

NUASM Board Meeting Minutes – October 21, 2025

The October meeting of the NUASM Board was held by Zoom teleconference on Tuesday October 21, 2025 at 1:00 pm.

Present: Leona Kucher, Judy Elgert, Susan Phillips, Lynda Lowry, Jane Goudie, Murray Hart, Pat Fedoruk, Rev. Leith Saunders

Regrets: Anita d'Armada, Daphne Hall, Betty Ebner

1. Welcome and Call to Order – Leona Kucher 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 Lay Leaders to New Business

4. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Jane Goudie / Lynda Lowry

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

5. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting (September 16, 2025)

Motion: Murray Hart / Pat Fedoruk

That the minutes of the September 16, 2025 meeting be approved as circulated. **Carried.**

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Report on Congregational Meeting and Recent Steps

- at the congregational meeting of September 17 2025 the following were approved:
 - the Community of Faith Profile which includes the Living Faith Story, Position Description with terms of employment, and financial viability documents for St. James', NUC and NUASM.
 - the posting on ChurchHub of our ministry position after approval from the Pastoral relations Commission of Prairie to Pine regional Council.
 - the appointment of a Search Team: Jane Goudie, Nancy Hunter, Jackie Snider, Don Walmsley, Lynda Lowry, Brian Bailey
 - appointment of Lynda Lowry and Murray Hart to forward all required documents to the Pastoral Relations Minister for presentation and approval of the Pastoral Relations Commission at its meeting on October 1, 2025.
 - appointment of Dawn Gardy to post the position on ChurchHub after approval from the Pastoral Relations Conmmision.
- M & P Chair Jane Goudie received word on Monday Oct, 20 that we received approval of our documents from the Pastoral Relations Commission of Prairie to Pine Region, so our Community of Faith profile can now be posted on ChurchHub. Dawn is already working on this.
- the information that is entered on ChurchHub needs to be checked and approved by the Pastoral Relations Minister before it is fully available to ministers/priests who are seeking a change in position.

7. Correspondence

a) September Report from Pastoral Assistant

Rita Friesen reported on her September activities as follows:

It was a much quieter month. In months that I don't preside at as many funerals, I do more visiting.

Funeral- 1

Family meeting -1
 Kinsmen Kourts One -1
 Kinsmen Kourts Two - 1
 Elks Manor -2
 Home visits - 4
 Sunday Morning Worship -2
 Hospital visits- 8

Just for information- I go to Elks for the Tuesday morning coffee. It is an easy way to check on many folks and get updates on those that have not come down for coffee time.

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 communion supplies, palm branches and fellowship time supplies	162.40		162.40	1,337.60
2025-04-14		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
Total NUASM		702.62	100.00	602.62	897.38
		702.62	100.00	602.62	897.38

b) Worship – Pat Fedoruk

- We met on October 2. We are trying to think of ways to involve our Sunday school kids, instead of the activity bags.
- The 5th Anniversary service was well received. Rita heard good feedback. The UCW made about \$602.00 for the lunch catering. The joint communion service went well. There will be some small adjustments for next time.
- Remembrance Service will be November 9.
- Plans for Advent, which begins November 30, will be discussed at the next meeting.
- General discussion focused on our activities without a minister. Feedback

suggested that the faith family has enjoyed the different speakers. We continue to explore ways to make changes to the services to attract more parishioners.

c) Ministry & Personnel – Jane Goudie

- the NUC board at their September meeting approved the recommendation that the work week of the Office Manager be extended to include Mondays working from home. This new initiative seems to be working well.
- We will be meeting on Wednesday, October 22

d) Mission & Service and Outreach – Susan Phillips

-Donations by community of faith members for the school breakfast program totaled \$477. Last year it was donated to the middle school; this year it will go to support the high school breakfast program.

-We'll be meeting with the PAC women again this week to work on denim quilts for distribution by the Bear Clan in Brandon. We will likely need one more week to finish the quilts. We hope to have 5 to send before the weather gets too cold! Some pictures of this activity will be taken and shown as part of the before-service announcements, and some will be posted on the website. Permission of those in pictures will be obtained.

