

Roseau Evangelical Covenant Church
Quarterly Congregational Meeting Minutes

July 28th, 2026

- **Call to Order & Declaration of Quorum:** Tony Fichter – LC Chair
 - Tony verified that we had a quorum present for the meeting
- **Devotional & Opening Prayer:** Pastor Nate Johnson – Senior Pastor
 - Pastor Nate referenced and read from the Gospel of John including “If anyone thirsts come to me and drink . . . and out of him will flow rivers of living water.”
 - Pastor Nate emphasized that Jesus has something bigger to flow out of us (our church)
 - Opening Prayer
- **Minutes Review:** Steve Huglen – LC Secretary
 - Quarterly Congregational Meeting Minutes from April 28th, 2026
 - Minutes will be amended to reflect that Chris Shortreed celebrated his “5th” school year, rather than the stated 4th year
 - Motion by Darren Smedsmo to approve minutes as amended and seconded by Sonya Peterson and passed unanimously
- **Building Committee Report:** Brian Brandt -- Leader
 - Brian reported that we have been updating Sunday School rooms, the Southwest bathrooms and the Foyer
 - The next large item to be addressed is the road sign for the church which Kofstad Signs will be donating. The bottom framework of sign will remain and a new “simple” sign will be on top with the logo “RECC” prominently displayed and in smaller lettering below “Roseau Evangelical Covenant Church.”
 - Brian indicated that Anika Olson and Joel Maxwell have put in a lot of work assisting him with this. The new sign will eventually be lit up in a way that is yet to be determined.
 - There was a group discussion regarding the material of the new sign. Tony Fichter said that it would probably be metal as metal has a long lifespan
 - Dave Anderson stated that he does not object to the sign but did want to simply raise the question of whether “Roseau Evangelical Covenant Church”

should be in larger lettering so that passersby would be able to read it easier along with “RECC.” A brief discussion ensued and the consensus was that it should remain as proposed and depicted on the example that Brian handed out

- Pastor Nate brought up the question of whether the sign should perhaps have a descriptive word added to it, for example, such as “Grace” or “Hope” or “Trinity.” After a brief discussion there was no objection to leaving the proposed new sign as rendered by the building committee
- There was a brief discussion regarding the lighting of the sign. Joel Maxwell asked about the potential of lighting the sign from the inside. Tony Fichter noted that it is expensive to do so and gave an example of such a sign costing \$10,000 twenty years ago
- Brian made a motion to approve the rendering of the sign as described and Todd Peterson seconded the motion. Unanimous approval of sign rendering as proposed
- **RECC Ministry Report:** Pastor Nate Johnson – Senior Pastor
 - Pastor Nate stated that things slowdown in the summertime
 - He said he wanted to single out Traci Fichter, Chris Shortreed, Sheldon Espe, Sam Grey, Rob and Kecia Stroot, and Dave Anderson for helping to get kids to Bluewater
 - He’s heard about great experiences that kids have had attending Bluewater Bible camp. He gave an example of a parent recently telling him in the arena locker room how much her child loved it there and how her other child couldn’t wait to be able to go
 - He noted that Church Night at the Fair was successful and that Pastor Paul Knight did an awesome job
 - Pastor Nate stated: “Sonya – the meal was great at the fair and the carnival workers were very thankful”. Nate expressed how he sensed the presence of the Lord that night and that “these things matter”
 - He encouraged the church to continue to make sure everyone feels welcome in our church as they walk through the doors
 - He has been excited to see new people coming and showing up for church
 - Pastor Nate gave thanks “to everyone working, serving, loving, inviting friends ... this is what we want” and “let’s keep loving each other”
- **RECC Youth Ministry Report:** Chris Shortreed – Youth Ministry Director
 - There were 13 students who attended Overflow this year and 3 adults including Chris who went along. This is a 24-hour program

- Chris stated that all of the students said they would rather do Overflow than MUUUUCE. He said that was a big deal and especially when MUUUUCE includes going to Valley Fair and going forward they may just do Overflow in the future
- He estimated that there were approximately 100 kids in total from all churches participating
- As a project at Overflow, the participants put together personal hygiene packs
- Chris attended the 7th-8th grade youth camp at Bluewater in early June
- He will be going back to Bluewater next week for the 9th-10th grade group
- He did not attend the Highlanders camp because of overlap with the Overflow event
- They have been doing summer events such as bonfires, youth game nights, etc
- Regarding UNITE 2027. \$4,800 has been raised so far of the \$10,000 fundraising goal. Fundraising will start to ramp up moving forward along with the ongoing coffee bar which happens every month.
- The next parent meeting regarding UNITE preparations will be on August 16th
- Chris gave a heads up that UNITE next year will probably be over the Fair week
- Youth group starts up again on September 9th
- Next week Chris will be helping out at VBS
- Pastor Nate pointed out that Overflow is the brainchild of Troian Stroot
- **Financial Report:** Todd Peterson – Treasurer
 - Todd provided a financial spreadsheet handout for June and July, noting that there are still a few days left in July
 - He said that the finances look good and there are no concerns at this point
 - Todd said that the bus expenses have been a bit higher because of mechanical issues that have had to be addressed
 - Financial Report was unanimously approved
- **Trustee Board Report:** Scott Billingsley – Chair
 - This has been a busy month for the trustees
 - Scott addressed some issues the bus has had and he said that we ended up getting Greg Hanson trucking in Karlstad to do the repair work needed.
 - There ended up being some additional issues with the bus and he relayed how Sheldon Espe was driving a group when the bus stopped working on the

way home. Vans had to be sent to pick up the kids, and the bus was eventually fixed in Blackduck

