

MEETING OF THE BOARD

Neepawa United Church

Sept. 15, 2026

Present: Glen Cummings, Rev. Leith Saunders, Linda Hart, Judy Elgert, Rita Friesen, Jane Goudie, Jean Jackson, Lynda Lowry, Leila Hildebrand

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

2. **Opening Meditation** – Rev. Leith read a prayer from the “Gathering” magazine.

3. **Additions/Changes to the Agenda** – Add 2 items to correspondence, add Latter-day Saints and Open Hearts to New Business.

4. Adoption of the Agenda

Jean Jackson moved adoption of the amended agenda, seconded by Judy Elgert.

Carried.

5. Adoption of the Minutes

Lynda Lowry moved adoption of the May 19, 2026 minutes, seconded by Jane Goudie.

Carried.

6. Correspondence

a) Rita’s report follows:

June, July and August 2026 Reports from Rita Friesen

June 2026 Report

Sunday morning worship - 1

Funerals- 2

Family meetings - 2

Wedding -1

Meet with couple -1

NUASM board meeting - 1

Home visits - 5

Thank you for all your support.

July 2026 Report

Sunday Worship -1

Funerals - 4

Meeting with families - 4

Elks Manor Tuesday coffee - 2

Home visits - 3

Hospital visits - 6

Country Meadows -1

CJOB is working on a documentary re rural health care to be presented in August or September. The coordinator invited me to be one of the community members that met with the reporter and Dr Desilets.

6a) Rita's Report continued

August 2026 Report

Sunday Service - 1

Funerals -4

Family meetings -4

Country Meadows Sunday afternoon service -1

Home visits - 4

Hospital visits - 9

b) Report from Dawn Gardy

-there is a Card that I'll include for the meeting that evening

-Wedding Licenses have brought a lot of couples into the office. To date since starting to issue them, I have issued a total of 52 in total (so far).

-Diana Davidson has inquired about possibly starting up and running a Step Together Program again for Moms and Toddlers. Wednesday or Thursday mornings for approx. 2 hours each time. This would be the area in the CEC basement including the toy room/open area/kitchen area and bathrooms. This time would include music time and maybe a few crafts.

-July brought a setback in the office when our phone line was down for more than a week. It ended up being a line that was spliced, and it "may" need to be dug up at some point. Should we be looking into getting a cell phone that would stay in the office?

-Chat gpt? It's being used more and more and can be asset to have for the office/Church happenings.

-Thanks for allowing me to take advantage of having the month of August off, and a huge thanks for all the volunteers who kept things organized so well!

I very much appreciate you all!

c) Thank you card from Rita

Rita thanked the Board for all its support and encouragement during the 15 years that she has been a certified licensed lay leader for the United Church.

d) Susan Phillips sent her thanks for the quick replies to the motion allowing the Poppy Project to use the CEC on Sept. 14.

7. Treasurer's Report –

- Judy Elgert reviewed the financial report distributed. It shows income and expenses for the months of Jan to August 2026, a year to year comparison for Jan. to Aug. 2025 and Jan. to Aug. 2026 and a list of transactions for the months Jan to Aug. 2026.
- Judy noted that at the end of August, there is a surplus of \$29,000 compared to a surplus of \$11,000 last year at this time. This is because we are not paying for a full time minister.
- The UCW has donated \$12,000 to the Neepawa United Church and that amount will appear in the Sept. transactions.

NUC Financial Statement to the end of August 2026

Income	\$ 115,956.62
Expenses	\$ 86,400.05
Surplus	\$ 29,556.05

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

8. Committee Reports

A) **Property** No report. Rita mentioned that the tiles at the Church entrance are in need of repair and are being looked at, and that the curb at the front of the Church has been painted blue for handicap parking.

B) **UCW** Jane Goudie reported

- The last General UCW meeting was on Sept. 2, 2026
- Arlene Wadell is the Anglican ladies contact for funeral lunches
- The kitchen is going to be cleaned
- The UCW donated \$12,000 to the Neepawa United Church
- There is a Soup and Sandwich Lunch and a Bake Sale on Thurs. Oct 22. Unit 2 is looking after the lunch and Unit 4 is looking after the bake sale.
- Unit 4 will cater the coffee breaks, am and pm, on Thurs Oct 15 for the “What’s the Big Idea?” event at the CEC.
- We will ask Dawn to add to the funeral brochure that the CEC kitchen is not peanut or gluten free.
- The next General UCW meeting is Oct.7, 2026

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

- Rev. Leith Saunders commented that she appreciates the connection with our Board and that she will continue as our Pastoral Charge Supervisor.

