

NUASM Board Meeting Minutes – December 9, 2025

The December meeting of the NUASM Board was held by Zoom teleconference on Tuesday December 9, 2025 at 1:00 pm.

Present: Judy Elgert, Susan Phillips, Lynda Lowry, Jane Goudie, Murray Hart, Rev. Leith Saunders, Anita d'Armada, Betty Ebner

Regrets: Leona Kucher, Daphne Hall, Pat Fedoruk

1. Welcome and Call to Order

– in the absence of Leona, Lynda Lowry called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

2. Opening Prayer – Rev. Saunders

3. Additions/Changes to Agenda - the agenda was amended by the addition of Pastoral Assistant Report to Correspondence.

4. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Judy Elgert / Jane Goudie

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

5. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting (November 18, 2025)

Motion: Murray Hart / Betty Ebner

That the minutes of the November 18, 2025 meeting be approved as circulated. **Carried.**

6. Business Arising from the Minutes - none

7. Correspondence

a) Appointments to NUASM Nominating Committee

- the secretary reported that Betty Ebner (NUC) and Kelly Sneesby (St. James' Vestry) have been reported as their boards representatives on the NUASM nominating committee.
- due to the illness of Leona Kucher, Lynda Lowry and Jane Goudie, both of whom have previous experience serving on the nominating committee, agreed to assist Betty and Kelly on this committee in an advisory or active role as required.
- Betty reported that contacts have been initiated with board members regarding their willingness to continue serving on the NUASM board. Contacts with board and committee members will continue as the committee does its work.

b) Pastoral Assistant Report

- Pastoral Assistant Rita Friesen submitted a report detailing her November activities as follows:

Funerals: 4

Family meetings :4

Sunday service: 2

Home visits: 3

Elks Manor: 1

Country Meadows: 1

Board Meeting: 1

Worship Meeting: 1

Organized and served at The Community November 11 Remembrance Day Service.

Thank you for all the support from our faith family.

- Thank you, Rita, for the valuable work you do both in our community of faith and in the wider community!

8. Committee Reports

a) Treasurer – Judy Elgert

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

b) Worship – Pat Fedoruk

The Worship Committee met on December 1, 2025. Highlights and points of discussion were:

- The choir will go carolling on December 22 at 6:30 pm. Nancy will have hot chocolate and cookies ready when the choir returns to the church.
- Nancy will have some family craft bags available for Christmas.
- Lessons and Carols service will be hosted in our sanctuary on December 14 at 7 pm.
- The Blue Christmas service **will now be at Knox Presbyterian Church** on December 17 at 7 pm.
- Christmas eve service will be December 24 at 7 pm.
- Land acknowledgment and further attention to Indigenous issues – the paraphrased Lord's Prayer (from Voices United hymn book) was not appreciated by some congregants. They want the

traditional Lord's Prayer. We have tabled this for further discussion. Maybe M&S& O could promote the Indigenous/northern communities projects from the Christmas giving ideas found in the "Gifts with Vision" and "Alongside Hope" gift catalogues.

- We are exploring a joint (United and Anglican) communion service when Rev. Ray is presiding on February 22. Rita is available to assist that day. (This will be an unpaid service for Rita.)
- Merry Christmas to all from the Worship Committee

Discussion:

- Judy Elgert reported that the live streaming of our Sunday services has resumed as of last Sunday, following repairs made to the HDMI port on the sound booth computer.

c) Ministry & Personnel – Jane Goudie

- the church office will be closed December 24 - 29, December 31 and January 1
- the office manager will work from home on Monday December 29.

d) Mission & Service and Outreach – Susan Phillips

- The mitten tree is up and getting decorated with gloves and mitts and scarves and hats and socks! These items will go to Salvation Army. The tree will remain up until early January.
- We're making announcements about Gifts with Vision and World of Gifts—alternative ways of gift giving!
- December 14th is White Gift Sunday so we're collecting new, unwrapped toys that we'll take to Salvation Army. These toys will find their way to local kids.
- the outdoor stable and nativity have been set up and the lights are on. One angel broke a wing and had to be repaired. Murray Newton came to the rescue. He made her a new wing and rearranged the angels. We're hoping the wind won't trouble them as much in the new place.
- We are trying to send more photos of our projects and activities to Murray H for the website. It's another way of raising awareness of some of the ways our community of faith is making a difference at home and in the world.
- the key presentation ceremony for the family moving into the Habitat for Humanity home will be held on December 11th. M&S and O committee members will attend and present the quilts which have been made for them. They will attempt to get a picture of the quilt presentation for use in the local press and on our church website.
- Susan reported that the elevator in Elks Manor is scheduled for repairs. This will be problematic for residents with mobility issues. Susan will see what she can find out about the situation, with an eye to what assistance may be required.

e) Stewardship – Lynda Lowry

The Fall Stewardship Campaign started on November 2. There were two announcements from the pulpit plus three mentions in the Friday emails. Two hundred and fifty-eight envelopes were prepared. Many were picked up at the church. Approximately 100 were mailed.

