

VEGREVILLE UNITED CHURCH
Minutes of Church Council Meeting
June 11, 2025 at 2:00 pm, Friendship Room

Present In-Person: Sharon Lashmar, Georgina Baron, Bill Rowe, Holly Cependa, Ellen Johnstone, Pat Buehler, Heather Short, Rob Bown, and Irene Sabados

Meeting was called to order by Georgina Baron at 1:59 pm - Quorum Present

Devotion: Georgina read the devotion from “Our Daily Bread” booklet for June 11th titled “Stay Ready”

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 May 14, 2025: Ellen Johnstone made a motion and Bill Rowe seconded the motion to approve the minutes with three corrections: Adding Heather Short to the “**Present In-Person**” at the top of Page 1; March Cash Flow Sheet should read **April Cash Flow Sheet** on Page 2; and a better explanation was added under **Christian Education** regarding Holly’s meeting with FCSS and partnering up for Sizzling Summer. **CARRIED.**

Correspondence: Georgina read an email from Jeannie, a classmate, who wasn’t able to come to the 100th Celebration. Two other classmates, Laura and Marilyn attended our celebration, it was nice to have them join us as their parents were really involved in the church at one time. Georgina commented that Betty Henderson was very grateful that she was invited to join us in our celebration.

Old Business/Business arising:

- **Fundraisers** - We are getting ready for our BBQ and Jumble Sale this Saturday. We have volunteers to work at the BBQ outside and also enough volunteers to help out with the sale items inside the auditorium. This Friday we will be setting up tables and getting all the items sorted out for the sale. We are planning to have a rhubarb crisp (and pie) sale for July - discussion took place that we just need to find a day that is not too busy. We have two BBQ fundraisers at the Co-op for August, both are long weekends so it should be busy. We were asked to do some catering for **Lions Golden Villa** at the end of the year (40 to 50 people) and this is something we are considering - Pat, Holly, Heather, Val, and Linda to help out with this.
- **100th Centennial Celebration** -Discussion took place on this past weekend’s celebration. We are all very pleased with the turnout and everyone enjoyed the meal, the handbell choir, and the gospel sing-a-long. Rev. Stephen got up during the sing-a-long to let everyone know a little history of the United Church. The flowers for the tables were all donated by Flowerland. It was discussed at our Finance meeting that we would reimburse Heather for the purchase of the balloons and the special cake that was made with our United Church building photo on top of it.

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Committee Reports:

- **Treasurer's Report** - The cash flow sheet for May was distributed to everyone. There were no questions about any of the items. The following are the balances for the end of May:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| • May Cash Flow Sheet: | Previous Balance: | \$ 3,493.83 |
| | Total Inflows: | + 8,383.71 |
| | Total Outflows: | - 5,750.28 |
| | Current Balance: | \$ 6,127.26 |

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| General Account | 6,127.26 |
| Memorial | 1,109.43 |
| Capital | 0.91 |
| Common Share (Profit Share) | 487.00 |
| | \$ 7,724.60 |

- **Finance** - Recommendations from our Finance meeting: **Pat Buehler** made a motion that we can transfer \$1200 to our RSV Pastoral Charge Account for the next three months (June, July, and August) and **Ellen Johnstone** seconded the motion. **CARRIED.** Some information items, our Multi-Purpose Room and Kindergarten Room will be booked for one more Monday evening (possibly two) as the renovations in the Sunshine Club are not yet completed. Irene will be working at the Hospital in the mornings from June 23rd to 30th and will not be available in the office until 2:00 pm these days.
- **Worship** - Ellen commented that her and Lisa worked well together to get ready for the 100th Celebration Hymn Sing. The sing-along went over really well and everyone participated. Ellen is away the first two weeks in July and Lisa will be covering these two Sundays. Val Rowe will be the worship leader for this Sunday as Rev. Laureta will be doing a service in Vermilion. Discussion took place in regards to having two United Church services and two Anglican Church services each month now that we are worshipping together in one building. On the days where there is an extra Sunday, we would have a blended service. Everyone agreed that our United Church worship days are needing to be more "United" rather than "Anglican" as this Sunday's bulletin seems to lean more towards an Anglican service. Another thing to discuss is that we do not need to have communion every Sunday.
- **Christian Education** - There were five children in attendance this Sunday so we could finally have a Sunday School lesson (Max, Ivy, Kayleigh, Chloe, and Nailee attended). Three of the girls will be registering for Day Camp for July and August. Irene to call the parents to confirm.
- **Property & Maintenance** - Bill reported that the grass was cut before our 100th Anniversary Celebration and the yard looked beautiful. There were some pallets leaning against our storage shed which Bill removed so that kids would not climb up on them. There is a garden hose in the Janitorial Room that we can use to water the plants out front. Bill will bring in a spray nozzle to attach to the hose.

