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# **Neepawa United- Anglican Shared Ministry**

**Annual General Meeting,  
February 11, 2024**

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## Table of Contents

	Page
Agenda	1
Minutes of Last Year's Annual Meeting	2-5
NUASM Chairperson report – Don Walmsley	6-7
Minister report – Rev. Chad Mc Charles	8
Treasurer's Report – Bob Durston/ Daphne Hall	9
Worship Committee report – Pat Fedoruk	10-11
Sunday School Report – Nancy Hunter	12
Choir – Brian Bailey	13
Ministry & Personnel Committee Report – Brian Bailey	14
Mission & Service and Outreach Committee Report- Susan Phillips	15
Stewardship Report – Lynda Lowry	16
Pastoral Care Committee Report – Betty Ebner	16
Regional Representatives:	
i) Prairie to Pine Regional Council Report – Susan Phillips	17
ii) Brandon Diocese Report – Anita d'Armada	18
Website – Murray Hart	19
NUASM Nominating Committee Report	20

**AGENDA**  
**Neepawa United-Anglican Shared Ministry**  
Annual Congregational Meeting for the 2023 Year  
Sunday, February 11, 2024

1. Call to Order and Welcome – Don Walmsley, NUASM Chair
2. Opening Prayer – Rev. Chad McCharles
3. Approval of Agenda
  - a) Additions/Changes to the agenda
  - b) Motion to approve agenda
4. Approval of Minutes of the NUASM Annual Meeting for the 2022 Year, held February 12, 2023.
5. Reports:
  - a) NUASM Chairperson – Don Walmsley
  - b) Minister – Rev. Chad McCharles
  - c) Treasurer – Bob Durston and Daphne Hall
  - d) Worship – Pat Fedoruk
  - e) Sunday School – Nancy Hunter
  - f) Choir – Brian Bailey
  - g) Ministry and Personnel – Brian Bailey
  - h) Mission & Service and Outreach - Susan Phillips
  - i) Stewardship – Lynda Lowry
  - j) Pastoral Care – Betty Ebner
  - k) Regional Representatives:
    - i) Prairie to Pine Regional Council – Susan Phillips
    - ii) Brandon Diocese – Anita d'Armada
  - l) Website – Murray Hart
  - m) Motion to accept reports
6. New Business
  - a) Approval of October 2023 Revision of the NUASM Policies and Procedures Manual  
- report; motion to approve
  - b)
8. Nominating Committee – report and motion to accept
9. Closing Prayer – Rev. Chad McCharles
10. Adjournment

## **Minutes of NUASM Annual Meeting for 2022 Year**

Sunday February 12, 2023

### **1. Call to Order and Welcome – Don Walmsley, NUASM Board Vice-Chair**

- Don welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 12:04 pm.

### **2. Opening Prayer – Rev. Chad McCharles**

### **3. Approval of Agenda**

#### **a) Additions/Changes to the Agenda**

- the Treasurer's report (originally item 6) was moved to be part of the regular reports in agenda item 5, since it did not require a separate motion to approve any financial matters.

#### **b) Motion to Approve**

**Motion:** Bob Durston / Jane Goudie

That the agenda for this meeting be approved as amended. **Carried.**

### **4. Approval of Minutes of the 2021 NUASM Annual Meeting held February 27, 2022.**

- the minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting had been circulated in the 2022 Annual Report booklet.

**Motion:** Murray Hart / Bob Durston

That the minutes of the 2021 NUASM Annual Meeting held February 27, 2022, be accepted as circulated. **Carried.**

### **5. Reports:**

- Don referred attention to the following reports printed in the Annual Meeting booklet. Opportunity was given for committee chairs to make additional comments and for community of faith members to ask questions. Extra comments that were made, if any, are noted below:

#### **a) NUASM Chairperson – Lynda Lowry**

- Don Walmsley read selected portions of Lynda's report which described activities of the past year and expressed thanks for all those groups and individuals who have worked so hard in support of NUASM.

#### **b) Minister – Rev. Chad McCharles**

#### **c) Worship – Pat Fedoruk**

#### **d) Ministry and Personnel – Brian Bailey**

#### **e) Mission & Service and Outreach – Susan Phillips**

#### **f) Pastoral Care – Betty Ebner**

#### **g) Regional Representatives**

i) Prairie to Pine Regional Council – Susan Phillips

ii) Brandon Diocese – Anita d'Armada

#### **h) Stewardship – Lynda Lowry**

- Don Walmsley read selected portions of the report which described stewardship initiatives and successes of the past year.