- The round top window in the Foyer has a broken seal. Scott said that Thief River Falls Glass was initially going to replace it but they ended up not being able to do so
- He said that the new van has some chips in the windshield that need to be addressed before it becomes a bigger problem
- Scott noted that other than above issues he highlighted things have been going well
- **Ministries & Outreach Board Report:** Sonya Peterson – Chair
 - Sonya extended a thank you to everyone for helping with the Fair carnival worker event
 - She said that the Fair workers did take a lot of bibles that were provided
 - Regarding mission work with Pastor Ken Danielson. There is a small group that has signed up to do praise and worship, and a date will be planned to do this. She said there is a February fishing event and VBS and she is working with Pastor Kenny on how we can be involved with these things
- **Christian Formation Board Report:** Rachel Krahn – Chair
 - Rachel talked about the impact our church has at the Fair. She gave an example of Wendy from the carnival getting up to pray at the Fair event and related how the carnival owner mentioned that it was a big deal for Wendy to get up and pray in front of the group
 - There are a lot of things coming up that the CFB is involved in, including the nursery and children's church which are ongoing.
 - Rachel emphasized that there is always a plea for volunteers and noted that there are a lot of new families coming to church and that the nursery is being used a lot
 - Regarding new families attending the service. She pointed out that activity bags for kids are available and most of those bags are being used during the service. More bags will be made to accommodate, so spread the word that this resource is available and also that children's church is also offered
 - Regarding Volunteers. They must agree to a statement of faith and there is a basic version that is currently being used. However, the CFB would like to come up with something refined where volunteers are able to articulate that "this is what I believe at this church"
 - VBS starts this Sunday and our church is teaming up with the Baptist and Community churches again. The Community church will be hosting this

summer. They could still use additional volunteers for things such as decorating, etc

- Regarding the Bluewater bus breaking down on the way home. She talked about how it ended up being quite an “event” and that Dave Anderson was the chaperone and Sheldon Espe was driving. She said that even though the kids talked about how it was a long and hot day they also said they had fun with it, nonetheless. Tracy Fichter drove the church van, and Sam Grey came with her van, and everyone made it home safely
- Regarding the Fall schedule. School starts before Labor Day this year. Training and our Fall Kick-Off will be on Sept 13th with the exact times to be determined
- Sunday School will start on September 20th
- **Deacon Board Report:** Jan Carr-Herseth – Deacon
 - Jan said the Adult Sunday School line up will be the following:
 - Personal Testimonies. The deacons will be developing some questions designed as a guide to help people give their own testimony
 - Chris Shortreed and Darren Smedsmo will lead an 8-week study on the topic of apologetics which will begin on October 4th
 - Advent Season Sunday School is yet to be determined
 - Beginning after with the new year Pastor Nate will be leading a study on evangelism
 - There will also be a series on missions of the world, and the leader will be determined. This session was led by Pastor Nate’s father Pastor Steve Johnson last year
 - Prayer time is ongoing on Sunday mornings. There will also be week-long prayer events two times and which are planned to be held in September and again in January
 - The deacons are also discussing future visitation training
 - Small group Bible study leaders will meet in August
 - Women’s Study concludes on August 19th
 - Men’s study will begin in September
 - Grief Share Program. There will be a new 13-week session starting on August 17th
 - There will be a Loss of a Spouse event on August 5th
 - Regarding Communion. The deacons have been working on getting a more organized flow for people coming forward and returning to their seats. With this in mind, a 3rd communion serving station will be added

- The deacons are also involved in the oversight of various ministries in our church
- **Additional Topics for Discussion**
 - Traci Fichter
 - She emphasized how our recently purchased van has been a huge help this summer and especially considering problems that have come up with the bus
 - The van has accommodated half our trips and thanks to everyone who donated
 - 141 kids that have been or will be transported to Bluewater by our church
 - There are 2 more camps left after this week
 - Traci noted the recent issues with the bus and said we should pray for it. Darren Smedsmo said he drove it yesterday and reported that it worked great
 - Dave Anderson
 - Brought up discussion of the church AED and said that Marissa and Carlton Cleven are taking care of the expense of training that will be taking place in our church
 - The upcoming training will be for use of the AED and for administering First Aid
 - The classes are contemplated to be held on August 16th. A discussion ensued regarding possible alternate dates for the training due to conflicts such as Bluewater Family Camp and and Bridal Shower happening at the church. The consensus was that it is not possible to accommodate every scheduling conflict. As of now, the training will occur on August 16th.
 - According to Marissa the instructor will be Tammy Klein from Grygla
 - Dave noted that the batteries have been replaced in the AED and are good for another 2 years.
 - Darren Smedsmo
 - At the prompting of Tony Fichter, Darren talked about his plans/ideas for returning to the Red Lake reservation after the ordeal of his emergency plane landing there and consequent seizing and ultimate release of his plane
 - Darren indicated that he would like to be able to return and provide plane rides for youth at the reservation

- He talked about his contact with John Herrington (Native American and former astronaut for NASA) and possibly teaming up with him in an event at Red Lake
 - Tony stated that this is a great example of turning a negative situation into a possibility of building bridges
- **Next Congregational Meeting:** Tuesday, October 27th, 2026
- **Motion to adjourn:** Todd Peterson and seconded by Chris Shortreed
- **Closing Prayer:** Darren Smedsmo