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- **Fellowship** - Heather and Pat were out doing some visiting. They went to see George Sample but he was outside in the garden when they came over. George will be moving to the same Care Centre as Velma, so it will be nice to have them together in the same building. Heather and Pat had a good visit with Joyce and Dave Ziegler. Georgina saw George and Gail Barclay and they are doing well.
- **Ministry & Personnel** - Rob will be scheduling yearly performance reviews with Linda and Irene.
- **Regional Business News & Ministerial Meeting** - Georgina reported that she went to the Northern Spirit Annual Meeting and it went really well. She met with people from the past Presbytery. There were over 100 people that attended. It was proposed at this meeting for a Sacrament Elder to be able to perform marriages but after discussion, everything will stay the same with no changes for now. Rev. Adam talked about how there are not very many United Church ministers left in the region. Self assessments are needing to be done as we haven't done anything since COVID. Georgina brought up about maybe taking out part of a pew halfway down the isle (in the Sanctuary) to make room for a wheelchair or scooter, so that people don't have to sit at the back of the church. Discussion took place that maybe with it being Pride month that we put a Pride flag in the window (inside the church) so that everyone knows we are inclusive. Sharon commented that maybe we need to go through all the paperwork to be fully affirming before this can be displayed. We will check into this. Georgina mentioned that there was a session on stewardship at the Annual Meeting and there was a lady that displayed nice thank you cards - we can maybe contact her so that we can have some of these cards. Rev. Laureta was not in attendance to comment on the Ministerial meeting that she attended (only two other ministers came to the meeting). Georgina commented that she would like to attend these meetings.
- **Pastoral Charge Supervisor** - Sharon commented on the beautiful flowers and plants outside the church. Ellen, Pat, Heather, and Antoinette have been taking care of the flower beds.
- **St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church** - Heather has been going over to St. Mary's to help bring some items back to our church. She also attended the last Vestry Meeting on June 2nd. They did discuss that because we are struggling financially they are contemplating helping us out if we should need funds before they sell their church building. Once the building is sold, the funds will be used here in our building for any upgrades like a new kitchen. Maybe with all the people in our community for all the garage sales happening on Saturday, someone else might see the "for sale" sign and express interest. The price has gone down to \$299,000 now.
- **Motion to accept reports - Pat Buehler made a motion and Ellen Johnstone seconded the motion to accept reports as presented. CARRIED.**

New Business:

- **Structural Change Evaluation Survey**- This survey has been sent to all of the committee members. There is a link to click on to go through the questions. The deadline is June 22nd. Georgina will complete this survey for us.

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- **Next Joint Vestry/Council Meeting and Next RSV Pastoral Charge Meeting -** Joanne had given us a couple days that we can choose from for our next joint meeting, either the 16th or 23rd of June. It was discussed that either day is okay as it is hard to find a day that is good for everyone. Mondays are not a good day for Holly to attend these meetings. We can let Joanne know that they can choose either day and then inform us. In the past we had RSV meetings four times per year but it was discussed that it is not necessary to have that many. Maybe we can schedule one meeting for the fall.
- **New Name for the Shared Church Building -** The voting link that was sent out with all the choices of names ended up with 24 people who replied and the most votes was for **#16 Anglican and United Church Ministries**. Discussion took place that even though some wanted to extend the deadline for the voting past June 6th, we had to stay with what our original message said that people would only have until the 6th of June to vote and we will not change that.

Devotions next meeting: Worship

Closing Prayer: Sharon Lashmar

Next Meeting: September 10, 2025 at 2:00 pm or on the call of the Chair.

Adjournment: 3:30 pm

Georgina Baron, Council Chair

Irene Sabados, Secretary