VEGREVILLE UNITED CHURCH
Minutes of Church Council Meeting
November 19, 2025 at 10:00 am, Friendship Room

Present In-Person: Georgina Baron, Rev. Laureta Blondin, Bill Rowe, Ellen Johnstone, Pat Buehler, Holly Cependa, Antoinette Fortier, Shirley Rattray, and Irene Sabados

Meeting was called to order by Georgina Baron at 10:05 am

Devotion: Property & Maintenance - Bill read a devotional from "Our Daily Bread" devotional book called "Just Pray".

Approval/Additions to Agenda: **Pat Buehler** made a motion and **Ellen Johnstone** seconded the motion to accept the agenda with the additional item "Christmas Village Donation" under New Correspondence and "4-H Club Room Booking" under New Business. **CARRIED.**

Approval of Minutes for October 8, 2025: **Pat Buehler** made a motion and **Ellen Johnstone** seconded the motion to approve the minutes as presented. **CARRIED**.

Correspondence: Christmas Village Donation - We got an email from Darryl Magas and Georgina read the email to everyone. Darryl would like to donate his wife Joyce Magas' Christmas Village collection to the church as she felt that the United Church was very special because they got married in our church on December 1, 1998. After some discussion of where we would store all the pieces of the Christmas Village (maybe on the stage), it was decided that we accept the donation. Irene to call Darryl to let him know we are very thankful and that we will accept the donation.

Old Business/Business arising:

- **Fundraisers** - Holly commented that there are still a couple of small trays of **Rhubarb Crisp** left in the freezer if anyone wants to buy some. The **Spaghetti Supper** fundraiser went really well. There were about 55 people that we served. We froze one big tray and some small trays of spaghetti with sauce to have on hand for anyone who is in need. There are **two catering functions** coming up in December (9th for the Golden Villa and 16th for Parkview Manor). We have all the meat purchased for the 9th. We are still needing a turkey for the 16th. Holly read out all the items that we are still needing. Discussion took place on whether we are classified as a Commercial Kitchen and Holly has requested that the Health Inspector, Trevor, come to the Church to take a look at our kitchen. **Purdy's catalogues** are available for those who are wanting to buy chocolates for Christmas. The deadline for orders is November 25th. Our Christmas Tea and Bake Sale is coming up on Saturday, December 6th. We have 4-5 helpers from the 4-H Club to help with serving. If anyone is interested in doing some baking, we are needing pans of squares for the lunch and some baking or home canning for the sale table. Our **Nativity Festival** is December 12th from 4:30 to 7:00 pm and December 13th from 10:30 am to 4:30 pm. Holly would like to add a Nativity Station for the kids, either in front of the communion table or a table to the side. Holly asked Rev. Laureta if she could be the narrator. On Saturday afternoon Lisa and Jim will be playing music for the Festival. Our event posters have all been updated to say Anglican & United Church Ministries. Bill wanted to thank the Anglican Church for their hard work with the Rummage Sale, which our Church got half of the proceeds which was close to $1000.

- **Removal of inactive members** - Georgina and Pat went through all the names in our Historical Roll book and Pat read out the list of 123 people that can be marked as inactive. Georgina asked if there were any objections. There were two names that we would keep on our list that are Anglican members as well (Alice Field & David Dinwoodie). **Pat Buehler** made a motion that we remove 121 names (by action of **Council** - marked with a **C** in the book) and **Holly Cependa** seconded the motion. **CARRIED.**
- **Update Funeral Brochure with Fees -** Laureta updated the funeral brochure - the minister's fee was taken off the list (minister paid separately), our Church name was changed to The Anglican and United Church Ministries, and an Administration Fee of $250 was added in with an explanation that this fee covers the costs of preparation and printing of the Order of Service bulletins up to a maximum of $125 copies. Additional copies would be printed but families just need to speak with the minister about what the additional printing costs will be.
- **Remove Pew For Wheelchair Access** - Two pews were moved over from the Anglican Church and placed in the back of the Sanctuary, replacing our pews, right across from one another. It was discussed that two more pews would be brought over and replaced further to the front (middle) of the Sanctuary to accommodate people in wheelchairs (or those who need room for their walker) who want to sit closer to the front.

Committee Reports:

- **Treasurer's Report -** The cash flow sheet for October was distributed. Irene went through some of the items: Under Income - Env. Offerings $2,560 and General Fund $2,614.45; Memorial Fund we got donations in memory of Eric Smiley & Ritchie Dowling $35.00; Fundraising - there was an additional $40 brought in for sales of frozen Rhubarb Crisp; Vegreville Handbell Choir received $200 in donations; Under Expenses - Kid's Klub, Day Camp, Fundraising, and Repairs & Maintenance - all these costs were donated; Janitorial Supplies - a case of paper towels cost $121.34 and 2 soap dispensers $66.44 (credit will show up in next month's cash flow sheet -$66.44 for returned items). Manufacturer of the soap dispensers sent us 2 new soap dispensers complete with all the parts, no charge.

