants were from a variety of churches: those who were already Affirming Churches, some who were in the process of becoming Affirming, and some who Affirming-curious i.e. seeking some initial information on the idea.

- Lynda reported that there is a specific process involved for a community of faith that wishes to become Affirming; and it may take one or several years to go through the process of learning about this idea and educating others.

- Kristin provided the following links and resources which provide information on Affirming Churches:

a) **Affirm United** - is The United Church of Canada's partner in support of people of all gender identities and sexual orientations. It works for the full inclusion of people of all gender identities and sexual orientations in the United Church of Canada and in society.

Website: <https://www.affirmunited.com/>

b) **Proud Anglicans** - on the Anglican side, this group provides some information such as a listing of LGBTQ-positive parishes across Canada, and events such as Pride parades.

Website: <https://www.proudanglicans.ca>

c) **Open Hearts** - a United Church document that provides extensive information on all aspects of this topic: what is meant by an Affirming Ministry, processes involved in planning to become an Affirming Ministry, and Resources for Affirming Ministries etc.

Website: [Open Hearts - Becoming an Affirming Organization May 2026](#)

- it was decided that over the next month, board members would look at the Affirm United website and especially the Open Hearts document and have a discussion at our next meeting.

## **7. Correspondence**

### **a) From Dawn Gardy** - acknowledgment of Long Service Award.

- several members expressed how lucky we are to have Dawn as our dedicated, efficient and good-humoured office manager.

## **8. Committee Reports**

- board members made reports as follows:

### **a) Treasurer – Judy Elgert**

- no expenditures have been made so far this year.

### **b) Worship – Pat Fedoruk**

- Our meeting was May 4. GAP committee reported that only one Sunday from July to the end of December has not yet been filled for pulpit supply. Shared communion will be observed on May 24, Pentecost Sunday. We decided that we should consider different versions of the Bible for weekly lectionary scriptures. Some versions have lengthy, hard to follow sentences. We had a baptism request which was forwarded to Brookdale United as there is family connection to that church.

- We learned that the Archivist for Prairie to Pine Council creates true transcript copies of baptism certificates. Going forward, we will use the provided template for our baptism records. Previously, we only recorded the information in the baptism record book and gave a certificate to the parents of the child being baptized.

- June 21 is Indigenous Day of Prayer so parts of the service will reflect that. The sixth anniversary of NUASM is June 28 and we will discuss further as to how we want to celebrate that. We may have cake at fellowship coffee time.

### **c) Ministry & Personnel – Jane Goudie**

#### **1. Recognition of Long Service for Dawn**

A gift and flowers were given to Dawn. We certainly appreciate all that she does for the congregation and the boards.

#### **2. Change of Office Hours and Holiday time for Dawn**

Dawn started working on Mondays in October and the NUASM Board said they would revisit it in a few months. It has worked out to be October to April. Dawn has said that at this time she does not need to be working on Mondays. Her pay period ended at the end of April. It may be necessary to begin Mondays in the fall, she will let us know how things are going after summer.

Concerning holidays, she will take August. There are 4 Fridays in August and there are 2 Wednesdays with Eucharist where we would need to have the Office open for the morning. The M and P Committee will look after having the office open on Fridays in the morning and on Wednesday mornings for Eucharist.

**d) Mission & Service and Outreach – Susan Phillips**

- the committee will be meeting soon to plan future events and activities.
- we continue each week to highlight a story about an Alongside Hope or Mission and Service project.

**e) Stewardship – Lynda Lowry**

- Lynda has recently completed a course on Planned Givings and in the future will provide information about a possible Planned Givings project.

**f) Pastoral Care – Betty Ebner**

Cards sent in April 2026...

- Sympathy...3
- Get Well...1
- 1 Year Ann. Of Death...5
- Celebration...2

•Visits & Calls..2

**g) Vice Chair / Pastoral Assistant - Rita Friesen**

**March Activities:**

Sunday morning worship: 1

Lenten Bible Study: 4

Funerals: 3

Family Meetings: 3

Country Meadows Sunday service: 1

Home visits: 4

Meetings: 1

**April Activities:**

Sunday morning worship: 1

Country Meadows Tuesday devotional: 4

Funerals:4

Family meetings: 4

Good Friday service at Calvary Chapel

Home visits: 3

Meetings: 1

- May looks to be busy.... had a funeral on May 1 and 2....meet two families this week...and that's the start of the month! I will be taking May 13 - 19 off for family time! Still loving what I get to do.....

**h) Regional Representatives**

**i) Prairie to Pine – Liz Sumner**

- Liz reported that she and Betty Ebner are registered for sessions at the upcoming Prairie to Pine Regional Council Meeting to be held at Selkirk United Church May 28 -31 2026, and they will report back in due course.

**ii) Brandon Diocese – Anita d'Armada**

- a link to the May edition of the Anglican Journal has been shared with NUASM board and committee members. The articles highlight projects as close as North Bay, Ontario and as far away as Nigeria.

Link: [https://anglicanjournal.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/aj-may2026\\_web.pdf](https://anglicanjournal.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/aj-may2026_web.pdf)

**i) Pastoral Charge Supervisor – Rev. Leith Saunders**

- Rev. Leith mentioned how much she is looking forward to the Regional Meeting at the end of May, and seeing and hearing the UCC Moderator who will be in attendance. The Sunday service at the event will be streamed on the internet.

**j) Website – Murray Hart**

Recent updates include:

- weekly updates of Stewardship Seconds and meeting dates for committees and UCW units.
- posted the NUASM board minutes for the April meeting to the minutes page.
- worked on revising the Photo Page to show the activity surrounding the recent Gently Used Sale.

Check it out here: <https://www.nuasm.com/photos.html>

**k) Acceptance of Reports**

**Motion:** Pat Fedoruk / Lynda Lowry

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

**9. New Business**

**a) Future Events**

- our last brunch-type event was the Pancake Lunch on Shrove Tuesday in February. There is pancake mix left over; Jane will check into possibly freezing it for possible use next year.
- it was reported that the UCW is planning a Soup, Sandwich and Bake Sale Event for the Fall, possibly October.
- the UCW units are currently busy planning lunches for several funerals which are scheduled.

**10. Next Meeting** - Tuesday June 16, 2026 at 1:00 pm by Zoom.

**11. Closing Prayer** - Rev. Saunders

**12. Adjournment** - by the Chair at 1:33 pm.

**Signatures:**

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(Chair – Leona Kucher)

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(Secretary – Murray Hart)