

## NUASM Board Meeting Minutes – June 16, 2026

The June meeting of the NUASM Board was held by Zoom teleconference on Tuesday June 16, 2026 at 1:00 pm.

**Present:** Judy Elgert, Daphne Hall, Lynda Lowry, Jane Goudie, Betty Ebner, Anita d’Armada, Murray Hart, Rev. Leith Saunders, Pat Fedoruk, Susan Phillips, Rita Friesen, Liz Sumner

**Regrets:** none

**1. Welcome and Call to Order** - by Rita Friesen at 1:00 pm.

**2. Opening Meditation** – Rev. Saunders

**3. Additions/Changes to Agenda** - none

**4. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion:** Pat Fedoruk / Lynda Lowry

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

**5. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting** (May 19, 2026)

- the secretary made a wording correction .... in the Treasurer’s report the wording should say there were no new expenditures in the last month, not in the current year.

**Motion:** Murray Hart / Jane Goudie

That the minutes of the May 19, 2026 meeting be approved with the inclusion of the correction indicated. **Carried.**

**6. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**a) Discussion of the Open Hearts document and related Affirming Church information**

- Affirm United is a justice-seeking organization independently affiliated with the United Church of Canada. It works toward full participation and justice for people of all sexual orientations, gender expressions and gender identities in both church and society.

- the organization lays out an 11-step process through which a community of faith can become designated as an Affirming Ministry or Affirming Church. An Affirming Ministry provides information and support, and openly advocates for the inclusion of people of all sexual orientations, gender expressions and gender identities.

- the Open Hearts document serves as a guide to any organization which is seeking to become intentionally inclusive, just, and equitable in its life and work. Some of the main sections found in the Open Hearts document are the following:

- Who is Affirm United and Aims and Goals
- What Does Affirming Mean
- Why Become Affirming
- Affirming Language
- Steps in the Affirming Process
- Next Steps after becoming Affirming

- Board members discussed the Open Hearts document and related Affirming Church information. The following are some of the points mentioned in discussion:

- many of our close United Church neighbours in Western Manitoba have become recognized as Affirming Churches. It would be informative to find out what their experience has been with this process.
- the Search Committee has noticed that many ministers seeking a change in position have expressed support for Affirming Ministries.
- in order to decide if becoming an Affirming Ministry is something our community of faith is interested in pursuing, we would have to learn about the idea by receiving information, asking questions, and communicating and having conversations with each other. There is no guarantee of how far along we might get in this whole process of learning about the Affirming idea.
- those who attended the recent Prairie to Pine Regional meeting have knowledge of a resource person(s) who might help with learning about this idea.
- it was agreed to approach the local boards (NUC and St. James' Vestry), seeking their consent to proceed with starting the process of engaging in discussion about what the Affirming Church idea would mean in the NUASM context.
- members of the NUASM board who are on the local boards will arrange to have this topic put on the agenda for their upcoming meetings.
- Links to some resources include the following:

**Open Hearts Document:**

[https://www.affirmunited.com/\\_files/ugd/ef2148\\_c76f9861922f4d31aa4861d062f9aa7a.pdf](https://www.affirmunited.com/_files/ugd/ef2148_c76f9861922f4d31aa4861d062f9aa7a.pdf)

**Affirm United Website:** <https://www.affirmunited.com/>

**Proud Anglicans Website:** <https://www.proudanglicans.ca/>

**7. Correspondence - none.**

**8. Committee Reports**

Board members reported as follows:

**a) Treasurer – Judy Elgert**

	Date	Memo	Debit	Credit	Balance	Budget Balance
NUASM						<b>1,500.00</b>
	2026-03-23	Battery operated Advent Candles and batteries	65.36		65.36	<b>1,434.64</b>
	2026-03-31	Palm leaves for Palm Sunday	17.88		83.24	<b>1,416.76</b>
	2026-05-22	Gift for Dawn	122.39		205.63	<b>1,294.37</b>
Total NUASM			205.63	0.00	205.63	
			<b>205.63</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>205.63</b>	

**b) Worship – Pat Fedoruk**

The Worship Committee met June 1, 2026. The sixth anniversary of NUASM is July 1. We will celebrate with a brunch on Sunday September 20. We anticipated that there may be more faith family attending on that date rather than on June 28. Lynda Lowry will organize the brunch with congregational help, and will also handle promotion of the event.

Congratulatory cards will be sent to NACI graduates connected to our membership. Thank you to Dawn for her creative talents for this project.

There will be no fellowship coffee time during July and August and no assigned greeters at the door. Should anyone wish to greet, please do so, (especially to welcome our presider and the rest of the faith family).

