

ANGLICAN & UNITED CHURCH MINISTRIES
Minutes of Church Council & Vestry Meeting
April 20, 2026 at 7:00 pm, Friendship Room & Zoom

Present In-Person: Pat Buehler, Heather Short, Bill Rowe, Rob Bown, Antoinette Fortier, Ellen Johnstone, Jim Bragg, Joanne Veldkamp, Shirley Rattray, and Irene Sabados

Present On Zoom: Holly Cependa, Rev. Laureta Blondin, Ardythe Butler, Lisa Topilko, and Marvin Topilko

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Holly Cependa at 7:01 pm

Devotion: People's Warden - Jim Bragg read "**Psalm 23 The Lord is my Shephard**"

Approval/Additions to Agenda: **Ellen Johnstone** made a motion and **Heather Short** seconded the motion to accept the agenda with additions under **Old Business** - Garage Sale Discussion and Stained Glass Window. Also, adding under **New Business** - Wedding; Baptism; Another Homeschool Co-op Rental; and Equipment Use (Holly). **CARRIED.**

Approval of Minutes for March 16, 2026: **Shirley Rattray** made a motion and **Bill Rowe** seconded the motion to approve the minutes as presented. **CARRIED.**

- **New Correspondence: Camp Whitney Bingo Fundraiser (April 1-30)** - We've already got a good start to collecting donations for Camp Whitney. A blackout Bingo lets us win a FREE camp sponsorship from Camp Whitney for one of our youth. Irene to email everyone with the spots that are still available on the Bingo Card. Tax receipts will be provided by Camp Whitney. A full Bingo card raises \$1010 for Camp Whitney.

Camp Whitney (Funds for Chainsaw Purchase) - Peter Walsh, who is on the Board for Camp Whitney, has approached several churches to collect donations towards the purchase of different items needed for Camp Whitney and for our church specifically, it was for a chainsaw (\$800). As we are quite a distance from Camp Whitney and tough to get volunteers to come out and help with the clean-up, this is one way we can help out. It was discussed that we can maybe use some of our funds from one of our fundraisers (maybe the Hot Dog Sale or Rummage Sale). Jim Bragg & Heather Short donated some funds to start us off.

Old Business/Business arising:

- **Fundraisers** - Holly discussed some of our fundraisers: Our Ham Supper is this Wednesday and the ladies will be starting to get ready on Tuesday so that Wednesday is easier and not such a long day. We are hoping for a good turnout. CFCW and Country 106 has been notified to advertise our event. It has also been advertised on our website and Facebook and a reminder email sent out. On May 2nd is our Spring Tea and Bake sale. Some people are not available to help out. May 14th is our hot dog sale at the Co-op (we are also having smokies instead of hamburgers). Freeman Johnstone is taking the BBQ to the Co-op and Rob Bown is available to help (Pat and Wolf are away May 14th). Discussed the Town Wide Community Garage Sale and we are not sure when this will be happening. It is usually before Father's Day. **ACTION:** Keep our ears open to what day it is so we can set our Garage Sale on the same day.

ANGLICAN & UNITED CHURCH MINISTRIES
Minutes of Church Council & Vestry Meeting
April 20, 2026, Page 2

