

VEGREVILLE UNITED CHURCH
Minutes of Church Council Meeting
March 12, 2025 at 2:00 pm, Auditorium

Present In-Person: Sharon Lashmar, Rev. Laureta Blondin, Rob Bown, Heather Short, Bill Rowe, Shirley Rattray, Holly Cependa, Ellen Johnstone, Antoinette Fortier, Pat Buehler, and Irene Sabados **Present On Zoom:** Donna McCrimmon

Meeting was called to order by Rev. Laureta Blondin at 2:00 pm - Quorum Present.

Devotion: Sharon Lashmar read a devotional “Working As For The Lord”

Approval/Additions to Agenda: **Ellen Johnstone** made a motion and **Heather Short** seconded the motion to accept the agenda with additional items under New Business - Sound System, Social Media, and Easter Service Time Change. **CARRIED.**

Approval of Minutes for February 12, 2025: **Shirley Rattray** made a motion and **Bill Rowe** seconded the motion to approve the minutes as presented. **CARRIED.**

Old Business/Business arising:

- **Handbells** - Donations for the Handbell Choir have been coming in. They are meeting every Sunday evening in the Auditorium but this weekend will be trying out the Sanctuary for their practice session.
- **Fundraisers** - The pancake supper went really well and we brought in \$1000. There was an amazing crew making pies yesterday for today’s pie sale. There are still a few pies for sale if anyone is still wanting to buy some. The deadline for our Purdy’s Chocolate fundraiser is March 25th and delivery will be the first week of April.
- **100th Centennial Celebration** - Pat and Heather are working on the menu selection. Georgina will be getting together with Pat to get a list of members that we will send invitations to. We need to take a new photo of the church that we can put on the cake. Handbell Choir will be here to perform for the celebration.
- **Updated Church Family Photos** - Our photo board to be updated before the Centennial Celebration.
- **Wendy Brook Music Festival/Piano Tuner** - Tuning of the pianos went well. There is some “pad treatment” that is to be mixed into the water that we fill the piano with (instructions on the bottle). Irene will start adding this to the watering container.

Committee Reports:

- **Treasurer’s Report** - The cash flow sheet for February was distributed to everyone. Under income we brought in \$1,815 for Envelope Offerings; \$987.50 for donations to the Handbell Choir this month; \$25 to our Memorial Fund. Under expenses for Worship \$30.69 for our Sound Technician and \$286 was for piano repairs. Under licenses our Donation software was \$103.95 and Adobe \$27.29; Under repairs and maintenance our sidewalk snow removal was \$615 and a donated cost of \$177.83 for parking lot snow removal and furnace filters. Our Handbell Choir expenses were \$53.27 for office supplies (next month is when the church visa bill will show the cleaning and polishing of the handbells at \$787.50).

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February Cash Flow Sheet:	Previous Balance:	\$ 9,304.48
	Total Inflows:	+ 3,189.55
	Total Outflows:	- 5,951.00
	Current Balance:	\$ 6,543.03

General Account	6,543.03
Memorial	1,109.43
Capital	0.91
Common Share (Profit Share)	487.00
	\$ 8,140.37

- **Finance** - No Finance Meeting today. Our amount this month we are transferring to the RSV account will be \$1200.
- **Worship** - This Friday, March 14th at 7:00 pm is the World Day of Prayer in our church. This year's service is prepared by the WDP Committee of the Cook Islands. Ellen mentioned that she went through the last box of books this morning and now the Choir Room is all cleaned up. Holly and Ellen would like to meet quarterly with Laureta, Jim, and Lisa to discuss Sunday worship. Holly's Sacramental Elder certificate is hanging on the wall by the kitchen. The license is good for one year and then can be renewed without having to take the course again.
- **Christian Education** - So far there are three children registered for our Spring Day Camp (March 25, 26, 27). We had two children that participated in Sunday School the past couple Sundays. There has been no Bible Study. Spring Registration night is March 19th at 5:00 pm at the Social Centre.
- **Property & Maintenance** - During our really cold weather last month someone turned the water tap on outside and it froze. Bill and Val came in to turn the "shut off" valve off for the rest of the winter. It is not necessary to do this (we never did in the past) but now that we know there are vandals that can turn the water on anytime, we will have to continue shutting the valve off before winter. Bill bought some new furnace filters to have on hand for the next time we need filters changed. Rev. Laureta and Clarence have had a janitorial business for over 30 years and offered to strip and wax the floors in the Church before Easter. They will let us know which days.
- **Fellowship** - Heather had a quiet month with Pat being gone on vacation. This month, now that Pat is back, they are planning to visit four people.
- **Ministry & Personnel** - Shirley let us know that Linda is still covering for Traci and that Traci was here to help out a little bit one day and is getting a little bit stronger. Traci is still not ready to come back to work on her own.
- **Regional Business News & Ministerial Meeting** - Rev. Laureta talked to the Roman Catholic priest last week and is trying to get the Ministerial meetings back up and running.

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- **Pastoral Charge Supervisor** - Sharon commented that it is hard to hear on Zoom and that she would much sooner prefer to be here in person for the meetings, whenever possible. We need to talk louder and talk clearly, one at a time. Discussed that maybe we can use the long tables for our meeting next time instead of the round tables so that everyone can see the committee better on Zoom. Sharon let us know that MCSnet offers free internet, maybe something to look into.
- **St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church** - Rev. Laureta commented that on their last service at the Church, Bishop Stephen London was very well spoken; speaking of the “courage” of both churches to step forward into this merger. Rev. Adam Hall will be here for the April 27th service and he will do an Anglican service for us that day. The communion altar from the Anglican Church is now up front in our Sanctuary. There are still more items that are needing to be moved over. There have been two showings last Monday and hoping that the Anglican Church sells.
- **Motion to accept reports** - **Bill Rowe made a motion and Pat Buehler seconded** the motion to accept reports as presented. **CARRIED.**

New Business:

- **National Volunteer Week April 27 - May 3** - For everyone’s information these are the dates for volunteer week. To be discussed at the next meeting when more information will be sent in by FCSS. To learn more, check out this website <https://volunteer.ca/national-volunteer-week/>
- **Sound System** - Discussion took place on our Auditorium speakers not working. Rev. Laureta mentioned that there are two big speakers and little speakers at the Anglican Church which she will bring over for the Auditorium. Bill to take a look at all the old sound system stuff in stage left.
- **Social Media** - Discussion took place whether we want to have one Facebook page for both our churches and it was decided that for now we will continue with separate pages. We are requesting suggestions from both congregations for a new Church name for us. Before the end of April we can vote on the names that have been sent in.
- **Easter Service Time Changes** - Rev. Laureta let us know that Easter morning service at Vegreville United Church will be at 9:00 am and Vermilion will be at 11:30 am. Wainwright and Edgerton will have another Reverend from Saskatoon fill in for Easter services. Good Friday service at Salem will be at 10:30 am and there will be a baptism as well. Discussed Senior’s Services for April and when to schedule them. Rev. Laureta will discuss this with Georgina.

Devotions next meeting: Rev. Laureta

Closing Prayer: Sharon Lashmar

Next Meeting: April 9, 2025 at 2:00 pm

Adjournment: 3:13 pm

Rev. Laureta Blondin

Irene Sabados, Secretary