

**VEGREVILLE UNITED CHURCH**  
**Minutes of Church Council Meeting**  
**September 10, 2025 at 2:00 pm, Friendship Room**

**Present In-Person:** Sharon Lashmar, Georgina Baron, Rev. Laureta Blondin, Bill Rowe, Holly Cependa, Ellen Johnstone, Pat Buehler, Heather Short, Antoinette Fortier, and Irene Sabados

**Meeting was called to order by Georgina Baron at 2:00 pm**

**Devotion:** Holly read the Bio of Rt. Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath, our new moderator for the United Church of Canada. If anyone is interested in learning more, go to <https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/organization-and-governance/moderator/ri-ght-rev-dr-kimberly-heath-45th-moderator>

**Approval/Additions to Agenda:** Pat Buehler made a motion and Heather Short seconded the motion to accept the agenda as presented. **CARRIED.**

**Approval of Minutes for June 11, 2025:** Holly Cependa made a motion and Ellen Johnstone seconded the motion to approve the minutes as presented. **CARRIED.**

**Correspondence:** None

**Old Business/Business arising:**

- **Fundraisers** - Holly reported that we will be catering a luncheon on December 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm for the **Lions Golden Villa** (30 - 40 people). It will be \$30/plate (Turkey & Ham Supper). - Holly informed everyone that her granddaughter brought up an idea for a new kind of fundraiser **“Bid to Block a Hymn for a Full Year”** where everyone puts in their ideas to retire a hymn for a year. (This could also be to bid on your favorite hymn that can be sung for a year.) Discussed that we will talk to the music team about this. - Our **Apple Crisp Sale** is coming up on Tuesday, with the ladies getting together on Monday to make the Apple Crisps. Some other events we discussed were a **Spaghetti, Chili, or Lasagna Supper** maybe on November 1<sup>st</sup>; Halloween is on a Friday this year, not sure if we will do an event for the kids. We will take a look at the calendar after our meeting to discuss.
- **Refugee Sponsorship** - Antoinette asked if we could share our information about the Refugee family with a committee that is connecting Palestinian families. It was discussed that if Hayyan & Rama are okay with sharing their story of coming to Canada then it is okay with the Council members. Holly mentioned that it has already been one year that the Refugee family has been here in Vegreville and the monthly funding has ended. The family seems to have adjusted well to their new home.

**Committee Reports:**

- **Treasurer’s Report** - The cash flow sheets for June, July, & August were distributed to everyone. Irene went through all the sheets briefly. There was a \$50 honorarium for lodge music ministry that was donated back to us in June. The following are the balances for the past 3 months:

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<b>June Cash Flow Sheet:</b>	<b>Previous Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 6,127.26</b>
	<b>Total Inflows:</b>	<b>+ 8,383.86</b>
	<b>Total Outflows:</b>	<b>- 7,632.34</b>
	<b>Current Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 6,878.78</b>
<b>General Account</b>	<b>\$ 6,878.78 + \$50 donated back to us (Chq #1109)</b>	
<b>Memorial</b>	<b>1,109.43</b>	
<b>Capital</b>	<b>0.91</b>	
<b>Common Share (Profit Share)</b>	<b>487.00</b>	
	<b>\$ 8,476.12</b>	

<b>July Cash Flow Sheet:</b>	<b>Previous Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 6,928.78</b>
	<b>Total Inflows:</b>	<b>+ 4,314.83</b>
	<b>Total Outflows:</b>	<b>- 4,137.72</b>
	<b>Current Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 7,105.89</b>
<b>General Account</b>	<b>\$7,105.89</b>	
<b>Memorial</b>	<b>1,109.43</b>	
<b>Capital</b>	<b>0.91</b>	
<b>Common Share (Profit Share)</b>	<b>487.00</b>	
	<b>\$8,703.23</b>	

<b>August Cash Flow Sheet:</b>	<b>Previous Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 7,105.89</b>
	<b>Total Inflows:</b>	<b>+ 7,349.05</b>
	<b>Total Outflows:</b>	<b>- 2,719.01</b>
	<b>Current Balance:</b>	<b>\$11,735.93</b>
<b>General Account</b>	<b>\$11,735.93</b>	
<b>Memorial</b>	<b>1,109.43</b>	
<b>Capital</b>	<b>0.91</b>	
<b>Common Share (Profit Share)</b>	<b>487.00</b>	
	<b>\$13,333.27</b>	

- **Finance** - Recommendations from our Finance meeting: **Ellen Johnstone** made a motion that we will transfer \$3,500 this month to our RSV Pastoral Charge Account and **Pat Buehler** seconded this motion. Explanation for the larger amount is that for the last 3 months our motion was to only transfer \$1,200 per month but because we had to make our denominational assessment quarterly payment of \$1,112.25 this summer, we were left short for secretarial wages and these hours will be added to this month's wages. Rev. Laureta's pulpit supply comes out of this account as well as our telephone/internet charges. **CARRIED.**
- **Worship** - Wayne Tuck wanted to do something special in memory of Geri and he decided that he would pay for the cost of our prayer room to be painted and have a chair rail with an etched design to be installed in there. Tanya Tuck is making a stained glass window that will be put up in that room as well, in memory of Geri. - Holly let everyone know that there were some hymn books (More Voices and Voices United along with 2 big red books for Ellen) being given away and they are over at her cousin's house in Saskatchewan. She will either pick them up or they will come this way to drop them off. - On September 28<sup>th</sup> we will be recognizing the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

