

VEGREVILLE UNITED CHURCH
Minutes of Church Council Meeting
October 8, 2025 at 10:00 am, Friendship Room

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

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

Devotion: Christian Education - Antoinette read a devotional from the book Planting The Seed of Hope by Author Elaine Froese titled "Talk Kindly to Yourself".

Approval/Additions to Agenda: **Ellen Johnstone** made a motion and **Shirley Rattray** seconded the motion to accept the agenda with the additional item "Set a date for Joint Council/Vestry and Joint Finance Committee Meetings". **CARRIED.**

Approval of Minutes for September 10, 2025: **Pat Buehler** made a motion and **Ellen Johnstone** seconded the motion to approve the minutes as presented. **CARRIED.**

Correspondence: Rev. Laureta got a letter from the Royal Canadian Legion regarding purchasing a wreath for this year's Remembrance Day Ceremony on November 11th. **Pat Buehler** made a motion and **Bill Rowe** seconded the motion that we purchase the Green Cross for \$50 and our churches will share the cost (\$25 each). **CARRIED.**

Old Business/Business arising:

- **Fundraisers** - Holly was not able to attend the meeting so Pat read her report. The **Rhubarb Crisp** sales as of Sept. 27th was \$1278 and still some available in the freezer. The **Apple Crisp** sales from Sept. 16th totalled \$895, we were sold out by the 21st (26 large & 98 small). We made one extra large for the upcoming Christmas catering job. We were pleased to have so many apples donated and the number of volunteers that could spare a few hours out of their day to make this happen. Our **Christmas Catering** at the Lion's Golden Villa is on December 9th. We already have the turkey, ham, dessert, bread for stuffing, and the cabbage ready for the cabbage rolls that Vicky Paranych has volunteered to make. A list of items still needed are 1 package of cornmeal; 25 cups of veggies; 12 cups of coleslaw; 2 cans of cranberry sauce; 3 dozen buns; and 1 pound of butter. Laureta will be in charge of the **Spaghetti Supper**. There are already 4 gallons of pasta sauce donated (stored in stage left). She will let us know what supplies and volunteers she requires. It was decided that we do the **Purdy's Chocolate** fundraiser for Christmas and Pat will be coordinating this again. Our **Fundraising total** so far for this year is \$14,045.76 and last year's total was \$13,041.23. Thank you to the amazing team of volunteers and a supportive community, we are doing great this year. Our **Christmas Tea and Bake Sale** is set for December 6th.
- **Removal of inactive members** - Georgina and Pat will get together to start going through the Roll Book. They will have it ready for the next meeting.
- **Update Funeral Brochure with Fees** - Laureta and Irene to work on updating the Funeral Brochure for the next meeting.

Committee Reports:

- **Treasurer's Report** - The cash flow sheet for September was distributed. Irene went through some of the items: Fundraising - \$895 for Apple Crisp Sales;

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- **Treasurer's Report (continued)** - \$75 additional sales this month for Rhubarb Crisp; Funeral Fees - \$250 for Joyce Dowhaniuk Service at Autumn Rose and \$1000 for Eric Smiley Funeral at the Church (\$450 for the Church Sanctuary, \$50 for Sound Person, \$100 for the Organist, \$100 for Auditorium, \$300 returned to Autumn Rose for overpayment). Memorial Fund donations (\$335) "In Memory of Bob Paul, Joyce Dowhaniuk, and Ritchie Dowling". Photocopier expenses - quarterly lease payment is \$508.80. Janitor Salary - \$291.54 for two months.

October Cash Flow Sheet:	Previous Balance:	\$11,735.93
	Total Inflows:	+ 6,342.00
	Total Outflows:	- 5,848.89
	Current Balance:	\$12,229.04

General Account	\$12,229.04
Memorial	1,109.43
Capital	0.91
Common Share (Profit Share)	487.00
	\$13,826.38

