

NUASM Board Meeting Minutes – March 17, 2026

The March meeting of the NUASM Board was held by Zoom teleconference on Tuesday March 17, 2026 at 1:00 pm.

Present: Leona Kucher, Rita Friesen, Judy Elgert, Liz Sumner, Lynda Lowry, Jane Goudie, Betty Ebner, Kelly Sneesby, Murray Hart, Rev. Leith Saunders

Regrets: Daphne Hall, Pat Fedoruk, Anita d’Armada, Susan Phillips

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

- Kelly Sneesby attended the meeting as Diocesan representative, substituting for Anita d’Armada.

2. Opening Prayer – Rev. Saunders

3. Additions/Changes to Agenda - the agenda was amended by the addition of three items to New Business as suggested by members: Washrooms, Remuneration of Audio-Visual tech, and Update on Live Streaming.

4. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Lynda Lowry / Liz Sumner

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

5. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting (January 20, 2026)

Motion: Murray Hart / Jane Goudie

That the minutes of the January 20, 2026 meeting be approved as circulated. **Carried.**

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Annual Meeting Review

- the annual meeting held on February 22, 2026 consisted of three main business elements:
 - Committee Reports: chairs were given a chance to make additions, and community of faith members had an opportunity to ask questions.
 - Report from the Search Committee
 - Nominating Committee report
- the meeting was 16 minutes in length
- as the Chair covered these items, she was able to work in a few other details ... highlights of the year and thanks to committee chairs and committee members for their dedicated work on behalf of our NUASM organization.
- the meeting format has evolved and been refined over the last six years; no changes were suggested for next year.

b) Review of Shrove Tuesday Pancake Lunch Event

- held Tuesday, February 17, 2026
- appreciation and a big “Thank You” was expressed to the following:
 - Jane Goudie for her detailed planning and solicitation of volunteers before the event
 - Iris Kooting and Nora Kaye for their guidance during the event
 - the Anglican women for preparing the sausages and syrup (Nancy Hunter and others)
 - Susan Phillips and her helpers for preparing the fruit
 - the several pancake makers and cooks
- approximately 120 people were served
- profit was approximately \$1060 which was divided evenly between the Anglican side and the UCW.

- the UCW in turn made a donation in support of the breakfast program at the schools; and has purchased a new large-size coffee pot
- before next year we need to determine where to plug in the griddles so the circuit breakers aren't tripped all the time.
- the pancake cookers felt they needed another cooker or two for next year

7. Correspondence - none

8. Committee Reports

Committee chairs made reports as follows:

a) Treasurer - Judy Elgert

- no expenditures so far this year.

b) Worship – Pat Fedoruk

Our February meeting was on the second. These are some highlights:

- Bishop Rachael will lead an Ash Wednesday service on February 18.
- The GAP committee will begin to work to fill pulpit supply for July onward.
- Murray is updating the website to reflect the current Sunday school/Youth program.
- February 22 will be a joint communion services with Father Ray. The Lenten bible study begins on February 25.
- We decided to purchase a subscription to the “Gathering” magazine which can be accessed online. It will be a good resource for pulpit supply leaders and Dawn Gardy. The cost is \$75., plus shipping, annually. A church seasonal print copy will also be sent.
- We next meet on March 2 and will firm up plans for the remainder of Lent and Holy week.

Worship Committee met on March 2. Here are the highlights:

- The GAP committee reported that most of the services for July to December 2026 have been filled with pulpit supply. There are still two to be filled.
- We reviewed the February 22 joint communion service and discussed ways to improve the flow of traffic. This will be tested on March 15 during the joint communion service with Bishop Rachael.
- Calvary Chapel is hosting the Good Friday service this year, on April 3. Doors open at 10:00 am and the service starts at 11:00 am.
- We decided to purchase flameless artificial candles for Advent. This is a start to minimizing the number of open flames and replacing some well used pillar candles.

c) Ministry & Personnel – Jane Goudie

- the M & P committee members filled in at the office when Dawn was away for a few days.

d) Mission & Service and Outreach – Susan Phillips

- Games night on Feb 13th was a success! Good attendance, great snacks and lots of laughs!
- Almost Spring Tea at Elks Manor (March 3rd) was a great event. Everyone loves The Hims! It was the first week that residents were able to meet for coffee due to elevator repairs, so timing was excellent!
- Lenten calendars are out and lots of items are coming in for Salvation Army—our congregation is very generous! We thank everyone for their support!