#### **i) Sunday School – Nancy Hunter**

#### **j) Choir – Brian Bailey**

#### **k) Website – Murray Hart**

#### **l) Treasurer's Report – Bob Durston and Daphne Hall**

m) Acceptance of Reports

**Motion:** Bob Durston / Judy Elgert

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

**6. New Business**

**a) Revised Ecumenical Shared Ministry (ESM) Agreement**

- during the past year, the ESM Agreement was reviewed to ensure that it satisfactorily represented the mission and purpose of our community of faith. Some small wording changes were proposed so the document would more properly describe the successful procedures which have evolved during the last two years. The document has been circulated in printed form and on the website, and the Neepawa United Church Board and St. James' Vestry have approved these revisions at their recent annual meetings.

**Motion:** Bob Durston / Lane England

That the revised Ecumenical Shared Ministry (ESM) Agreement dated September 2022 be approved.  
**Carried.**

**b) Revised NUASM Policies and Procedures Manual**

- the NUASM Policies and Procedures Manual outlines the duties and responsibilities of NUASM board members, and by extension, the committees they oversee. Partly because of wording changes in the ESM Agreement, and partly due to operational experience over the past year, the NUASM board this past Fall proposed some small wording changes so the document would more properly describe how the NUASM officers and committees expect to function in the future. The document has for several weeks been circulated in printed form and on the website.

**Motion:** Bob Durston / Elsie Slimmon

That the revised NUASM Policies and Procedures manual dated November 2022 be approved.  
**Carried.**

**c) Future Fundraising Events**

- Don provided background to this topic:

- for the past two years, fundraising and group events have been limited in number because of provincial health restrictions and because community of faith members have not felt comfortable in group events due to the continued presence of Covid and other respiratory diseases. With more folks now being vaccinated against Covid and the flu, there is in the community at large a tendency to begin staging events which would bring folks together in larger numbers. Your board would like input regarding whether or not our community of faith members feel ready to have some of these special and regular church events resume. eg. Time and Talent Auction, brunches, Fall and Spring Suppers, Gently Used Sale, Soup and Sandwich lunches etc.

**Points Raised in Discussion:**

- a Pancake Brunch is being planned for Tuesday, February 21, 2023, and it is felt that this event could function as a test of how much interest there is in group events of this nature. The Gently Used Sale is also being planned for later in the spring, and the organizers are hoping for a good attendance. This will also help to gauge the acceptance and interest of the community of faith and the public in group events.

- If these two events are successful, it may lead to other folks coming forward to plan future events. Attracting the interest of future volunteers is a good first step in being able to stage future events.

- In order to have these events, we need people who are willing to plan and organize these various fundraising events.

- Folks are often willing to help but are reluctant to take on the role of coordinator. If the organizing duties were divided between several co-chairs, people may be more willing to volunteer to help.

- a Balloon release was mentioned as a possible fundraising event: People buy a balloon which has a tag inside giving their name and explaining the event. Those who find the balloons are asked to report back where the balloon was found, and a prize is given for the balloon travelling the greatest distance.

## **7. Nominating Committee Report**

- the report of the NUASM Nominating Committee was presented as circulated in the Annual Report booklet; and the Chair called for any further nominations from the floor, of which there were none.

### **Nominating Committee Report 2023 Neepawa United-Anglican Shared Ministry Board and Committees**

Chairperson	Don Walmsley
Vice Chair	vacant
Secretary	Murray Hart
Treasurer	Bob Durston and Daphne Hall
Regional Representatives	Susan Phillips, Donna Newton*
Synod Representatives	Anita d'Armada
Stewardship	Lynda Lowry
Pastoral Care	Betty Ebner, Michelle Babcock*, Bea Betts*
Mission & Service	Susan Phillips Leona Kucher* Donna Newton* Elsie Slimmon* Bea Betts* Daphne Hall*
Ministry & Personnel	Brian Bailey Susan Phillips* Rita Friesen* Nancy Hunter* Anita d'Armada* Jackie Snider*
Worship	Pat Fedoruk Lynda Lowry* Linda Dick* Murray Hart* Colleen Taylor* Anita d'Armada* Nancy Hunter*
Minister	Rev. Chad McCharles

\*Non-voting members

Submitted by Lynda Lowry, Don Walmsley, Jackie Snider, Bert Lowry

**Motion:** Bob Durston / Leona Kucher

That the Nominating Committee report for the 2023 NUASM Board and Committees be accepted; and further that the NUASM board be given authority to fill vacant positions on the board. **Carried.**

- the incoming board Chair, Don Walmsley, thanked outgoing Chair Lynda Lowry for her dedicated service to NUASM; and mentioned that he and the board welcome input, suggestions and feedback from community of faith members at any time.