- **Finance** - Some recommendations from our Finance Meeting - **Pat Buehler** made a motion that we transfer \$2,000 to our RSV Pastoral Charge Account this month, seconded by **Ellen Johnstone**. **CARRIED**. **Pat Buehler** made a motion that our photocopier "copy fee" this quarter (\$315.82) be paid out of the Handbell Fund, seconded by **Bill Rowe**. **CARRIED**.
- **Worship** - Ellen reported that this past Sunday was a celebration for our congregations with the **signing of the Ecumenical Shared Ministry document** that we have been working on over the past 7+ months. It was a wonderful service with Rev. Adam Hall (Pastoral Relations Minister) from the Northern Spirit Region and Ven. Jonathan Crane (Archdeacon for Mission and Discipleship) from the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton. The **St. Mary the Virgin Prayer Room** renovations "In Memory of Geri Tuck" have been completed (painting & chair rail). The stained glass window will be coming soon (designed and donated by Tanya Tuck). Ellen finished the final **cleanup and watering of the plants/bushes** in the front of the Church last evening. The water has been turned off and we can discuss in November about decorating the Front outside entry for the Christmas Season. Lisa, Laureta, and Ellen had two meetings to discuss how we were going to **prepare for all the upcoming services** in November & December. It was decided that they would be picking out hymns for a couple months at a time. The hymn selections for the services are based on the current Gathering Worship information on the United Church of Canada website. Picking of the hymns ahead of time allows Laureta to get the bulletins together in a timely manner, not having to wait for hymn picks the week of the service.
Upcoming events for the next few months: Sing for your Supper Fundraiser for the Food Bank is Sunday, Nov. 16th at 2:00 PM; Christmas Tea will be on December 6th; on Dec. 21st will be a United Prayer service in the morning at 10:00 AM and then at 7:00 PM will be a Lessons & Carols Evening Service (will also include the Vegreville Handbell Choir).

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- **Christian Education** - As per Holly's report (attached). Antoinette read the report to everyone. After discussion on the Safe Halloween Party, **Antoinette Fortier** made a motion that we agree to have the party on October 31st from 3:30 to 6:00 PM and that the poster with all the details looks good and ready to distribute, seconded by **Bill Rowe**. **CARRIED.**
- **Property & Maintenance** - Bill reported that he had replaced 6 smoke detectors last month and this month he replaced 6 carbon monoxide detectors. Harvey from H&K Services has been keeping up with the lawn maintenance and once all the leaves fall off the trees, he will clean them up and do one last cutting of grass for this season.
- **Fellowship** - Pat reported that she has been doing some visiting on her own without Heather this month. Heather has also done some separate visits. George Sample is still waiting for placement hopefully in the same senior's home as Velma.
- **Ministry & Personnel** - Traci, our regular janitor, is back working this month and everything is going well. Traci is also working part-time at Wal-Mart. Shirley will contact Traci for a visit and check on how she is doing.
- **Regional Business News & Ministerial Meeting** - Rev. Laureta tried calling and emailing the other churches to see if the other ministers were interested in meeting together. There were no replies or any interest.
- **St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church** - The Rummage Sale at St. Mary's went really well. They brought in around \$2,000. There were 3 people that asked about the listing for the building and last night's viewing sounds promising. Ardythe and Laureta packed everything up. The tables also were sold and some people from Leduc will be picking them up. The building will all be clean by the end of the week. Laureta had invited Sharon to come to our signing of our ESM agreement but she had felt that she needed to be with her own congregation. Now that the agreement is signed, Sharon is no longer required to come to our meetings.
- **Motion to accept reports** - **Pat Buehler made a motion and Bill Rowe seconded** the motion to accept reports as presented. **CARRIED.**

New Business:

- **Remove Pew for Wheelchair Access** - It was discussed that we take out a 6' section half way up the aisle in front of the camera to make room for a wheelchair. Bill and Laureta to measure the other pews (with padding) in the Anglican Church and maybe we can replace ours with their pews, which are shorter.
- **Set a Date for Joint Vestry/Council Meeting and Joint Finance Committee Meeting** - It was decided that we have a Joint Vestry/Council meeting on November 17th at 7:00 PM and a Joint Finance meeting on November 5th at 10:00 AM.

Devotions next meeting: Property & Maintenance; Closing Prayer: Rev. Laureta

Next Meeting: November 12th at 10:00 AM in the Friendship Room

Adjournment: 10:55 AM

Georgina Baron, Council Chair

Irene Sabados, Secretary