

MEETING OF THE BOARD

Neepawa United Church

Nov. 18, 2025

Present: Glen Cummings, Rev. Leith Saunders (by ZOOM), Grant Babcock, Susan Phillips, Lynda Lowry, Linda Hart, Gayle Johnston, Judy Elgert, Rita Friesen, Jane Goudie, Leila Hildebrand

1. **Call to order** – Glen called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

2. **Opening Meditation** – Rev. Leith Saunders gave an opening prayer.

3. **Additions/Changes to the Agenda** – Add Christmas gifts under New Business

4. Adoption of the Agenda

Lynda Lowry moved adoption of the amended agenda, seconded by Leila Hildebrand. **Carried.**

5. Adoption of the Minutes

Rita Friesen moved adoption of the Sept. 16, 2025 minutes, seconded by Jane Goudie. **Carried.**

6. Correspondence

a) Reports from Rita re: Sept and Oct. activities – Rita reviewed her activities and we thanked her for all that she does.

b) NACTV – request for advertising on NACTV at Christmas

c) NUASM – They need a NUC rep for the NUASM Nominating Committee. Betty Ebner volunteered.

7. **Treasurer's Report** – Judy Elgert reviewed the financial statement which was e-mailed. It showed income and expenses for each of Jan. to October 2025, a year to year comparison for Jan. to October 2024 and Jan to October 2025, as well as a list of checks written Sept. and Oct. Judy pointed out that the net income to end of Oct. 2025 was higher than 2024 because we are not paying regular minister salary.

NUC Financial Statement to the end of October 2025

Income	\$ 148,371.81
Expenses	\$ 135,604.11
Surplus	\$ 12,767.70

Moved by Judy Elgert, seconded by Leila Hildebrand, that the Financial Statement be adopted.
Carried.

Judy had prepared a draft 2026 Budget which we reviewed. Suggestions were to add moving expenses and minister salary. Judy will finalize the 2026 Budget for approval at the Jan. Board Meeting.

8. Committee Reports

A) **Property** Grant Babcock reported

- The Town will be paint part of the curb on Ellen St. blue for handicap parking.
- Parkside Gardens have repaired the pavers outside the choir door and done some extra work on the foundation there.
- A basement window has been replaced.

8A) Property(continued)

- **A motion was made and passed** to hire Top of the Hill Services for rodent control. The Church will purchase 4 exterior bait stations and 10 interior stations. Inspections will occur every two months starting in Dec. 2025. Cost per inspection is \$68.00.

B) **UCW** Susan Phillips hi-lighted items form the Nov. 5 general UCW meeting

- The UCW balance was \$14,550.29 at the end of Oct.
- The UCW gave \$6,000 to NUC
- We need a replacement for Ella Jarvis in the Community Friendship position and Noreen Hollier needs help with looking after the kitchen.
- The cost of a funeral lunch with desserts and beverage was set at \$8.00 per person.
- There will no longer be a Least Coin Service but the World Day of Prayer interdenominational service will be in March. Least Coin money collected by Units will go to the World Day of Prayer.
- It was decided that although real plates are preferred for lunches, each Unit can decide if they want to use paper plates.
- The UCW Christmas Service and lunch is on Dec. 3 at 2 pm. Everyone is invited.
- UCW and Anglican ladies will prepare and deliver cookie trays at Christmas for sick, shut-ins and bereaved. We need 82 doz. cookies
- The next General UCW meeting is Nov. 26
- Susan will bring up at the next general UCW meeting whether the UCW minutes or a report of UCW activities should go on the NUC website.

C) **Pastoral Charge Supervisor's Report**

- Rev. Leith Saunders reported that she had broken her femur 8 weeks ago and she is recuperating from that.
- A decision will be made by the end of Dec if Leith will stay on with McKenzie United in Portage. She will continue as the Pastoral Charge Supervisor for NUC.
- Leith attended a 2 hour Prairie to Pine virtual meeting last week. It was decided to have an in person meeting May 28 to 31, 2026 in Selkirk. Registration is \$200 per person.

D) **Trustees** –Leila and Gayle submitted the following report re: renewal of insurance

- The insurance policy for the church and contents comes up for renewal on Dec 5/25.
- Gayle Johnston and Leila Hildebrand met with Don Schmall of Gill and Schmall Agencies on Nov 14 to go over the policy.
- Last year, liability coverage was increased to 5 million, so no changes should be necessary to that coverage.
- Policy limit for 2025/26 has received the inflation increase to \$6,257,000 from \$5,959,000 last year. This covers all parts of the building and contents. Sewer backup coverage is at

\$25,000 with a \$5000 deductible. Premium this year is \$15,678.00, up from \$14,715.00 last year. We could go to a higher deductible, (\$2500) savings would be approx 3%.