**8. Closing Prayer** – Rev. Chad McCharles

**9. Adjournment** – by the Chair at 12:23 pm.

**Neepawa United-Anglican Shared Ministry**  
**Chairperson's Report**  
**AGM 2023**

It is hard to believe that the past year has gone by so quickly. It seems like just days ago that Lynda approached me to consider taking on the role of the second chairperson of the NUASM Board. I knew at the time that I had big shoes to fill but as I soon learned, this first NUASM board had laid an exceedingly strong foundation.

This foundation in no little way was a direct result of the people who chose to serve on the board. The individuals chosen to begin piloting this ship are well seasoned veterans, but it was not just the fact they had a wealth of experience sitting on boards, but it was also the dedication they have all shown in their manifest desire to express their faith by responding to the call to serve. I thank them all for their wisdom, their humour and their constant sense of steering a healthy and positive path forward. My sincere thanks and appreciation go out to each and every one of my fellow board members.

If we consider the past year a post-post Covid year, it has certainly been one of continued growth. We have been finding our way back from the constraints placed upon us by covid. There is no question that it has taken time to move closer to the way we had been doing things pre-Covid. There was a definite feeling of trepidation and fear as many folks were having challenges re-engaging, so to speak, with returning to pre-Covid participation. But I truly believe we are seeing positive change.

As we look at our committee reports we are seeing an increase in the number of events happening and in the attendance at these events. We are seeing more folks in the pews every Sunday. Folks are able to view our services on YouTube if they are unable to attend in person. We are even seeing a change in our giving's, not just financially but also in our reaching out to each other. I strongly urge all of you to read these reports to understand all that has been taking place.

Our previous Chairperson, Lynda, last year described what we have accomplished here in Neepawa, as a unique, joint relationship between the members of two different churches. This past year has strengthened this relationship. It is a year to be thankful for.

We are a collective, what is happening here is the result of what we do together in our faith. Everyone one of us contributes in some way and we are grateful and thank you all for your part in this.

There are a number of individuals who offer their energies and skills to support us in our faith journey. Special thanks to Dawn who navigates the challenges of keeping us informed with her emails, our spirits recharged with her uplifting and inspirational messages. We have members who unable to attend services, really appreciate her newsletter and always know they can reach out to her with questions or just to say hello.

To our Sunday school leaders, our choir members, Doug who takes care of our building, Judy, Tracy and Dwayne who faithfully take care of all our tech requirements, including services, special events and funerals as well as managing our Facebook, YouTube and NACTV messaging, thank you for all your good work. To our cadre of volunteers who assist with the Sunday and Wednesday



services, the extra activities and to all the wonderful groups who raise additional funds or give of their personal time in so many different ways, our heartfelt thanks to all.

To all the members of all our committees, we could not accomplish what we have without your dedication and selfless contributions to our church family. A personal thank you to my fellow NUASM board members. It is a pleasure to attend every meeting, your wealth of knowledge and commitments to your faith inspire me every meeting. To Murray, our NUASM secretary, whose attention to detail and sense of humour keeps us on track at meetings and doubles as our wonderful webmaster, keep up the good work. And last but certainly not least, to our spiritual Shepherd and guide, Rev Chad, who ministers to us all, Bless you. One of our board members, Brian Bailey has decided to move on to other things and he passes the torch to Jane Goudie. You will see that we now have a vice chairperson, Leona Kucher. A warm welcome to both.

The Church's greatest strength is its' individual members joining together to worship and serve as Christ taught us. As Lynda so eloquently said it, we are continuing our church's shared mission - **to be a caring and compassionate Christian community, open and welcoming to all people. We seek to worship and serve God in our community and in the world by following the teaching and example of Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

Don Walmsley  
NUASM Chairperson



## Incumbent's Report to the Annual General Meetings of the Neepawa United-Anglican Shared Ministry



THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 2024

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As always, it is my desire to look ahead with my annual report, rather than summarize the year past. This is not to say that the events and workings of our NUASM family in the year of our Lord 2023 are unimportant or unworthy of remembering and reflecting upon, only that I see a future ahead of us that is so exciting that I can not help but dive into it!

What excites me most is witnessing the dedication and commitment that you open-heartedly pour into the various ministries and activities the Church calls you to be a part of. Your love for one another and your parish is astonishingly generous, and never ceases to inspire me. Without each and every one of you this Church would be utterly impoverished in so many ways. You are so occupied with all that you do for the Church that I am concerned you do not fully recognize your intrinsic value and integral role in the mission and ministry of NUASM. This is not me simply pouring empty praise upon you to butter you up. Rather, this is simply a genuine response to what I see day in and day out as your minister. Gratitude is something we set out to cultivate in the culture of our parish some time ago, and as a continuation of that desire, I hope you will hear me when I say, "THANK YOU!"