- **Sale of the Anglican Church Building** - Tracy Stewart emailed today and there is a 10:30 am showing tomorrow. The fellow from Lethbridge is still interested. Joanne will keep us posted.
- **Committee Operations Manual - Fellowship** has their list of duties completed and handed in to the office. **Finance** will hopefully have time to discuss their duties at their next meeting. **Worship** Irene to send Ellen a copy of the list that we have on file at the moment. **M&P** - Rob has their list completed, just need to print it out. **ACTION** This should be completed by the end of this year. First draft is due before our September Council/Vestry Meeting.
- **Rental Inquiry - Homeshool Co-op (11 families)** - The dates that were chosen for a trial run are April 27th and May 11th. Update at next meeting to see how things went.
- **Sanctuary Roof Repair or Replacement** - Bill reported that Wolf went up on the roof to check out any damage done by the winds. Wolf mentioned that in his opinion the shingles look okay for maybe 3 to 5 years. The tin on the southwest side on the corner got bent up in the wind and can't put it back on. We will have to get a new piece of tin to repair it.
- **New Banner** - Holly and Rev. Laureta chose three different logos to send out to everyone (out of numerous designs that Laureta had drawn up). **ACTION** - If everyone can mark the logos 1, 2, and 3 to show their preference for our new Church logo and then send it to Irene in the office.
- **Stained Glass Window** - Joanne is looking for someone else to give us a quote for the frame for the stained glass window as Ken Baxandall and Jacob Weirda are not able to give us a quote. The frame that is needed has to be sturdy enough to hold the window in the spot that was chosen above sanctuary choir room doors. It was suggested that maybe we try the Holden Colony. **ACTION** - If anyone knows of any local wood workers who can do this kind of job, let Joanne know.

Committee Reports:

- **Rev. Laureta** - Laureta reported that all the services for Easter went well. Lodge services went well with Lisa, Ellen, and Antoinette helping out. Dwayne Buhler, who is the Hospital Chaplain is on leave for 6-8 months so Laureta will be taking over while he is gone. On May 14th, Laureta has to go to an ordination in Edmonton (mandatory) for her sponsor, Fred Matthews. He will be taking over the ministry at DaySpring (Vermilion, Wainwright, and Edgerton). There is a wedding that is being planned for July 25th - Laureta will be meeting with the couple. Also, there will be a baptism that is being planned for May 24th.
- **Rector's Warden** - Ardythe reported that she helped out with the OMG Camp Days. Also, she helped out with Maundy Thursday kid's event and potluck supper.
- **People's Warden** - Jim reported that all is quiet. No one has come to him with any concerns so everything must be good.
- **Treasurer's Report (Joanne)** - Joanne went through the financial report as emailed to all the committee members. As of March 31, 2026 **Income is at \$2,898.00 and Expenses at \$8,693.93** equalling **-\$5,761.02 (deficit)**. Total in **Bank Accounts and GIC's \$114,493.17**.

ANGLICAN & UNITED CHURCH MINISTRIES

Minutes of Church Council & Vestry Meeting

April 20, 2026, Page 3

• **Treasurer's Report (Irene) -**

March Cash Flow Sheet:	Previous Balance:	\$16,342.68
	Total Inflows:	+ 6,122.67
	Total Outflows:	- 6,725.00
	Current Balance:	\$15,740.35

General Account	\$15,740.35
Memorial	1,109.43
Capital	0.91
Common Share (Profit Share)	487.00
	\$17,337.69

- **Finance** - Some recommendations from our Finance Meeting - **Ellen Johnstone** made a motion that we transfer \$3,000 to our RSV Pastoral Charge account this month to cover expenses, seconded by **Pat Buehler**. Our quarterly Denominational Assessment is due May 1st. **CARRIED. Joanne Veldkamp** made a motion to pay the total for Laureta's Clergy Travel from St. Mary's account \$1,408.02 (for January, February, and March), **seconded by Jim Bragg. CARRIED.**
- **Worship** - Maundy Thursday Service was really nice and Ellen thanked the Handbell ringers for taking part in the Good Friday service. Also, this past Sunday it was nice to have the handbell ringers join in with the music. Ellen requested that maybe we should have our organ checked out again. Irene to call the company who did the maintenance on the organ last time. Business card is in the office.
- **Christian Education** - This last Day Camp went well before Easter. Thank you to the team (Holly, Antoinette, Lisa, and Ardythe; Linda helped out in the kitchen). The same children from the Day Camp also attended Maundy Thursday's Easter Trail. The kids really enjoyed it. Thank you to everyone who helped out in the kitchen and at each station along the trail. May 1st will be our last Day Camp and Holly will be taking them to the Bowling Alley in the afternoon. Holly is hoping that someone else can take the lead with the Day Camps. Subscription to rootsontheweb.com runs out in June. Holly mentioned that she will get the sheets ready for the summer just in case someone would like to coordinate. **ACTION:** Irene to give the number to Holly of the person who will be coordinating Vacation Bible School at Salem United Church (Taylor Giebelhaus). Rev. Laureta was not able to be here to run the Bible Study sessions and Irene mentioned as there were only two or three people attending, maybe we not schedule certain dates and we can get together on any days that work for the ones who are interested.
- **Property & Maintenance** - Snow removal might be all done now for the season, hopefully we are now into Spring. Wolf changed the light bulbs in the ladies washroom that burnt out.
- **Fellowship** - Heather and Pat did 7 visits since the last meeting. Eight birthday cards and one sympathy card was sent out. Companions on the Journey also went out on musical outreach to the lodges.
- **Ministry & Personnel** - Rob met with Irene last week. Everything is going good. Shirley commented that Traci is doing well with cleaning, considering the loss of family members recently. Traci keeps in touch with Shirley and Irene on keeping up with caretaking in between all the church events.