October Cash Flow Sheet:	**Previous Balance:**	**12,229.04**
	Total Inflows:	**+ 5,524.45**
	Total Outflows:	**- 5,098.94**
	Current Balance:	**$12,654.55**

General Account	**$12,654.55**
Memorial	**1,109.43**
Capital	**0.91**
Common Share (Profit Share)	**487.00**
	$14,251.89

- **Finance -** Some recommendations from our joint Finance Meeting (Joanne Veldkamp joined our Finance meeting.) - **Pat Buehler** made a motion that we transfer $3,500 to our RSV Pastoral Charge account this month to cover Rev. Laureta's pulpit supply, last quarterly payment for our denominational assessment, and for secretarial wages, seconded by **Ellen Johnstone**. **CARRIED**. The 2026 Budget (with estimated amounts for 2025 year end included as well) was discussed at our Finance meeting and a copy was distributed to everyone today to review. **Pat Buehler** made a motion to approve the budget as presented, seconded by **Ellen Johnstone**. **CARRIED.** An RSV Pastoral Charge Meeting was also set for December 10th at 9:30 AM before our next Council Meeting which we will change the start time to 10:30 AM. Irene to check with Brent Christensen to see if this date and time works for Salem members.
- **Worship** - Ellen commented that the Sing For Their Supper Food Bank fundraiser went really well. We raised $1037.65 in cash donations and 164 lbs of food was delivered to the Food Bank. This Thursday and Friday the new banners for the Christmas season will be hung and Christmas decorations will be set up. Freeman is sanding and staining the pews from the Anglican Church so that they match our pews. On December 21st for our Lessons and Carols service there will be many musicians participating along with our regular musicians (Vegreville Handbell Choir, Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church Choir, St. John's Lutheran Church Choir & Friends). The offertory for the Lessons & Carols service will go to our churches.
- **Christian Education -** Holly reported that for Kid's Klub we are getting anywhere from 1 child to 5 children on Thursdays. Sometimes on Sundays we have been getting some children and Antoinette has been taking them for Sunday School. For our November 3-day Camp we had 11 children. All the dates for 2026 OMG Day Camp have been set and Irene has booked the dates on the calendar. There will be no Day Camp in December. Our Safe Halloween Party went really well and the children really enjoyed the open mic joke time, games, and the food. Bible Study is happening once a month, not many attending.
- **Property & Maintenance** - Bill reported that the two pews got changed over in the Sanctuary to Anglican Church pews and Rob Bown took our two existing pews. Our snow removal is being done again by the same fellow as last year, Marshall Elkow. We have to check the exit door by the Multipurpose Room; we are needing to attach eavestrough maybe, as when it gets warm it drips from the roof above and makes the sidewalk slippery.
- **Fellowship -** Pat and Heather have been doing some visiting. George Sample is now moved to the Mundare Care Centre where Velma is staying, which will make it easier to visit both of them on the next trip there. Pat and Heather served coffee, tea, and sweets for the Food Bank Fundraiser. Xavier from the 4-H Club helped out as well.
- **Ministry & Personnel** - Shirley went to see Traci and she is doing well. Traci will be cleaning our pews with Murphy Oil before the Christmas season.
- **Regional Business News & Ministerial Meeting** - Regional emails being sent out regularly to everyone. There are no ministers left in the St. Paul Prysbytery. Rev. Carolyn is now in Tofield for three months.

- **St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church** - In the National News for the Anglican Diocese, there were photos included of our churches signing our Ecumenical Shared Ministry agreement. Rev. Laureta reported that there was another viewing of the Anglican Church set for tomorrow, hoping that this goes well. Pat took the remainder of the stuff that was left over from the Rummage Sale, to Edmonton. The Anglican Church building is all clean now.
- **Motion to accept reports** - **Holly Cependa** made a motion to accept the reports as presented, seconded by **Shirley Rattray**. **CARRIED.**

New Business:

- **Camp Whitney: Support & A Delegate** - There was a newsletter sent out to everyone requesting volunteers and board representatives for Camp Whitney. Everyone was asked to consider these positions or ask others you may know that might be interested. Check with Heather or maybe the some of the members of the Anglican Church may be interested. Rev. Laureta to discuss with the Bishop.
- **Socks & Underwear for the Homeless** - It was decided that for White Gift Sunday, November 30th, we would include a request that the Christmas Bureau is also looking for socks, underwear, mitts, Christmas decorations, etc.
- **Phone Directories (Cross Referenced - Anglican & United Church Ministries)** - Ardythe mentioned at our Joint Meeting that the community telephone directory will now show up with our church phone # under Anglican & United Church Ministries (as well as Vegreville United Church and St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church which will say "see Anglican & United Church Ministries").
- **Event Posting - The Marketer (Vegreville Directory) & Go East of Edmonton** - Discussion took place on getting a subscription with the Marketer to advertise our events as it is not very expensive. It was suggested that Joanne or Ardythe discuss this with Holly before signing up.
- **December 7th - White Gift Sunday** - Discussion took place that White Gift Sunday will have to take place on November 30th in order that we can deliver the items to the Christmas Bureau on time.
- **Cost Saving Ideas** - Irene brought up one item for cost savings of working from home for part of the week to save on heating bills. It was discussed that rather than raising and lowering the heat in the office as needed, it was better on the furnace to keep it at a steady temperature all the time and also it is good to have someone here more often for phone calls and to accommodate people who are stopping by.
- **4-H Club Room Booking** - Jamie Galeta requested the use of the Auditorium for their 4-H Club monthly meeting which would be for about 50-60 people (third Monday of January, February 9th, and then every third Monday after that). **Holly Cependa** made a motion that we rent out the Auditorium to the 4-H Club once a month for $35/hour (minimum 2 hours) for $70. Seconded by **Bill Rowe**. **CARRIED.**

Devotions next meeting: Fellowship **Closing Prayer: Rev. Laureta**
Next Meeting: December 10th at 10:30 AM in the Friendship Room
Adjournment: 12:00 Noon

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Georgina Baron, Council Chair **Irene Sabados, Secretary**