

MEETING OF THE BOARD

Neepawa United Church

Jan. 21, 2025

Present: Rita Friesen, Rev. John Lea, Linda Hart, Susan Phillips, Rev. Chad McCharles, Judy Elgert, Grant Babcock, Gayle Johnston, Jane Goudie, Connie McLeod

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

2. **Opening Meditation** – John led us in an opening meditation.

3. **Additions to the Agenda** – Add 10b) M&P and 10c) Handicap Parking

4. Adoption of the Agenda

Judy Elgert moved adoption of the amended agenda, seconded by Connie McLeod. **Carried.**

5. Adoption of the Minutes

Add to 8f) Prairie to Pine: Susan reported that Donna Newton, Chad McCharles, John Lea also attended the Regional Council Meeting by ZOOM in Oct.

Jane Goudie moved adoption of the amended Nov. 19, 2024 minutes, seconded by Susan Phillips

Carried.

6. Correspondence

- The National Legion is requesting support for a publication. It was decided not to support them at this time. Dawn to reply.
- Thank you from Rita and Judy for their Christmas gifts from the Board.

7. Treasurer's Report

- The financial statement was emailed. It shows income and expenses for each of Jan. to December 2024, a year to year comparison for Jan. to December 2023 and Jan. to December 2024, a profit and loss budget actual vs budget for 2024, as well as account transactions for Nov. and Dec. 2024.
- Judy distributed the 2024 Financial Report for the AGM showing Exhibit A, B and C. She also presented the proposed 2025 budget

which was discussed.

- **A motion was made and passed** to accept the 2024 Financial Report and 2025 Budget and recommend approval to the Neepawa United Church AGM.

NUC Financial Statement to the end of December 2024

Income	\$ 235,037.29
Expenses	\$ 226,902.68
Net Income	\$ 8,134.61

Moved by Judy Elgert, seconded by Jane Goudie, that the Treasurer's Report be adopted. **Carried.**

8. Committee Reports

A) Property Grant Babcock reported

- Wayne Henton has done some repairs at the Church and is available for other repairs.
- The roof is leaking in the Chapel. Grant will check with Flynn Roofing.

8B) UCW Jane Goudie reported.

- The UCW gave \$6,000 in Dec. 2024 and \$6,000 in Jan. 2025 to the Neepawa United Church.
- The stoves in the CEC have been checked and a few minor repairs made.
- UCW held their Christmas Party on Dec. 4 with a great turnout. Invitations were handed out at Church. The collection of nearly \$500 was given to the Neepawa Collegiate breakfast program.
- 56 cookie trays were given out in Dec. with 82 dozen cookies made by the UCW ladies.

C) Pastoral Charge Supervisor's Report – John Lea gave a book to the Leadership of NUASM for them to read and to share. The book is entitled "Moments in Time" and features United Church sermons from around Canada from 1910 to 2020. Thank you John. John's Annual Report will be in the AGM booklet.

D) Trustees – Gayle reported that they are still waiting for the bill for the cost of increasing the liability insurance for the Church from \$2 million to \$5 million.

She will check with Don Schmall. Judy reported that the bill with \$2 million liability has been paid.

E) **Stewardship** Lynda Lowry notified us that she has sent her Stewardship Report in for the AGM.

F) **Prairie to Pine Region**

- Susan thanked Grant for his help in getting the lighting to work for the nativity scene outside.
- Prairie to Pine Region newsletters are being forwarded to the Board.

G) **Minister's Report**

- Chad submitted reports for Nov. and Dec 2024. The reports follow.

November 2024

November whizzed by like a flash! Reminding all of us, whether we like it or not, how fleeting are these weeks prior to Christmas! It is as though the clock kicks into high gear and does its best to make us feel frenzied and rushed, and as though there aren't enough hours in the day.

As I have been busy preparing for Advent and Christmas, admittedly sliding into this frenzy and stress right along with everyone else, I was reminded by my Benedictine brothers and sisters just how dangerous this hectic pace truly can be, especially to our spiritual life. It is important for each and everyone one of us, but especially the faithful, to prioritize attending to our spiritual needs just as diligently as we attend to the other needs thrust upon us during this Advent and Christmas season. In truth, we should be ensuring that we take time for quiet reflection, in silence, each day, along with prayer and other ways specific to how we best connect with God. After all, we can not rightly complain that we feel God is distant if we do not try to do all we can to come face to face with the source of hope, peace, joy and love.

When stress and anxiety take over in our lives, that is a good indicator that we have neglected our spiritual practices and failed to make time for quiet, prayerful space to hear that still, small voice of love whispered from the heart of God to our heart that craves the calming presence of the Holy.

My prayer this Advent will be that all of us try our best to prioritize carving out a bit of space for this very important practice of connecting with the Divine, whether that is at home in a comfy chair, walking in nature, driving with the

radio off, sitting in the Church sanctuary when few are around during the week, or however you can best find some stillness this busy season. With that, arriving at the high and holy feast of the Incarnation not empty and exhausted, but rather, full of energy knowing more deeply just deep was the love that brought about God into human history to save us.

