

VEGREVILLE UNITED CHURCH
Minutes of Church Council Meeting
May 14, 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, and Irene Sabados

Meeting was called to order by Georgina Baron at 2:05 pm - Quorum Present

Devotion: Irene Sabados read the devotion from “Our Daily Bread” booklet titled “Bring It To God”

Approval/Additions to Agenda: Holly Cependa made a motion and Pat Buehler seconded the motion to accept the agenda with additional items under New Business - Garden Bench; Sign; and Keys. **CARRIED.**

Approval of Minutes for April 9, 2025: Ellen Johnstone made a motion and Heather Short seconded the motion to approve the minutes with one correction under Finance to change Pulpit Supply from 3 Sundays to two Sundays and one weekday. **CARRIED.**

Correspondence: Thank you card was received from the 4-H Youth Club for the use of our kitchen. They were able to volunteer and help us at some of our fundraising events when they were able and not busy with other activities. Thank you card was received from Peggy Allen’s family for the Celebration of Life service held at the Vegreville Legion.

Old Business/Business arising:

- **Fundraisers** - Holly commented that the Spring Tea and Bake Sale went really well. We made just under \$1300. There is one silent auction item that we will leave out until our 100th Anniversary Celebration to let people continue to bid on the quilt. We will announce the winner on June 7th. Tomorrow is the hot dog and hamburger sale at the Co-op. There are 6 helpers so that should work out well.
- **100th Centennial Celebration** - So far we have 24 replies from people who will be attending the June 7th dinner (some have already paid for their tickets). Discussion took place that maybe the handbell performance and sing-along would be better in the Sanctuary rather than in the Auditorium so that it would be easier for the caterers to clean up after supper. Decision was made that the handbell ringers would start a little bit later (6:00 pm) so that it would give people time to visit a little bit after supper. Scrap books, photos, and memorabilia will be set out in the Friendship Room for people to look through after supper. Rev. Stephen & Melissa Sparks will attend our June 7th Celebration and there will be a Communion Service on June 8th with Rev. Stephen as our guest minister. Holly to announce this Sunday that May 24th is the deadline to RSVP. June 1st Service will be switched to be an Anglican Communion Service so that Rev. Stephen can do a United Communion Service on June 8th.
- **Updated Church Family Photos** - Discussed at our last meeting that we will do this in the Fall before our “Welcome Back” Service.
- **National Volunteer Week was April 27 - May 3** - There will be a Volunteer Appreciation BBQ on Wednesday, June 18th from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm at the Library, with games and entertainment.

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Committee Reports:

- **Treasurer's Report** - The cash flow sheet for April was distributed to everyone. Under income we brought in \$2,575 for Envelope Offerings; \$1,006.94 for Fundraising which includes payments for Purdy's chocolates \$696.94 plus \$330 for payments received for Easter Lilies plus \$10 for Pies; \$200 In Memory of Peggy Allen; and under Camp Whitney we received a donation of \$100 which was sent to Camp Whitney. Under fundraising expenses \$257.13 was paid to St. Mary's for the lilies (\$72.87 profit for each church); under Office Equipment three shelving units were donated for Stage Left so that we can use them for storing our old office files and records. \$1,591.76 for Gas & Power; Under repairs and maintenance (\$1,551.43) our sidewalk snow removal was \$365 and the rest was donated cost for waxing floors, parking lot snow removal, and disposal of wood at the Town Garbage Facility.

• April Cash Flow Sheet:	Previous Balance:	\$ 6,091.66
	Total Inflows:	+ 6,113.14
	Total Outflows:	- 8,710.97
	Current Balance:	\$ 3,493.83

General Account	3,493.83
Memorial	1,109.43
Capital	0.91
Common Share (Profit Share)	487.00
	\$ 5,091.17

- **Finance** - Recommendations from our Finance meeting: Georgina Baron requested that she be reimbursed \$175 for the Registration Fee as well as the mileage to travel to the Northern Spirit Annual Meeting in Edmonton. She will not need to be reimbursed for accommodation because she is staying with her sister. **Ellen Johnstone** made a motion and **Pat Buehler** seconded the motion that we reimburse Georgina the \$175 Registration Fee as well as mileage to Edmonton. **CARRIED.** For the month of May, we do not need to transfer funds for Rev. Laureta as we paid for one extra Sunday in April which will pay for May 4th Worship service. **Ellen Johnstone** made a motion and **Pat Buehler** seconded the motion that we transfer \$1,500 to RSV Pastoral Charge account for Secretarial wages and other expenses for the month of May. **CARRIED.**
- **Worship** - Ellen and Lisa picked out 25 songs for our June 7th Sing-Along. Each song will be 3 verses each and would last about an hour. The Handbell performance would be about 6 to 9 songs and might last about half hour. Discussed that we need to clean where the Handbell Choir members will be walking down toward the choir loft. The bench by the pulpit is too big and can be taken out. Discussion took place that we would have no potluck lunches for July and August as well as no communion for the third Sundays during the summer. Set up for June 7th will take place on June 4th (Wednesday) - setting up tables in the Auditorium and getting things set up in the Friendship Room. Discussed setting a prayer on each table (maybe put this on the back of an invitation). We are needing a new photo of the church to be placed on the cake. Heather to take the photo and order the cake a week before our celebration.

