

VEGREVILLE UNITED CHURCH
Minutes of Church Council Meeting
October 9, 2024 at 2:00 pm, Auditorium

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

Meeting was called to order by Georgina Baron at 2:04 pm - Quorum Present.

Devotion: Christian Education - Holly read a devotional from **“Our Daily Bread” - Being Thankful Despite Trials**

Approval/Additions to Agenda: Pat Buehler made a motion and Bill Rowe seconded the motion to accept the agenda with the addition of Sacramental Elder Training to Old Business. **CARRIED.**

Approval of Minutes for September 4, 2024: Holly Cependa made a motion and Heather Short seconded the motion to approve the minutes as presented. **CARRIED.**

New Correspondence:

- **The King’s University** - Irene read a letter from King’s University regarding an Open House on October 19th if any students are interested. Prospective students who attend any on-campus or virtual events will have their application fee waived and also receive a free sweater.
- **St. Andrew’s College (College Sunday 2024-25)** - Pat read the letter from St. Andrew’s College. They invite us to designate one Sunday in the coming year as “College or Vocation Sunday”. College Sundays can include using provided resources for parts of a service or as the focus of the entire liturgy.

Old Business/Business arising:

- **Fundraisers** - Holly commented that there was the perfect amount of people helping out with our Rhubarb and Apple Crisp Fundraiser. 70 small containers and 46 large containers were made. Fundraising amount is \$760 so far and the containers of Apple Crisp that were left over were frozen for anyone who wants to still purchase some. Twenty bags of sliced apples were frozen, we will be able to make 20 pies. Pat will be coordinating our Purdy’s Fundraiser for Christmas again this year. She received a box of chocolates that will be donated as a door prize for the Christmas Tea on November 23rd.
- **Refugee Sponsorship** - Our Refugee family that we sponsored arrived on September 25th. They will be able to move into their townhouse on October 15th but in the meantime are staying with Khalid & Maha. Their banking has all been set up and meals are looked after up until the day they move into their own home. They speak very good English and their children volunteered to help out with our Safe Halloween Party. Once they are settled in their new place, we can set up an interview for the newspaper.
- **100th Centennial Celebration** - Heather & Pat volunteered to be on the Centennial Committee. Discussion took place on the merchandise listed on the United Church of Canada website (mugs, etc.) that we can purchase to sell next year, maybe at our Tea & Bake Sale in May. Also discussed that maybe we can get a Church recipe book typed up with everyone’s favorite recipes. (The recipes can be posted in a separate tab on our Church website. Irene to set this up.)

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- **Sacramental Elder Training** - Holly attended her first session of training where Baptism was the focus. She is able to do baptisms for Vegreville & Salem if she is approved to be licensed. Holly mentioned that there a quite a few steps involved in the process.

Committee Reports:

- **Treasurer’s Report** - Cash Flow sheet for September was distributed to everyone. Irene went through some of the items listed. Under General Fund Income \$3,533.66, lots of yearly donations are being recieved now; Pulpit Supply (\$247) was for Rev. Laureta; \$122.72 for Sound System Tech. (Reegan); Photocopier \$508.80 is our quarterly lease payment; Janitor Salary \$84.38 (Traci); Repairs and Maintenance, costs of lawn maintenance donated and \$210 was to replace defective flood lamp.

September Cash Flow Sheet:	Previous Balance:	\$2,973.44
	Total Inflows:	+ 6,143.66
	Total Outflows:	- 3,461.19
	Current Balance:	\$ 5,655.91

General Account	5,655.91
Memorial	1,109.43
Capital	0.91
Common Share (Profit Share)	541.11
	\$7,307.36

- **Finance** - It was discussed at Finance that there is one more quarterly payment left to be made for our Denominational Assessment (\$1,144.75) and with events and meetings starting back up, the office is busier again so we need to increase the amount being transferred to our RSV account. A motion was made by **Pat Buehler**, seconded by **Bill Rowe**, that we pay \$1750 to RSV Pastoral Charge account instead of \$1200. **CARRIED.**
- **Worship** - Rev. Laureta had a few questions from Ellen - Should the Remembrance Day Banners be put up in our Church? It was discussed that we are over at the Anglican Church before Remembrance Day so we do not need the banners put up here but maybe we can put up a banner at the Anglican Church. Should we put up the Advent Banners for the Christmas Tea? It was discussed that it would be a good idea to have the banners up for the Tea. Discussed the set up for the Nativity Festival - maybe set up on the 27th and 28th. We discussed a simple concession for the Nativity Festival like muffins/cookies/tea/coffee as some people are away during this time. Discussed that for the November 23rd Christmas Tea we can have some of the Nativity sets on the stage. Rev. Laureta will announce the Nativity Festival dates this Sunday.

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- **Christian Education** - Holly commented that Day Camp went really well on October 4th. There were 9 children (including one junior leader this time but sometimes there will be two leaders who will be at all our Day Camps and Kid's Klub to help out). Our Safe Halloween event is coming up on October 31st and we will need volunteers to help man all the stations (each station is a different planet; our Space Café will be serving hot dogs and hamburgers). Rev. Laureta offered to help out with this event. If anyone else is interested, contact Holly.
- **Property & Maintenance** - Bill reported that we had a leak in the Narthex furnace room coming from the roof. Bill and Wolf went up on the flat roof to investigate where the leak was coming from. There was a broken flood light conduit, Wolf repaired the conduit and also cleared the drain by getting rid of the moss buildup (15 wheelbarrows full). The area was sprayed with a bleach mix to prevent moss buildup in the future. Wolf will go back up on the roof to check on things in the Spring.
- **Fellowship** - Pat and Heather will continue their visits in November as some of our members had family visiting over the Thanksgiving season.
- **Ministry & Personnel** - Holly reported that everything is going well. We had a going away party for Rev. Pamela and Sidney on October 6th. Rev. Pamela was asked to take part in our communion service that day. Rev. Pamela was also welcomed to come back and visit and join in on our services the next time she comes back to town.
- **Regional Business News & Ministerial Meeting** - Northern Spirit emails are being forwarded to all our committee members. Rev. Laureta asked to get a copy of these emails as well. Registration is open for online Regional Meeting on October 24th. Rev. Laureta commented that the chaplain at St. Joseph's Hospital is putting together a half-hour service for Advent with the different denominations (December 18th will be for Anglican/United).
- **Pastoral Charge Supervisor** - Sharon had a positive comment on all our hard work and we thanked Sharon for attending our meetings.
- **St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church** - Rev. Laureta stated that we should be seeing a "for sale" sign going up soon. They are still waiting for some paperwork to be completed as the title to the building says "Church of England" and this needs to be changed. The lawyer for the Diocese of Edmonton is working on this.

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

New Business:

- **Booking of Kitchen for 4-H** - Irene got a request from the Vegreville 4-H Club to book the Church kitchen once a month on a Sunday evening for teaching the youth some cooking skills (they will be supervised by the parents; they will bring their own ingredients but will use our kitchenware). **Holly Cependa made a motion and Heather Short seconded the motion** that the 4-H Club in Vegreville can book the kitchen once a month on a Sunday evening as long as they volunteer to help out at some of our events. Also, before their first session, someone will show them around the kitchen to show them how the oven works and where everything is kept. **CARRIED.**

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Devotions next meeting: Worship

Closing Prayer: Rev. Laureta Blondin

Next Meeting: November 13th at 2:00 pm

Adjournment: 3:25

Georgina Baron, Chairperson

Irene Sabados, Secretary