As I reluctantly allowed my name to stand for the election of the eighth bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Brandon, my heart and soul were flung far too close to the very real possibility of having to leave you and Neepawa, which was a frightening and sobering experience. Although as Christians our comfort should not be our primary concern, thus overshadowing our commitment to following God wherever His divine will may lead, I can tell you without hesitation I am so glad God chose bishop-elect Rachael to be our bishop.

With this chapter behind us, and with the excitement of knowing I have the privilege of walking alongside so many dedicated and enthusiastic Christians in ministry, this coming year is one that I know God will use to continue to bless our congregation with growth, prosperity, and the gift of being called even deeper into mission and service in Christ's name. An endeavour rooted in the truth that when we believe in Jesus, the life of heaven begins for us now, a precious and freeing gift worthy of sharing.

Yours in Christ,

The Reverend Chad D. McCharles OSBCn

Incumbent

## Neepawa United – St James Anglican Shared Ministry 2023 Financial Report

The Neepawa United – St James Anglican Shared Ministry (NUASM) budget is reported as a line in the Neepawa United Church financial expenses as the Neepawa United Church pays all expenses from the annual budget approved by the Neepawa United Church Annual Meeting. The budget covers expenses of the Sunday School, Worship and Mission & Service Committees. This year St James Anglican contributed \$300.00 towards Sunday School expenses and the Neepawa UCW contributed \$200.00 to Sunday school expenses. Since the formation of NUASM, St James Anglican Church has been contributing \$2,000.00 per month towards the Minister's expenses. In 2023 The Neepawa United Church forwarded \$84,652.92 in post dated cheques of \$7,054.41 monthly to the Diocese of Brandon. The Diocese of Brandon has advised that the monthly postdated cheques for 2024 will be \$7,375.13 or \$88,501.56 for 2024.

<b>NUASM budget 2023</b>	<b>\$1,500.00</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Feb 9	Bibles	\$73.48	\$1,426.52
Feb 26	communion supplies	\$7.38	\$1,419.14
March 19	Worship Committee	\$134.14	\$1,280.00
March 28	Lenten Workshop	\$200.00	\$1,085.00
March 31	Palm fronds Safeway	\$111.78	\$973.22
April 28	worship supplies	\$143.89	\$ 829.33
May 4 UCW	Sunday School donation	\$200.00	\$1,029.33
May 9	Sunday School supplies	\$186.10	\$843.23
May 23 St James Anglican	Sunday School donation	\$300.00	\$1,143.23
June 12	communion & gift cards	\$87.42	\$1,055.81
Oct 10	baptism candles	\$60.00	\$995.81
Dec 1	NACTV Christmas ad	\$250.00	\$745.81
Dec 5	Sunday School	\$89.90	\$655.91
Dec 5	Communion supplies	\$7.36	\$648.55

2024 Draft budget NUASM expense line \$1,500.00

Respectfully submitted by Bob Durston, Treasurer Neepawa United Church

## **NUASM Worship Committee Report for 2023**

The Worship Committee met nine times during 2023. We assisted Rev. Chad with planning worship services and special events. The sanctuary and narthex decor was changed according to the liturgical colours of the church season. The Altar Guild kept the altar decorated with beautiful live flowers with memorial donations. We made recommendations to the NUC Board for baptisms (4), membership and marriage requests for the United Church. Murray Hart, the UC membership convenor, kept up the records and has filed a separate report for the NUC annual meeting.

During Lent there was an Ash Wednesday service combined with Holy Eucharist and a Maundy Thursday service. A Lenten workshop was led by Rev. Heather Lea and NUASM hosted the ministerial Good Friday service. Also in March, we honoured two of our dedicated music ministry members, Brian Bailey and Carolyn Durston, for their long time and ongoing service.

In May and June, our Sunday school teachers were appreciated with gift certificates and congratulatory cards were sent to High school graduates who were associated with our faith families.

It was wonderful to have baptismal services for several Anglican and United young children of God. The fall brought our October 15 anniversary of Covenanting service and Remembrance Sunday.

During Advent, Rev. Chad led a Bible study, which many attended. We had the privilege to host a wonderful community Christmas lessons and Carols evening on December 17. The choir took their music into the community with a caroling night on December 21. Sunday December 24 allowed for two worship services: a morning fun Dr..Seuss styled service for the children and a lovely candlelight service in the evening. Both services were well attended.