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- **Christian Education** - We had a one day Day Camp that went really well. There were 9 children that attended. For our Easter Egg Hunt there were 11 children plus some of the parents. Some of the children and parents stayed for the potluck and the Maundy Thursday service afterwards. Summer Day Camps are scheduled for July 22, 23, 24 and August 26, 27, 28. Our church was contacted by FCSS to attend a meeting regarding partnering with the Sizzling Summer program. Holly attended the meeting via Zoom and explained the program, the dates and times, etc. and said we would totally be open to a partnership. A few days later, Holly received a request for more information regarding program content. She sent the curriculum for the upcoming Day Camp. The next day, she received a response from FCSS saying that **they appreciate the work we do but they are not allowed to participate in any programs where prayer and scriptures are involved.** Holly then questioned why the church received the invitation to attend the meeting if there was no intention of partnering. She then forwarded the email conversation string to the Council Chair, Georgina to ensure she was aware of what transpired.
- **Property & Maintenance** - Bill reported that the grass was cut before our Tea & Bake Sale and the front yard looked very nice. Today the grass was cut before our meeting and dandelions were sprayed as well. Discussion took place on the light bulbs where the Handbell Choir is performing - there needs to be brighter lights up there and maybe change the light bulbs to LED lights. The upper lights in the main sanctuary area are **only** to be turned on when we use the upstairs. Holly requested that the paper towel dispenser in the ladies bathroom be moved closer to the doorway with the garbage container placed underneath it. This gives more room by the two sinks, especially during Day Camp days when there are a lot of kids in there at the same time. Irene mentioned that maybe at the same time the old soap dispensers can be taken out as the old soap inside has already hardened.
- **Fellowship** - Pat and Heather did some visiting with Donna McCrimmon and Rod & Joyce Stewart. Pat was in Grande Prairie and visited with Darlene and Bob & Lynda. Pat and Heather took Irene out for Administrative Professionals Day. Thank you to Pat & Heather - very much appreciated!
- **Ministry & Personnel** - Shirley was not in attendance but Irene mentioned that Linda is still covering for Traci and a couple times Traci has come in to help out with light duties.
- **Regional Business News & Ministerial Meeting** - Northern Spirit Annual Meeting is set for May 29th to June 1st. Georgina will be attending and will report back to us at the next meeting. Rev. Laureta mentioned that the Hospital Chaplain has been away so there was no meeting held.
- **Pastoral Charge Supervisor** - Sharon was asking where we are at with our Ecumenical Shared Agreement. Rev. Laureta mentioned that there were some questions on wording so Scott is sending it to Adam, then it will go back to Scott, and then it will come back to Laureta for our final signatures. We are hoping that by the end of June it will be ready and approved. Once the agreement is signed and approved, Sharon does not need to come to our meetings anymore. Thank you to Sharon for attending our meetings.

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- **St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church** - Rev. Laureta mentioned the sale of the Anglican Church has not gone through as planned. The couple that were thinking of buying the building could not get the commercial loan as they needed to put 50% down payment. They are trying to find other options.
- **Motion to accept reports - Bill Rowe made a motion and Heather Short seconded** the motion to accept reports as presented. **CARRIED.**

New Business:

- **Garden Bench** - Pat asked Council members if we were interested in having a bench out in front of our Church again. It was agreed that we would like to have one and Pat is donating a bench to the church. Thank you to Pat.
- **Sign** - Rev. Laureta mentioned that there are 9 suggestions made so far for a new Church name. Discussion took place that we are needing a “shared” name to put on the agreement. Rev. Laureta will draw up an email for Irene to send out to everyone to see if there are any other suggestions before we take it to a vote. The deadline for sending in suggested names will be May 26th and voting deadline will be on June 6th. The name with the most votes will be our new “shared” name for the building.
- **Keys - Holly Cependa** made a motion that we give a key to Rev. Laureta Blondin to the United Church office, **seconded by Heather Short. CARRIED.**

Devotions next meeting: Finance

Closing Prayer: Rev. Laureta Blondin

Next Meeting: June 11, 2025 at 2:00 pm

Adjournment: 3:30 pm

Georgina Baron, Council Chair

Irene Sabados, Secretary