As of December 2, twenty-three different donations have been made, totalling \$11,200. Four families have increased their PAR givings. These are very good results and hopefully more will come in during December.

Thank you to Susan for preparing the narrative budget, Murray and Jane for help with letter writing, Dawn for printing all the letters, Bert, Jane, Susan, Murray, and Linda for help stuffing envelopes and Dawn for managing the distribution of letters in the foyer and finally in the mail. It takes a village.

f) Pastoral Care – Betty Ebner

Cards sent in November 2025

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

g) Regional Representatives

i) Prairie to Pine

- weekly newsletters are being sent out to all NUASM board and committee members.
- Susan has made an appeal at church for a volunteer to fill this position. It is primarily a liaison role, bringing information back to our community of faith from the Prairie to Pine Region. It is hoped a representative will attend the in-person Regional Council Meeting being held at Selkirk United Church on May 28 - 31, 2026. Suggestions can be made to Betty Ebner who is part of the NUASM nominating committee.

ii) Brandon Diocese – Anita d’Armada

- in case you missed them previously, here are links to the October, November and December issues of The Mustard Seed:

<https://dioceseofbrandon.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/October-2025.pdf>

https://dioceseofbrandon.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/November_2025.pdf

<https://dioceseofbrandon.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/December-2025.pdf>

- in the December issue look for the following:
 - The Bishop’s comment on the theory that the lyrics to "The Twelve Days of Christmas" contain a hidden message about Christianity.
 - News from Around the Diocese
 - Advent Activities 2025

h) Pastoral Charge Supervisor - Rev. Leith Saunders

- Rev. Saunders reported that she is feeling comfortable in her role as she works with our charge and gets to know us better. She is looking forward to making more connections when she attends the annual meetings in the new year.

i) Website – Murray Hart

Recent updates include:

- posted minutes of November 18 meetings of the NUASM board and the NUC board.
- regular update of meeting dates and Stewardship Seconds image
- added posters to the Events page to promote the Advent Bible Study, the UCW Christmas Party, Lessons and Carols service and the Blue Christmas service.
- added a new feature to the website a Photo Page which will help to illustrate who we are and what is happening in our ministry. The current photos show our Advent and Christmas decor and highlight how we are helping and supporting others at this time of year. More photos will be added as future events unfold. Here is the link: <https://www.nuasm.com/photos.html>

j) Acceptance of Reports

Motion: Jane Goudie / Susan Phillips

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

9. New Business

a) Agenda for the NUASM Annual Meeting for the 2025 Year

- a proposed agenda for the AGM on February 22, 2026 had been circulated to board members prior to the meeting.

Discussion:

- the date is suitable for our Pastoral Charge Supervisor and she will attempt to attend in person.
- the agenda is based on the format which has been used and refined since 2021.
- it highlights reports from all regular committees of NUASM plus some other groups such as Sunday School and Choir which fall under the Worship Committee umbrella.
- it includes a report from the Profile Committee so that their work and procedures can be recorded for future reference.
- under New Business it is suggested to include a Report from the Search Committee since the search for a new clergy person is the biggest thing that is happening in the background as the work of our ministry continues. It is expected it would include a brief oral report, followed by questions from the congregation. The report can't be too specific but describing the work of this group in a general way would help to reassure the community of faith that their interests are being pursued.
- the secretary will provide the office with a copy of the AGM agenda
- Rev. Saunders mentioned that according to church protocol the annual congregational meeting is to be **announced from the pulpit for two consecutive Sundays prior to the meeting date.** Jane volunteered to arrange with Dawn for a suitable announcement to be provided to the worship leader for Sunday Feb 8 and Sunday Feb 15th 2026.

b) Order of Items in the 2025 NUASM Annual Booklet

- a proposed order of items for the NUASM 2025 booklet had been circulated to board members prior to the meeting.

Discussion:

- our office manager likes to be provided with this "order of items" list so that she can assemble the booklet and its reports in the way we want.
- the order of items follows the sequence of the agenda so that it is easy to find the relative location of the reports in the booklet.
- **Deadline for submission of NUASM booklet reports to the Office is February 1, 2026.** This will enable the report booklets to be available by Sunday February 15, 2026 which is a week ahead of the AGM.
- some committee reports also go into the NUC booklet so those reports would have to be submitted according to the schedule of the NUC booklet.
- the secretary will provide the office with a copy of this reference list.

10. Next Meeting Date: Tuesday January 20, 2026 at 1:00 pm by Zoom.

11. Closing Prayer - Rev. Saunders

12. Adjournment - by the chair at 1:55 pm.

Signatures:

(Chair – Leona Kucher)

(Secretary – Murray Hart)