At NUASM we are blessed to have four organists to share duties and our gratitude goes to each of them (Carolyn, Belinda, Myra and Blair). Additionally, we are privileged with a choir, under the directorship of Brian Bailey, that blesses us through their musical ministry. A few times we use recorded music and are thus very grateful to Judy Elgert, who takes on the extra work to search out then prepare the hymns for the overhead. Judy, along with Tracey Richardson and Dwayne Petch kept our sound booth and camera running to enable not only our Sunday services but outreach beyond. Through NACtv and You Tube, our worship services are shared far beyond our community. Thank you to that vital production team.

We continued to have many volunteers who were willing to greet worshippers, read scriptures, light candles, take up offering or assist with UC communion. We are grateful to Rita Friesen, our Pastoral Assistant, for the work that she does. We thank each of you for your service to our faith family.

We are blessed to have two dedicated Sunday School teachers in Nancy Hunter and Allison Bailey. Using the Sermons 4Kids curriculum, these ladies help our youngest along their faith journey. Big hugs and thanks to them and several other volunteers who helped with the Sunday school program.

In the background, Dawn Gardy performs many jobs that pull the worship services together. Her special touch with weekly emails also keeps our faith family connected. We appreciate you Dawn. And Doug Guy, we thank you for keeping our church clean so that we can welcome everyone into our Lord's home for worship.

The Worship Committee is pleased to assist and support Rev. Chad in his leadership of our ecumenical shared ministry. He works diligently to blend the faith aspects of both Anglican and United into each service, not only for Sunday morning but also into our weekly journeys.

The net has been cast and we are witnessing a gradual increase in attendance. There is more joy and sense of community when we take time to come together to worship our Lord.  
Thanks to all who help us be better together!

Respectfully submitted by  
Pat Fedoruk on behalf of the Worship Committee for 2023:

Lynda Lowry, Nancy Hunter, Murray Hart, Anita d'Armada, Colleen Taylor, Linda Dick, Rev. Chad McCharles, Pat Fedoruk

## **Sunday School Report**

Greetings from Allison, Nancy and all the children who attend Sunday School!

We are enjoying a busy year full of in class learning, playing, singing and crafting as well as working on three projects for our church family.

In early winter we began working on making a very very long paper chain with over 125 circles! Each strip of paper had a church members first name(s) on one side and on the back side was a short prayer. We wanted every person to know, we in Sunday School got to pray for each person. The children know how important it is to be remembered and included so creating and joining us all together was a gift of love and understanding. Special thanks to Dawn who took on making the congregational list and prayers pages for us. The children were thrilled to see the paper chain strung up in the narthex

Throughout the late winter and late spring months we worked on creating a butterfly banner the children presented to the congregation in June. Almost ever Sunday we did parts of the banner so every child who attended through out that time had a hand in creating it. Daphne helped make the banner be sturdy and straight. Our word for the year was FAITH and we used the banner work to explore what faith is and how prayer helps us grow in our faith.

Our third gift to the congregation was the mazing play Brian and Allison Bailey found and made "ours". Just a little Christmas and the action song "Christ the King of Christmas". It's amazing what parents and children along with great coaches can make happen.

We continue to use the Sermons4kids curriculum that arrives via email to the teachers in advance of each Sunday and is tied to the readings and gospel our congregants hear upstairs....a lovely tie in with Chad's chinwags with the children upstairs before we go down to class. We appreciate that the curriculum costs are covered for us.

Currently we have two regular teachers and will seek out volunteers to help fill Sundays when we may be unavailable. We appreciate the people who have stepped forward to fill in. We know the children are always welcome to stay for the service and feel included when this happens. We have 11 children coming to Sunday school. Most weeks we have from 4 to 9 attendees and thank the parents in their lives for making this possible.

We really enjoy the time we have with the children. We believe we are a part of their faith story that will travel with them. How lovely that our church family can be memory keepers for them as they practice living out the good word.

Blessings,  
Nancy Hunter  
Allison Bailey

## **NUASM CHOIR REPORT 2023**

The choir continues to be an integral part of the NUASM worship services. As well as leading the congregation in hymn singing, we make every effort to provide an anthem every Sunday regardless of attendance.

We are fortunate to have several keyboard musicians who share the organist/pianist duties. Carolyn Durston has been on temporary leave as accompanist while Belinda Critchlow, Myra Bennet and Blair Chapman share these duties. We are glad that Blair has joined our group. Special thanks to Judy Elgert for her efforts in supplying accompanying music when we are without a keyboard player.

We meet for rehearsals every Sunday prior to the service and the first Thursday of the month for a concentrated rehearsal which is capped off with a social time.