- For your information, the policy is what is called a subscription policy. Because the coverage limit is so high, no one company wishes to take on so much risk, so Red River assumes 70% of the risk, and Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI) covers the remaining 30%. Don has assured us that Red River offers the best rates for churches.
- There is no word from Red River about an in person evaluation. Don's in house evaluation to determine replacement cost was done early in 2023, so coverage amounts should be ok.
- We do need to provide an updated membership number however.

A motion was made and passed to adopt the Trustee's Report dated Nov. 17, 2025.

8E) **Stewardship** Lynda Lowry reported

- The Fall Stewardship letters have been prepared and envelopes stuffed. They have been available for pick up at the back of the Church. Please take yours home and deliver a few extra if possible. The rest will be mailed.

F) **Prairie to Pine Region**

G) **Minister's Report** N/A

H) **Ministry and Personnel** Jane Goudie reported

A motion was made and passed that Dawn continue to work from home on Mondays until the end of June.

A motion was made and passed to give Dawn a 3% raise starting Jan. 1, 2026.

Rita and Grant are meeting to discuss the caretaker position and will report back to us.

I) **Acceptance of all reports** was moved by Susan Phillips and seconded by Grant Babcock.
Carried.

9. **Old Business**

A) **NUASM 5th Anniv Lunch Profits** – The UCW decided to donate the \$602.17 to the Neepawa Salvation Army.

10. **New Business**

A) **Search Committee**

Lynda and Jane reported that the profile information is on the United Church Hub and that Bishop Rachel has distributed the information to other bishops across Canada.

B) **Nominating Committee NUC Board**

Three of the four Board members whose terms are ending have agreed to continue on for 2 more years. Those are Leila Hildebrand, Betty Ebner and Linda Hart. Rita, as Chair of the Nominating Committee, will check with Connie McLeod. We also need representatives for the Prairie to Pine Region. Susan will make a presentation to the congregation about Regional Reps. Rita and Susan will also prepare an article for the Friday newsletter about Regional Reps.

C) **NACTV**

A motion was made and passed to donate \$500 to NACTV.

D) Parker Friesen (PAC minister) request

Rita indicated that Parker Friesen has asked to use the Anglican Chapel for private meditation and prayer. Discussion led to the Board's approval. Rita will confirm this with the Anglican vestry.

E) Christmas Gifts

A motion was made and passed to give Christmas gifts to staff as we have in the past. Judy will look after this.

11. **Moment of Levity** Susan shared a moment of levity.

12. Dates of Planned 2026 Meetings

- Jan. 20, May 19, Sept. 15 and Nov. 17
- The AGM will be on Feb. 8, 2026 after Church with reports due to the office by Jan. 21, 2026.

13. Rev. Saunders closed the meeting with a prayer.

14. Glen adjourned the meeting at 8:25

Motion passed by email since the Sept. 16 Board Meeting

1. That the Board approve that Joe Ball preside at the funeral in the NUC for Terry Jackson on Nov. 10, 2025

Motions made Nov. 18, 2025

1. **Motion made by Grant Babcock and seconded by Rita Friesen.** That we accept the quote for rodent control from Top of the Hill Services. The cost is \$68 every two months for inspection starting in Dec. 2025

Carried.

2. **Motion made by Leila Hildebrand and seconded by Betty Ebner.** That the Trustees Report dated Nov. 17, 2025 re: NUC insurance renewal be adopted as discussed.

Carried.

3. **Motion made by Jane Goudie and seconded by Lynda Lowry.** That Dawn Gardy continue to work on Mondays(from home) until the end of June 2026.

Carried.

4. **Motion made by Jane Goudie and seconded by Rita Friesen.** That Dawn Gardy be given a 3% increase in wages starting Jan. 1, 2026.

Carried.

5. **Motion made by Rita Friesen and seconded by Leila Hilderand.** That the Neepawa United Church support NACTV with a gift of \$500.00.

Carried.

6. Motion made by Judy Elgert and seconded by Susan Phillips. That we pay Christmas gifts to staff as we have in the past.

Carried.