e) Stewardship – Lynda Lowry

- The regular stewardship activities are continuing each week.
- I have registered to take a six-session course on-line in Bequests and Estate Planning sponsored by the United Church of Canada. It will provide an outline of how a Planned Giving Program may be established for our church.
- A Planned Giving program can excite our community of faith and offer new ways to financially support our ministry. These gifts from our donor's estates or savings can be transformational to both the donor and the church.
- The six sessions cover:
 - why we should offer a Planned Giving program and how to set it up and maintain it, what exactly are the different kinds of Planned Gifts?
 - how to inspire and invite people to make a Planned Gift,
 - how to recognize those who make a Planned Gift.
- If anyone else is interested in participating, please let me know.

f) Pastoral Care – Betty Ebner

Cards sent in January 2026

Sympathy..6
Get Well..6
1 Year Anniversary of Death..1
Celebration..3
Visits & Calls..3

Cards sent in February 2026

Sympathy..5
Get Well..10
1 Year Anniversary of Death..2
Celebration..1
Visits & Calls..3

g) Vice Chair / Pastoral Assistant - Rita Friesen

January and February activities

January

Sunday Worship 1
Funerals 3
Family meetings 3
Country Meadows 1
Elks 1
Home visits 6
Wedding 1
Worship Committee Meeting 1
Board Meeting 1

February

Sunday Worship 2
Country Meadows 3
Elks 1
Home Visits 8
Worship Committee Meeting 1

- Rita reported that so far March is looking like a busy month!

g) Regional Representatives

i) Prairie to Pine – Liz Sumner

- the board welcomed Liz Sumner and expressed thanks to her for filling this position.
- The 2026 Regional Council Meeting will be held on May-28-31, 2026, at Selkirk United Church. Liz and Betty will be attending this event.

ii) Brandon Diocese – Anita d’Armada/Kelly Sneesby

- A link to the Anglican Journal of Canada has been circulated to NUASM board and committee members. It has some interesting articles about shared ministry or “mixed - ecology” and also information related to grants to fund ecumenical shared ministry training.

https://anglicanjournal.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/aj-mar2026_web.pdf

h) Pastoral Charge Supervisor – Rev. Leith Saunders

- Rev. Leith reported that she enjoyed attending the recent NUC and NUASM annual Meetings in Neepawa; it was an opportunity to meet local folks and strengthen ties with our boards.

i) Website – Murray Hart

Recent updates include the following:

- posted the January minutes of the NUC and NUASM boards
- posted the Annual Report booklets of all three boards to the main page of the website
- updated the Photo Page with pictures of the Shrove Tuesday Event
- added posters to the Events page to advertise February and March events: the Pancake Brunch, Lenten Bible Study, Games Night and Spring Tea at Elks Manor
- added a section to the main page to advertise the annual meetings several weeks in advance.
- regular update of the Stewardship Seconds message.
- posted the minutes of the Annual Meetings for St. James’, NUC and NUASM.
- added new links on the main page to connect to the Lenten Calendar and the Photo Page.
- updated the Youth page to reflect the current Sunday School program

j) Acceptance of Reports

Motion: Jane Goudie / Judy Elgert

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

9. New Business

a) Washrooms

- following discussion of washroom facilities, it was agreed to replace the sign on the currently-named Staff Washroom to just read “Washroom”. It is large enough to accommodate walkers, folks with canes etc. Jane will make an announcement in church to the effect that the washroom down the hallway by the offices is now a public washroom and that everyone is welcome to use it. Jane will work with the property committee to make the sign change.

b) Remuneration of Audio-Visual Tech

- in addition to her extensive duties as NUC and NUASM treasurer which Judy Elgert performs on a completely volunteer basis, it was pointed out that she also provides these additional services to our church community:

- supervising the audio and visual services and helpers, centered around what we call the sound both.

- looking after the live streaming and uploading of our Sunday services to the internet so they are available to our wider church community through our social media accounts
- preparing the PowerPoint slides which guide us through the items which make up our Sunday services
- it is felt that these extra duties beyond her treasurer role, which provide a valuable service for our community of faith and require about two hours per week or about 10 hours per month, go beyond what should be expected of a volunteer.
- it was agreed that Jane would confer with Judy on this matter and bring back to the NUASM board a proposal regarding possible remuneration for these services.

c) Update on Live Streaming

- services lately have not been live streamed; instead they have been uploaded to the internet after the end of the service. This is because of problems with the recently purchased computer used for this purpose. It was taken to Brandon Computers for diagnosis/repairs, but since they are unable to fix it, they have sent it back to Dell. Since the computer is under warranty, we expect a good outcome.
- currently the service is being recorded on the camera, but broken up into three separate parts. (Be sure to watch all three parts to get the whole Sunday service!)

10. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday April 21, 2026 at 1:00 pm by Zoom.

11. Closing Prayer - Rev. Saunders

12. Adjournment - at 2:00 pm by the Chair.

Signatures:

(Chair – Leona Kucher)

(Secretary – Murray Hart)