ANGLICAN & UNITED CHURCH MINISTRIES
Minutes of Church Council & Vestry Meeting
April 20, 2026, Page 4

- **Regional News** - Holly has been sharing and posting all the news from our Moderator for the United Church of Canada. Also, news from the Anglican Diocese is being shared. Provincially, we discussed that Danielle Smith is talking at the Alberta Christian Leadership Summit in Red Deer. Our MLA's should step up for churches. It was discussed that we should individually flood their emails with letters. Rev. Laureta stated that Mannville and Vermilion have hired a minister starting May 3rd.
- **Diocesan News** - There has been lots of interesting emails being shared from the Diocese. Take some time to look through it when you get a chance.
- **Motion to accept reports** - **Heather Short** made a motion to accept the reports as presented, **Joanne Veldkamp** seconded the motion. **CARRIED.**

New Business:

- **Rental - Celebration of Life for Dwayne Resch - April 25th 12:00 - 4:00 PM**
Irene read the details of the inquiry from Bob Carter's sister (Cathy Coonce) to rent the Auditorium and Kitchen (for use of the coffee pot) for a little get together for about 30 people. Rental cost will be paid before the 25th. **Pat Buehler** made a motion to approve the rental of Auditorium and Kitchen, **Ellen Johnstone** seconded the motion. **CARRIED.**
- **Wedding** - Rev. Laureta stated that she will be meeting with the couple who would like to be married, Savannah Toma and Juan Unger. They would like to be married on July 25, 2026 at the Two Hills Rodeo Centre. She did get all the names and birthdates of everyone in the wedding party.
- **Baptism** - Rev. Laureta let everyone know she got a call from Alexandra Madu who would like to baptize her two sons, Landon and Logan, on May 24th. We have all the details, ages and birthdates. We will make a motion next month to approve.
- **Another Homeschool Co-op Rental** - Irene read an email from Jessica Schuurman requesting the use of a room in the Church for homeschooling starting in September this year. They are just starting out and wanted to know what spaces are available before deciding to go ahead. It would be for families of children of various ages. It was discussed that we are needing more information from the group and Irene to email them back to say yes we are open to their request and to copy Laureta and Holly in this email.
- **Equipment Use (Holly)** - Holly would like to have the use of the Sanctuary to record a demo for their Jug Band (ukulele, washboard, etc.) **Lisa Topilko** made a motion and **Heather Short** seconded the motion that we let Holly and her Jug Band use the Sanctuary and Holly will make a donation to the Church or perform at one of our events. **CARRIED.**

As this is Volunteer Week, Holly thanked all our Church volunteers.

Devotions next meeting: Treasurer (Irene)

Closing Prayer: Rev. Laureta

Next Meeting: May 11th at 7:00 pm

Adjournment: 8:50 pm

Holly Cependa, Council Chair

Irene Sabados, Secretary