In March Carolyn and Brian were recognized for long term service to the choir. During the past year Bea Betts retired from our midst while we were pleased to welcome Sheila Bremner, Yvonne Ferguson and Sherry James.

New members are always welcome. Please consider this your invitation.

## **Ministry and Personnel Committee Report - 2023**

According to the United Church of Canada Policy and Procedures Manual, the M and P. Committee has the following duties: The M and P committee:

Is responsible for being available for consultation and support for matters involving the pastoral charge staff.

Is responsible for maintaining close contact with the Regional Council Pastoral Relations Committee or equivalent.

Is responsible for overseeing the relationship of the pastoral charge staff to each other and to people in the congregation.

Is responsible for regularly reviewing the working conditions, responsibilities, and compensation of all pastoral charge staff, and making any recommendations needed as a result of these reviews to the governing body.

Is responsible for ensuring pastoral charge staff makes use of opportunities for continuing education that they have been given.

Is responsible for revising position descriptions of pastoral charge staff.

Is responsible for conducting regular performance reviews of pastoral charge staff.

Under normal conditions the M and P committee is required to meet quarterly or as frequently as needed by local conditions. As always, any concerns regarding M. and P. should be brought to the attention of any committee member. Specific concerns must be received, in writing, and duly signed by the person(s) registering the concern. No 'hearsay issues' will be considered.

Over the past year the M and P committee has dealt with the following issues:

Allocation of holiday and study time for Reverend Chad and office manager Dawn Gardy,

Dealt with a salary update for Dawn Gardy and clarified some stipend issues for Reverend Chad.

After hearing concerns about the safety of our staff when alone on the building, we recommended that the Neepawa United Church Board authorize the installation of a communication system between the front door and the office. Thanks to the diligence of NUC board member, Grant Babcock, this was done in a timely manner.

We recognized the enormous contribution to our faith family by Rita Friesen and we recommended that she be offered the honorary position of Pastoral Assistant as part of the NUASM team.

The NUC followed our recommendation.

Our deliberations are often personal and therefore confidential, but we often make recommendations to the NUC Board.

The committee membership over the past year includes Rita Friesen, Susan Phillips, Nancy Hunter, Anita Ong, Jackie Snider and Brian Bailey.

Respectfully submitted by Brian Bailey



## **M & S and Outreach Annual Report 2023**

The Mission, Service and Outreach Committee is here to help us focus on how we can make a difference here, and out there in the world. It's a way for us to share some of what we at Neepawa United-Anglican Shared Ministry have been so richly blessed with!

It is our job, as M, S and O, to bring issues to your attention, provide information and encourage involvement in activities that contribute to the well-being of our neighbors. That is why we continue to read Minute for Mission stories weekly. Of course, we like to include items from PWRDF as often as possible too. This way we can all become more familiar with our wider church missions.

We have many annual projects like White Gift Sunday, the Mitten Tree, the Lenten Calendar, and donations for our local schools.

This year we introduced "Cookies for Breakfast" to raise funds for the Breakfast Program at the Middle School since that program was the most in need of our help. We sent \$225.36 to feed hungry kids because we all know it's hard to learn if your stomach is empty!

We presented information about the Ration Program the Canadian Foodgrains Bank runs for refugees around the world. We sent \$701.70 to the Foodgrains Bank to help feed people living in horrible circumstances.

We sent \$814 to the Anglican Church Camp to help kids have an important outdoor experience.

And \$1,275 was given to build a church in the Philippines. That converts to over \$53,000 in pesos! (Philippine currency)

We promote Gifts with Vision (United Church) and World of Gifts (Anglican Church) as an alternative way of gift-giving. These programs run throughout the year—not just at Christmas!

And we have continued with our teas—where we take goodies, The Hims, and good times to our seniors' residences. All are welcome to join us on these outings—it's a lot of fun—good food, great entertainment, and wonderful visits with folks!

This year we start presenting quilts to children baptized here at NUASM. We gifted 6 quilts in 2023. Anyone wishing to be involved in this project can contact Susan or Daphne.

Our committee will continue to look for new and different ways to inform and excite members of this Community of Faith about M&S and PWRDF and outreach in general. Thank you for your amazing generosity, and look for lots of opportunities for giving in the year to come!

**Loving our neighbor is at the heart of Mission and Service and Outreach.**

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Phillips, Chair

Committee members: Bea Betts, Leona Kucher, Donna Newton, Elsie Slimmon, Daphne Hall

## **Stewardship Report 2023-24**

This is the first Stewardship Report since the formation of our Ecumenical Shared Ministry. The Stewardship Chair position is on the Neepawa United Church Board and the NUASM Board.