-We have 2 quilts ready to be donated to the occupants of the Neepawa Habitat for Humanity House. They will be blessed on a Sunday when either Rita or Anita is leading the service, and presented when the house is officially handed over to the occupants ... no firm date on this yet.

e) Stewardship – Lynda Lowry

- Stewardship activities continue with Stewardship Seconds included each week on the website, overheads at Sunday Services and the Friday email messages.
- Work has begun to prepare the documents for the Fall Stewardship Campaign.
- Three different letters are being prepared ... one for PAR givers, one for envelope givers and one for irregular givers. The letters will be signed by the two Board chairs, Glen and Leona.
- Due to possible interference by the rotating postal strike, Lynda will announce on the first Sunday in November for folks to pick up their own fall stewardship letter and also some to deliver to friends. Letters will be available for two Sundays plus during the week in the foyer, then those remaining will be mailed out.
- Fall Stewardship letters will be stuffed on Thursday October 30 at 10:00 am in the meeting room. Anyone who is available at that time is invited to help!
- Because of the rotating postal strike, we may need to reach out electronically to those parishioners who have email addresses. We will be prepared to mail letters to all others.
- Many thanks to those who help write the letters, prepare the financial information, write the narrative budget and help to stuff envelopes as needed.
- With the 100th anniversary of the United Church of Canada, a Legacy Fund has been created to support the ongoing work of the national church. This may be the time to initiate a legacy fund for our faith family as well. Legacy gifts are expressions of hope to the future and ensure our church will be there to meet the needs of our community in years to come.

f) Pastoral Care – Betty Ebner

Cards sent in September 2025

- Sympathy...2
- Get Well...7
- 1 Year Anniversary of Death...2

- Celebration...5
- Visits & Calls...2

g) Regional Representatives

i) Prairie to Pine

- weekly newsletters from Prairie to Pine are being sent out to board members.
- The Annual Meeting will be held online through ZOOM on Thursday, November 13, 2025 at 7:00 PM (CDT). The room will be open at 6:30 PM for anyone who wants some Zoom support.
- go to this website to access the registration form and the meeting documents:
<https://prairietopinerc.ca/regional-council-meeting/>

ii) Brandon Diocese – Anita d’Armada

h) Minister – Rev. Leith Saunders

- Rev. Saunders mentioned that she is feeling more comfortable in her role as Pastoral Charge Supervisor.
- Rev. Saunders reminded us that Regional Council information comes out in their regular newsletter. She will keep us apprised of any major news or announcements from P2P Region.

i) Website – Murray Hart

Recent updates include:

- Minutes of recent September meetings have been posted: St. James’ Vestry, NUC board and NUASM board
- Weekly update of Stewardship Seconds and meeting dates mentioned in the Friday emails.
- Posters promoting the Wednesday morning bible study and the Westman Youth Choir event have been posted to the Events page.
- small wording addition to the Donate to NUC page

j) Acceptance of Reports

Motion: Judy Elgert / Lynda Lowry

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

9. New Business

a) Messy Church

Lynda participated in a 1 hour Zoom meeting regarding an initiative called The Messy Church. Points mentioned in discussion included the following:

- it is said to be an initiative which helps churches to minister to families for whom traditional Sunday worship is no longer a viable option. It could be for people who have drifted away from the church, and who at this stage in their life are looking for a connection.
- information can be obtained by searching YouTube and from their Canadian website:
<https://messychurch.ca>

- it could be used as a way to reach young people, but is also inter-generational
- it is an outreach mechanism, giving folks exposure to the church ... helping them see what we are about.
- it is adaptable to whatever resources the local church has
- often held during the week after school, evening or on the weekend.
- general format could be something like this, although it varies:
 - welcome

- hymns, prayers, bible reading
- themed craft eg. Epiphany, Harvest etc. Folks are encouraged to visit and share ideas and experiences as they do the craft
- refreshments, lunch
- it needs folks with time and motivation to organize it.
- in our case it could perhaps be tried monthly
- it is an idea for us to think about.

b) Land Acknowledgment

- Susan mentioned that perhaps we should consider doing the land acknowledgment more often and at a different place during our worship service.
- Rev. Saunders mentioned that she has heard discussion in some church circles around the idea of moving beyond just reading the words, and doing something more concrete such as (for example) incorporating some native or aboriginal-themed prayers into worship services.
- it was decided to refer this topic to the worship committee for consideration.

c) Lay Leaders

- Pat pointed out the great work done by Rita Friesen and Anita d'Armada. Not only do they lead worship services, they also perform vital pastoral care, and have recently prepared patterns which can be used to help worship readers prepare their Prayers of the People. Thank you, Rita and Anita we appreciate all the work you do for our community of faith!

10. Next Meeting dates: Dates were set as follows:

- Tuesday November 18 2025 at 1:00 pm by Zoom
- Tuesday December 9 2025 at 1:00 pm by Zoom.

11. Closing Prayer - Rev. Saunders

12. Adjournment - at 1:47 by the Chair.

Signatures:

(Chair – Leona Kucher)

(Secretary – Murray Hart)