Funeral planning with mourners: 6

Funerals: 6

8G Minister's Report for Nov. 2024(continued)

Hospital visitations: 5

Sunday worship: 4

United Church Communion: 0

Wednesday Holy Eucharist: 3

Community Remembrance Day Service: 1

Country Meadows visitations: 5

Home visitations: 1

Grief counselling sessions: 2

Office days: 14

Committee meetings: 3

Benedictine Chapter: 1

Habitat for Humanity Family Selection Committee Meeting: 0

BARDS meeting (Bishop/Archdeacon/Regional deans): 0

Executive (diocesan):0

Ministerial Gathering: 1

Zoom meetings: 8

Days off out of allotted 8: 7

December 2024

December was a whirlwind with joyful activities and festive preparations for Christmas! Much thanks to each and everyone who made our celebrations the glorious times of worship and togetherness that they were.

Once again, I was incredibly blessed by our dear Rita to be gifted the Sunday after Christmas as a day off. She does this very generously as a gift to me and the parish, as she refuses remuneration for officiating and leading worship! This meant an extended time at home with family and friends for me, which this year was much needed as we had a social to plan and execute for Amy's upcoming wedding. It also meant that I was able to take some of the days off that I had missed throughout the year to try to regain that ever sought after life-work

balance. Please know that I am feeling rested, grateful, and blessed, and that I continue to pray for you and yours as we step into this new year of our Lord, 2025.

Funeral planning with mourners: 0

Funerals: 0

Hospital visitations: 8

Sunday worship: 4

United Church Communion: 0

Wednesday Holy Eucharist: 3

Community Lessons & Carols: 1

Country Meadows visitations: 9

Home visitations: 3

Grief counselling sessions: 4

Office days: 16

Committee meetings: 3

Benedictine Chapter: 0

Habitat for Humanity Family Selection Committee Meeting: 1

BARDS meeting (Bishop/Archdeacon/Regional deans): 1

Executive (diocesan):0

Ministerial Gathering: 1

Zoom meetings: 5

Days off out of allotted 8: 11

8H) Ministry and Personnel – Jane reported

- The Committee met to plan their report for the AGM
- The Committee will meet four to five times a year.
- They will invite Chad, Dawn and Doug individually for discussions about their plans for the year.
- They still need a Committee member from the NUC.
- Jane will complete her term as M&P Committee Chair at the end of 2025.

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

9. Old Business

A) Computer for sound system

Judy reported that a new computer for the sound system has been purchased and

is working well. At the present time the computer for live streaming Church Services is causing problems. Judy will investigate.

B) Nominating Committee Jane reported that Chair is Glen Cummings, Vice Chair is Lynda Lowry and Past Chair is Rita Friesen. They still need volunteers for Regional Rep, Trustee and Member at Large.

C) AGM Agenda Linda distributed copies similar to previous years. We need a Financial Reviewer.

10. New Business

A) Membership Report – Murray Hart sent a Membership Report for NUC. The report follows.

Membership January 1/2024

Resident Members = 187

Non-Resident Members = 47

Total = 234

Removed from Membership Roll by Death in 2024 =3

Non-Resident: Charles Swanson

Residents = Barbara Freier and Jo Rogers

Membership December 31/2024

Resident Members = 185

Non-Resident Members = 46

Total = 231

A motion was made and passed to accept the membership report.

B) Ministry and Personnel

Discussion took place re: M&P attendance at the NUC Board Meetings. It was decided that the M&P rep would attend NUASM Board Meetings but only send a written report to the NUC Board Meetings with the understanding that the rep would attend NUC Board Meetings on matters of concern.

C) Handicap Parking

Handicap parking and drop off areas were discussed. Grant will look into town rules and pros/cons.

D) Thank You from Rita

Rita thanked the Board for their heartfelt support while she has been Board Chairperson for the past 2 years.

11. **Moment of Levity** – none

12. **Next Board Meetings:**

- AGM Sun. Feb. 2, 2025 after Church
- May 20, 2025 7:00 pm

13. Chad closed the meeting with a prayer.

14. Rita adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm

Motion made Dec. 20, 2024 by e-mail

Motion made by Susan Phillips and seconded by Linda Hart. That the Neepawa United Church present Ray Baloun of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank with an honourarium of \$250, on behalf of our community of faith, in recognition of his time with us on Oct. 27, 2024. Carried.

Jan. 21, 2025 Motions

#1. Motion made by Judy Elgert and seconded by Jane Goudie. That the Neepawa United Church Board accept the 2024 Financial Report and 2025 Budget and recommends approval to the NUC Annual General Meeting. Ca

#2. Motion made by Gayle Johnston and seconded by Connie McLeod. That the NUC Board approve the changes to the Membership Roll as listed in the 2024 Membership Report provided by Murray Hart.

Carried.