

Minutes of NUASM Annual Congregational Meeting for the 2025 Year
held Sunday, February 22, 2026

1. Call to Order and Welcome – by Rita Friesen at 12:07 pm.

2. Opening Meditation and Prayer – Rev. Leith Saunders

3. Approval of Agenda

a) **Additions/Changes to the agenda** - none

b) **Approval of Agenda**

Motion: Connie McLeod / Nancy Hunter

That the agenda for this meeting be accepted as circulated. **Carried.**

4. Approval of Minutes of the NUASM Annual Meeting for the 2024 Year, held February 9, 2025.

Motion: Murray Hart / Anita d'Armada

That the minutes of the Annual Meeting for the 2024 Year, held February 9, 2025 be approved as circulated. **Carried.**

5. Reports:

Introduction:

- The Chair commented on some of the highlights of the past year: the 5th Anniversary of NUASM, the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada, and the departure of Rev. Chad. The Chair expressed thanks for the work done by the members of the Profile committee, Search committee and GAP committee; and for the continued advice and support of Bishop Rachael and Rev. Judy Hare of the Prairie to Pine Region as we continue our ministry without the leadership of a minister/priest.

- The Chair referred the meeting to the reports in the following areas which had been circulated in the NUASM Annual Meeting Booklet:

- a) NUASM Chairperson – Leona Kucher
- b) Pastoral Charge Supervisor – Rev. Leith Saunders
- c) Treasurer – Judy Elgert and Daphne Hall
- d) Worship – Pat Fedoruk
- e) GAP Committee - Kelly Sneesby
- f) Choir – Brian Bailey
- g) Ministry and Personnel – Jane Goudie
- 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 –
 - ii) Brandon Diocese – Anita d'Armada
- l) Profile Committee - Lynda Lowry
- m) Website – Murray Hart

Discussion:

- the Chair expressed thanks to NUASM board members, NUASM committee chairs and committee members for their hard work, many meetings and great thoughts and prayers which have enabled us to maintain our ministry and make a positive difference in the lives of both our community of faith members and also the wider community.

- those who had authored reports were given the opportunity to add comments and those in attendance were given time to ask questions about any of the reports.

Acceptance of Reports

Motion: Lane Englund / Jackie Snider

That the 2025 Annual Reports be accepted as presented and discussed. **Carried.**

6. New Business

a) Report from the Search Committee

Nancy Hunter reported for the Search Committee as follows:

Following our NUASM Church Profile being approved by Prairie to Pine Regional Council and Bishop Rachael of the Diocese of Brandon, it was uploaded to the United Church Hub. This confidential online platform means approved ministers can explore approved churches seeking a minister and we, as an approved church, can read ministers profiles and connect with them.

Throughout November & December 2025, the Search Team read through over 200 minister profiles, dividing the task amongst the 6 members. We looked at every listed clergy. The criteria that guide us includes: ministers seeking full time employment and eligible for our church as defined by the UC & Anglican judicatories: (no students or minister currently residing outside of Canada)

As of January 12, 2026, our committee has sent out 21 outreach emails to possible candidates asking them to read our profile and get back to us. To date we have received 14 responses: 13 declined and 2 follow up emails have been sent out. Reasons for "saying no" included: not being able to relocate or considering other churches. Many were encouraging our search and found our profile interesting.

Both judicatories are aware of our current progress and have acknowledged there are fewer ministers available and a growing number of churches who are without clergy and are considering closure.

We, as the Search Team, are staying focussed, positive and open to exploring new applicant additions to the Church hub. Bishop Rachael remains very supportive and has advised Bishops across Canada of our search for a new minister to lead us.

Heartfelt thanks to the GAP committee volunteers who have moved heaven and earth to ensure every Sunday service from June 2025 well into 2026 is filled with clergy. We know God sees our need. Please continue to pray to the Holy Spirit whose power working in us can do more than we can ask or imagine. Guide us to the person who can be our minister as we go forward.

Search Committee members are: Jane Goudie, Lynda Lowry, Jackie Snider, Brian Bailey, Nancy Hunter and Don Walmsley.

- time was provided for anyone to ask questions of the Search Committee

Motion: Nora Kaye / Heather Cummings

That the report of the Search Committee be accepted as presented and discussed. **Carried.**

7. Nominating Committee Report

- the Chair expressed appreciation for the work done by the Nominating Committee, to those retiring from board or committee positions, and to folks who have either volunteered to stay on in their positions or have accepted new roles on the NUASM board and its committees.

- the Nominating Committee report was presented as printed in the 2025 Annual Meeting booklet:

**Nominating Committee Report
2026 Neepawa United-Anglican Shared Ministry Board**

		Term ends
Chairperson	Leona Kucher	Dec. 2026
Vice Chair	Rita Friesen	Dec. 2026
Secretary	Murray Hart	Dec. 2027
Treasurers	Judy Elgert & Daphne Hall	
Regional Representative	Elizabeth Sumner	Dec. 2027
Synod Representative	Anita d'Armada	Dec. 2027
Stewardship	Lynda Lowry	Dec. 2027
Pastoral Care	Betty Ebner (Chair) Michelle Babcock*, Bea Betts* Ellie Taylor*	Dec. 2027
Mission & Service & Outreach	Susan Phillips (Chair) Donna Newton*, Elsie Slimmon* Bea Betts*, Lane Englund*	Dec. 2026
Ministry & Personnel	Jane Goudie (Chair) Susan Phillips*, Nancy Hunter* Anita d'Armada*, Jackie Snider* Iris Kooting*	Dec. 2026
Worship	Pat Fedoruk (Chair) Lynda Lowry*, Linda Dick* Murray Hart*, Colleen Taylor* Anita d'Armada*, Kelly Sneesby*	Dec. 2026

Minister

*Non-voting members

Submitted by Kelly Sneesby, Leona Kucher, Betty Ebner, Lynda Lowry, Jane Goudie

Motion: Leila Hildebrand / Donna Newton

That the Nominating Committee report for the 2026 NUASM Board and Committees be accepted; and further that the NUASM board be given authority to fill any vacant positions that may occur during the year. **Carried.**

8. Closing Meditation and Prayer – Rev. Leith Saunders

9. Grace - Rita said Grace for those attending her birthday pizza party being held in the CEC after the meeting.

10. Adjournment - by the Chair at 12:23 pm.