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- **Worship (continued)** - We will have a guest preacher this day and Rev. Laureta will add some special prayers to our service. Let Rev. Laureta know if there are any other days that we are wanting to recognize in the future and she will include it in our service.
- **Christian Education** - On August 8<sup>th</sup> the United Church of Canada presented an apology to 2S and LGBTQIA+ communities. Holly read out the apology to everyone, although it is online if anyone wants to watch the video. - Day Camp this summer went really well. We had 9 children in August and very few in July but they all enjoyed the camp. Lisa came in for an hour to sing with the children and they all learned a new prayer to sing before they had snacks/lunch. - Holly distributed a copy of the Community Spiritual Needs Survey that she will be handing out later today at the Fall Community Information Night. The only changes suggested were to add a phone # or contact # for item 7 (Are you interested in a visit from our Minister or Fellowship Team?) Decision was made to have draw for a door prize (rhubarb crisp) for those who fill out the survey. - Rev. Laureta will be setting up a schedule for Bible Study soon.
- **Property & Maintenance** - Bill reported that he replaced all the smoke detectors in the building as they expired. They are good for 10 years now. Grass is being maintained well this summer by H&K Services and Bill trimmed some weeds and bushes.
- **Fellowship** - Pat visited with Lynda Paul when she was in Grande Prairie this summer and had a visit with Pat Stewart. Georgina and Pat went to Mundare to visit with Velma Sample. Heather saw George Sample and he is on a waiting list to be transferred to a senior's home. Thank you to everyone for the visitations.
- **Ministry & Personnel** - Shirley was not able to make it to the meeting but janitorial is going well. Traci is back to work this month and doing well. If required, Linda is available to help out.
- **Regional Business News & Ministerial Meeting** - Holly gave us the information on the new moderator. - Rev. Laureta talked to the new Roman Catholic priest about starting up ministerial meetings, maybe twice a year. Georgina would also like to join in on the ministerial meetings once they start up. - Rev. Laureta is thinking of moving the Nativity Festival over to the Roman Catholic church this year. The funds raised will be going to the Food Bank, same as last year.
- **Pastoral Charge Supervisor** - Sharon did not have any items to bring up except wondering when we will be signing our agreement. Rev. Laureta will phone Rev. Adam Hall about leading our worship service on October 5<sup>th</sup> and signing the ecumenical agreement that day. Once the agreement is signed, Sharon will not need to attend our meetings. Thank you to Sharon for attending all our meetings.
- **St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church** - Discussed at the last Vestry meeting that the Spaghetti Dinner can be held on November 1<sup>st</sup>. After some discussion, everyone agreed that Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> (Guy Fawkes Day) would be a better day. Rev. Laureta mentioned that we can have a rummage sale early October. All the items that are on the stage can be moved to St. Mary's as there is lots of room there and this way the items are not taking up space in our Auditorium. On November 16<sup>th</sup> is our Sing-Along Fundraiser for the Food Bank.

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- **Motion to accept reports - Pat Buehler made a motion and Heather Short seconded** the motion to accept reports as presented. **CARRIED.**

**New Business:**

- **Mark 13 members from our Historical Roll Book as Deceased** - Pat and Georgina went through our Roll Book before our 100<sup>th</sup> Centennial Celebration, as we were sending out invitations, and found 13 members that were not marked as deceased. These were members who we lost contact with or had moved away many years ago.
- Discuss **“removal of inactive members by action of the Council”** - There are many names in our Roll Book that can be removed. Pat and Georgina will make up a list to bring to Council.
- **Update Funeral Brochure with Fees** - Discussion took place on our funeral brochure that hasn't been updated since after Rev. Pamela left. Our Fees listed under “Service in Other Locations” should have a note added underneath to explain this fee (maybe an Administration Fee). Rev. Laureta and Irene to discuss the correct wording to add in this area.
- **Cost for use of Prayer Room** - Wedding on September 27, 2025 (Barb Leskiw) - It was discussed at our Finance Meeting that the family can make a donation to Vegreville United Church for the use of the Prayer Room. (Since our meeting, the date of the wedding has been changed to October 25, 2025.)
- **Continue with Facebook Page and Zoom Worship?** It was discussed whether we want to continue with our Zoom as there are fewer people online now for our Worship Services. It was decided that we continue with Zoom and Facebook as it is of value to the Church. There are a lot of people watching our services after it is posted on Facebook. Holly is donating the cost of the Zoom account and Zoom is also used for our meetings. Discussion on Copyright and Podcast fees to have our services with hymns live streamed over Zoom. Our “One License” will cost \$366 this next upcoming renewal (includes annual reprint license and podcast/streaming permissions).
- **2025 Community Spiritual Needs Survey** discussed under Christian Education.

**Devotions next meeting:** Christian Education

**Closing Prayer:** Sharon Lashmar

**Next Meeting:** October 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.

**Adjournment:** 3:50 pm

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**Georgina Baron, Council Chair**

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**Irene Sabados, Secretary**