D) **Trustees** –

- Leila reported that the Church insurance policy renewal comes out in Nov. She will have more information at the Nov. Board Meeting.

E) **Stewardship** Lynda Lowry reported

- The Fall Stewardship Campaign is being planned similar to previous years. Three different letters will be sent out to PAR donors, regular donors and irregular donors. The letters will be sent out at the beginning of November. The campaign brings in approximately \$35,000
- Lynda indicated that the Planned Giving Program is in the works.

F) **Prairie to Pine Region** No report

G) **Minister’s Report** N/A

H) **Ministry and Personnel** Jane went over her report which is below

M & P Report September 2026

- M & P covered the office on the four Fridays in August. Thanks to Jackie, Susan, Lane and Jane
- In July the landline was not working for several days. Dawn used her cell number to assist. NUC Board needs to invest in a cell phone as this problem is going to occur again.
- A subscription to Chat GPT is also a necessary item for the office.
- Dawn will let us know if there is a need for her to work on Mondays.
- Also pay raises. We need to discuss this as NUC does not meet monthly.

The Board decided to ask Dawn to investigate the possibility and cost of changing to a Westman Communication landline from MTS, and also the cost of a pre-paid cell phone to be used only when needed.

I) **Acceptance of all reports** was moved by Lynda Lowry and seconded by Rita Frieseen. **Carried.**

9. Old Business

A) **Planned Giving Program** is being worked on

B) Search Committee

- Lynda and Jane reported that the Search Committee has been looking for a minister for one year. The Search Committee meets every two to three weeks. The Church Hub is where you can see a list of ministers looking for a placement but many listed are in the process of being hired elsewhere. We have not received any applicants through the United Church Hub or through the Bishop. The Committee has reached out to 62 people with no results.
- There is an ad on Facebook now and on the NUASM website
- There will be an ad in the Broadview magazine and the online version.
- Nancy Hunter will prepare an article about the unique situation of having United and Anglican denominations combined at our Church and submit it to Broadview magazine and other avenues for publication.

A motion was made and passed to advertise in the Broadview magazine and online for six months.

10. New Business

A) Girl Guides Request - Kay De'Ath requests the use of the CEC basement every Thurs from 6 :30 to 8, starting Sept. 17 for the Neepawa Unit of the Girl Guides of Canada

A motion was made and passed to allow the Girl Guides to use the CEC basement for the year at no charge.

B) Step Together Program

This topic was dealt with at the May NUC board meeting

C) Possibility of an Office cell phone – dealt with in the M&P Report

D) Chat GPT is a computer program that can be used in the office to create posters, newsletters, etc. Dawn is looking into the program and the cost for a license.

- E) Marvin Beaumont Request - Marvin requested the use of the upstairs in the CEC for Oct 18 for the Latter-Day Saints Service that day. The Board is appreciative of their rental on Sundays and gave permission to use the CEC upstairs that day.
- F) Open Hearts
NUASM Board Members that are also on the NUC Board brought up the topic of becoming an affirming church. St. James Vestry will also have this topic on their agenda. NUASM wants feedback from these Boards as to their interest in pursuing this topic. Becoming an affirming organization involves inclusion and justice for all people. In order to learn about what it means to become an affirming church, Board Members are encouraged to read the attached document called "Open Hearts". If there is agreement that the Boards want to pursue this topic, a committee will be formed to determine the steps needed to pursue becoming an affirming church. This topic will be on the Nov. NUC Board meeting agenda.

11. **Moment of Levity** - provided by Jane

12. **Dates of Planned 2026 Meetings**

- Nov 17, 2026

13. Rev. Saunders closed the meeting with the Mizpah "May the Lord watch between me and thee while we are absent one from another".

14. Glen adjourned the meeting at 8:30

Motion passed by email Sept. 5, 2026

Motion: Moved by Susan Phillips and seconded by Linda Hart

That the Neepawa United Church Board allow the Poppy Project group (headed by Lane Englund and Susan Phillips) the use of the CEC for the afternoon of Sept 14, 2026, and that it be free of charge.

Carried.

Motions made Sept. 15, 2026

1. Motion made by Lynda Lowry and seconded by Judy Elgert. That the NUC advertise in the Broadview magazine online and paper for \$158.00 per month for the vacant ministerial position starting in October for six months.

Carried.

2. Motion made by Rita Friesen and seconded by Jean Jackson. That the Girl Guides be given permission to meet in the CEC Basement on Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:00 pm starting Sept. 17 at no charge.

Carried.