Stewardship activities occur throughout the year to support our congregation's mission statement. We spend our time, energy and focus on activities that serve God in our community and the world by following the teaching and example of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

In the past year, several stewardship initiatives were introduced. "Stewardship Seconds" are included in each Friday email as well as on the website, and power point presentations prior to Sunday services. Each unique message focuses on stewardship principles – generosity, gratitude, sharing, and caring.

After three years of limited group activities due to the pandemic, we reintroduced brunches and a fall supper. The congregation responded enthusiastically with their participation, volunteerism and donations. The fellowship of eating together was especially important.

Rev. Chad has added an offertory prayer to each Sunday service, and it references givings on the offering plate as well as through PAR. There has been an increase in the number of donors who give by pre-authorized remittance and this regular income is very helpful in enabling us to do God's work all year.

For the last two years, the Fall Stewardship Campaign has included a Narrative Budget which describes how our church's resources are used throughout the year. It is interesting to note that 29% of the 2023 budget goes towards worship, 9% to Christian development, 26% to pastoral care, 18% to mission and service and another 18% to outreach which includes our donations to local schools, community groups who utilize our facility and the Salvation Army. Jesus calls us to feed the hungry, comfort the lonely and support those in need. Our shared ministry does just that.

Many thanks go out to all the volunteers who assisted with these stewardship initiatives. It takes a church community to do God's work.

Stewardship Chair

Lynda Lowry

## **Pastoral Care Committee Annual Report....2023**

Cards sent in 2023...

- Sympathy...47
- Get Well...25
- 1 Year Anniversary of Death ... 51
- Congratulatory Cards...49

(Birthday, Anniversary, Retirement, Thank you, Congratulations)

•Visits...15

Submitted by: Bea Betts, Michelle Babcock, Betty Ebner

### **Report from Prairie to Pine Regional Reps 2023**

Your Regional Reps are Donna Newton and Susan Phillips. Both attended the Regional meeting, during a heat wave, from Thursday June 1 to Sunday June 4<sup>th</sup> at (the not air conditioned) United Church in Meadowood in Winnipeg.

The Regional meeting was an opportunity to share worship, reports and updates from Region, our Theological Colleges, General Council, our retirees (7), our 3 Candidates for Ministry, our Regional Program Staff and the moderator of the United Church. We were able to listen to information on issues, including a remit regarding an autonomous National Indigenous Organization within the United Church of Canada. (The NUC Board voted in favour of this remit at our Nov. meeting). The regional meeting allows plenty of time to discuss issues, and just get to know the folks at our tables. And we honoured those we have lost since our last regional meeting in the spring of 2022.

Our overall impressions:

We are blessed with a truly inspiring and dedicated and energetic moderator, the Right Reverend Dr. Carmen Lansdowne! Rev Chad was quite impressed!

The youth is alive and well in the United Church of Canada! Young people took leadership roles in music and worship, and M & S fundraising. In just 3 days, \$7760 was raised for M & S.

Music and worship, which happen many times throughout the meeting, were inspirational, moving, up-lifting and generally just a delight to experience.

A number of workshop options were available on Saturday. Donna and I chose "Worship in the Wild" and experienced a wonderfully spiritual walk in a little wild space right in the city. We found quiet spots along the path for Call to Worship, scripture readings (by members of the youth contingent), and Prayers of Thanksgiving. Three experts were there to share knowledge—an ornithologist, and entomologist and an arborist. Even in the heat, we were wishing we had more time! A second workshop involved singing and an update about a new digital hymnal that is being developed and we'll hear more about in 2024.

At dinner on Saturday evening, we had the privilege of listening to our retirees share their experiences and wisdom gleaned from years of ministering in all sorts of places.

The meeting ended with a very moving worship service Sunday morning. We were in a beautiful building without air conditioning, on a very hot day, following 3 also very hot days. And even though you might imagine that it would be very difficult to stay focused, it was anything but. The service included ordination, commissioning and admitting of new clergy. It included communion, a sermon from The Right Reverend Carmen Lansdowne, and it included amazing music.

This meeting is such a gift. There is no better way to connect with people who share so many of the same hopes and dreams and concerns—for our church, our communities and our world. Technology has served us well the last few years, but this is a whole other level of sharing, learning, discerning, and growing in faith.

We want to thank you for the opportunity to represent NUASM at this event! If you would like more information on the Region, the meeting or the remit, please talk to us!

### **REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR DIOCESE OF BRANDON 2023**

Throughout the year the Diocese of Brandon publication 'The Mustard Seed' an Anglican journal is circulated online to NUASM Board members. The 'Mustard Seed' is published 10 monthly and contains news and information from parishes in the Diocese, and also information about educational and further learning opportunities available. In the past articles of news and information from NUASM have been submitted to The Mustard Seed.