With technical difficulty for projection Sunday June 7, (no overhead), the service was capably managed with bulletin copies and hymn books. Thanks to everyone who pitched in to help Bernie keep the service rolling! This is the procedure to be used in future if there are similar sound booth challenges. We need to be sure there is an office key available for access to the photocopier.

**c) Ministry & Personnel – Jane Goudie**

**d) Mission & Service and Outreach – Susan Phillips**

**e) Stewardship – Lynda Lowry**

- the committee will soon be presenting information designed to interest congregation members in a Planned Giving Legacy Program.

- the Worship Leadership team is organizing the service for Sunday July 12, 2026. A PAR presentation will be used as part of the sermon.

**f) Pastoral Care – Betty Ebner**

Cards sent in May...

•Sympathy...8

•Get Well...0

•1 Yr. Anniversary of Death..1

•Celebration...6

•Calls/Visits...3

**g) Vice Chair / Pastoral Assistant - Rita Friesen**

May 2026 Activities:

Sunday Worship: One

Funeral: five

Family Meeting: five

Board Meeting: NUC, NUASM

Home visits: six

Country Meadow Sunday Service: one

Thank you for all your prayers, support and encouragement.

## **h) Regional Representatives**

### **i) Prairie to Pine – Liz Sumner**

- Liz and Betty reported that they very much enjoyed the recent Prairie to Pine Regional Meeting held at Selkirk United Church. They attended 9 workshops, had entertainment provided by a talented youth group, and attended a very enjoyable and meaningful Sunday worship service. They have prepared a detailed report, and will send copies to NUC Chair Glen Cummings and NUASM Acting Chair Rita Friesen for appropriate distribution.

### **ii) Brandon Diocese – Anita d'Armada**

- Bishop Rachael on June 15 hosted her monthly Zoom meeting for all interested persons .... an opportunity to ask questions and receive information.

- here is a link to the June Edition of the Anglican newsletter; a paper copy has been posted on the bulletin board in the church.

[https://anglicanjournal.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/aj-jun2026\\_web.pdf](https://anglicanjournal.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/aj-jun2026_web.pdf)

### **i) Pastoral Charge Supervisor – Rev. Leith Saunders**

- Rev. Leith reported that the Regional Meeting was very informative, and she appreciated the opportunity to get to know our regional reps better.

### **j) Website – Murray Hart**

Recent website updates include:

- meeting dates as given in the Friday emails
- Stewardship Seconds
- minutes of May NUASM board meeting posted to the website
- added an announcement on the Events page to promote the 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary brunch being held on September 20, 2026.
- the Photo Page will be updated for the summer months ..... something to promote and celebrate our awesome NUASM organization!

### **k) Acceptance of Reports**

**Motion:** Lynda Lowry / Liz Sumner

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

## **9. New Business**

### **a) Managing Church Door Keys**

Pat mentioned a point or two about the availability of keys to areas of the church, and a discussion on several points followed:

- not all organists have keys to the choir door. If a key has not been passed on to them, the choir sometimes cannot get into the building for choir practice on Sunday morning. Pat has sometimes been able to let the choir in when she comes early to organize morning coffee.
- sometimes there is a need to make some copies on the copy machine in the office .... eg. extra bulletins for that day, additional copies of handouts that are available in the foyer for congregation members pick up, copies of reports or information for a Worship Committee meeting (usually held on Mondays when the office is closed).

- from September to June often it is the choir director who arrives early and has the choir door open, and he also opens the front doors (thanks, Brian!).
- But during July and August there is no choir arriving early, and with people often having a different schedule than during the regular year, there are often just not as many folks with keys available to see that the church gets opened or that the office is accessible if needed.
- in those summer months there still is an organist coming to the church; if they had a way of getting in through the choir door for example, they could perhaps open the front doors also.
- after church someone needs to make sure that the front and choir doors are locked, to guard against unauthorized entrance and potential damage to the facility. Everyone at church maybe needs to be reminded that if they seem to be the last one leaving the church, to make sure that the front and choir doors are locked. We should have some kind of plan about locking up after services.
- our custodian had a thought about the situation of the organist or choir needing in and not having a key .... what about having a “lock box” installed outside the choir door that would hold a key inside of it? A preliminary search on Amazon shows that prices for a weatherproof lockbox for outdoor use and accessible by a 4 digit combination start at about \$22. It was suggested that if a lockbox was to be added, it should be near the choir door rather than right out front by the main church doors. It was mentioned by a member present that Arts Forward has such a system, and that it seems to work well.
- Rita volunteered to speak to Grant Babcock, Property Chair for his input, advice and possible action on this topic.

**10. Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday September 15, 2026 at 1:00 pm by Zoom.

**11. Closing Prayer** - Rev. Saunders

**12. Adjournment** - by the chair at 2:10pm.

Signatures:

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(Rita Friesen - Vice and Acting Chair)

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(Murray Hart - Secretary)