The Mustard Seed also includes a letter or message from the Bishop of Brandon, in the absence of the Bishop a message from the Diocese would come from either the Very Rev'd Don Bernhardt the Administrator of Brandon, or the Ven. Dr. Kara Mandryk Archdeacon of Ministry and Training.

In November of 2023 Brandon Diocese held the 50<sup>th</sup> Synod and the 51<sup>st</sup> Electoral Synod. An electoral Synod was necessary when Bishop William Cliff resigned his position as the seventh Bishop of Brandon. The 50<sup>th</sup> Synod was a considered a 'General Synod' where issues of the Church are discussed and concerns shared and motions put forward, a time for worship together, sharing ideas, education, business of the Church, and fellowship.

During the Electoral Synod the eighth Bishop of Brandon was elected. There were two very impressive candidates, Father Chad McCharles and the Venerable Rachel Parker. It was on the second ballot that the Ven. Rachel Parker was elected to be the eighth Bishop of Brandon, and her consecration will be taking place at St. Mathew's Cathedral in Brandon on March 18<sup>th</sup> 2024.

Yours in Christ,

Respectfully submitted

Anita d'Armada (Synod Delegate)

### **Website Report 2023 Year**

Our community of faith maintains a website whose address is <https://www.nuasm.com/> , and whose purpose is to provide information about the structure and activities of our community of faith, and tell how we are carrying out our mission both internally and in the wider community.

The website report this year takes the form of questions and answers which will help to illustrate how our site may be useful to you:

Question	Answer
How can I find out who is in charge of some of the Board/Vestry committees?	Follow the Boards and Minutes link to see the members of our three boards and their roles. You can also view board minutes going back several years.
I have forgotten the time or date of some event ... can the website help?	Yes .... Go to the Events and/or the Calendar page to check on meeting dates or information and posters advertising special church services, or events like brunches, teas, or the Gently Used Sale.
What if I want to find out what some church group or committee really does ... like the Mission & Service and Outreach Committee for example?	The website can help you ... just follow the link for that group to get a full description of the involvement of the Mission & Service and Outreach Committee or other groups like the UCW, Choir or the Sunday School.
Can the website help me find faith-related resources?	You bet ... go to the Useful Links page and you will find lots of resources ... Bible study, Anglican Church of Canada and United Church of Canada links, Broadview magazine, the Mustard Seed journal, lectionary information, and Bible crafts and resources for children.
I hear that your services are available to watch on social media ... is this true?	Absolutely ... follow the YouTube and Facebook links on the main page to access: photos or videos of Sunday services, Wednesday Holy Eucharist services, or funeral services that are either being live-streamed or are available to watch at a later date.
I visited the website last year ... do I need to look again ... or it just the same old stuff?	Please check us out again .... You will find new and current information ... the Stewardship Seconds message, meeting and events dates, upcoming activities, minutes of meetings, and even information about how to make a donation to support either of our faith families.

Does anyone else really go to the NUASM website?	Yes ... we are a popular place to visit ... in 2023 we received 2708 visits (7.4/day) with a total of 4296 pages viewed, meaning that each person viewed an average of 1.6 pages during their visit.
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Remember .... Check out [www.nuasm.com/](http://www.nuasm.com/) for all the latest news about our community of faith!

### **Nominating Committee Report 2024 Neepawa United-Anglican Shared Ministry Board**

<b>Chairperson</b>	Don Walmsley
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Leona Kucher
<b>Secretary</b>	Murray Hart
<b>Treasurer</b>	Bob Durston and Daphne Hall
<b>Regional Representatives</b>	Susan Phillips Donna Newton*
<b>Synod Representatives</b>	Anita d'Armada
<b>Stewardship</b>	Lynda Lowry
<b>Pastoral Care</b>	Betty Ebner Michelle Babcock* Bea Betts*
<b>Mission &amp; Service</b>	Susan Phillips Donna Newton* Elsie Slimmon* Bea Betts* Daphne Hall*
<b>Ministry &amp; Personnel</b>	Jane Goudie Susan Phillips* Rita Friesen* Nancy Hunter* Anita d'Armada* Jackie Snider*
<b>Worship</b>	Pat Fedoruk Lynda Lowry* Linda Dick* Murray Hart* Colleen Taylor* Anita d'Armada* Nancy Hunter*
<b>Minister</b>	Rev. Chad McCharles

\*Non-voting members

Submitted by Don Walmsley, Lane England, Lynda Lowry