

VEGREVILLE UNITED CHURCH
Minutes of Church Council Meeting
April 9, 2025 at 2:00 pm, Friendship Room

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

Meeting was called to order by Georgina Baron at 2:10 pm - Quorum Present

Devotion: Rev. Laureta Blondin said a prayer to start our meeting. (Thanks be to God!)

Approval/Additions to Agenda: **Ellen Johnstone** made a motion and **Pat Buehler** seconded the motion to accept the agenda with an additional item under New Business - Prayer Room. **CARRIED.**

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

Old Business/Business arising:

- **Fundraisers** - Holly commented that the Pie Sale went really well. There are only 2 pies left in the freezer (2 small quiche) and our fundraiser total was \$1151. The Easter Purdy's Chocolate fundraiser was not as good as the Christmas one as the chocolate prices have gone up. Our percentage of profit for the fundraiser will be around \$200. Thank you to Pat for organizing. We will not do the Easter Purdy's Fundraiser next year. The Singalong Fundraiser for the Food Bank is tonight and we already have \$200 cash donated from those who can not attend.
- **100th Centennial Celebration** - Pat commented that Rev. Stephen Sparks will be here for the Celebration on June 7th and he will do the Sunday Worship Service on June 8th. The meal on the 7th will be served from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm and the Handbell Ringers will start around 5:15 pm, then after that we will have our singalong. The menu that Pat and Heather selected will be \$42/plate and it was discussed that we should have a charge, per person, for the meal. It was decided that we will charge \$45/plate and the little extra will pay for those who cannot afford the cost of the meal. It was discussed that we will have some soft dinner music playing during supper, not too loud so that people can visit. Georgina and Pat to get a list ready for formal invitations to be sent out with RSVP by May 24th.
- **Updated Church Family Photos** - Rev. Laureta talked to Margaret Glidden, Communications Director for the Anglican Diocese to see if she will do the photographs. She would be available early Fall. It was discussed maybe we can have a "Welcome Back" service in September after the summer holidays.
- **National Volunteer Week April 27 - May 3** - No new information has been sent from FCSS. To learn more, check out this website <https://volunteer.ca/national-volunteer-week/>
- **Sound System** - The new karaoke speakers/mics were trialed on Sunday and there was too much feedback in the Sanctuary with both systems in use. These speakers will be good to use in the Auditorium. Pat can label them so they don't go missing. Holly has been our Sound Tech for Sundays now that Reegan has resigned. Laureta mentioned that Clarence would like to learn our system as well so he can run the system when Holly is away in May and for future coverage.

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Committee Reports:

- **Treasurer's Report** - The cash flow sheet for March was distributed to everyone. Under income we brought in \$2,770 for Envelope Offerings; \$450 for donations to the Handbell Choir this month; \$2,230.81 for Fundraising which includes Pancake Supper, Pie Sale, and an e-transfer for Purdy's chocolates; \$250 for Funeral Fees (to cover printing bulletins for a funeral at Autumn Rose). Under expenses for Worship \$92.06 for our Sound Technician and \$762 for Pulpit Supply (3 Sundays); \$513.32 for our Quarterly Photocopier Lease Payment; \$1,765.33 for Gas & Power; Under repairs and maintenance our sidewalk snow removal was \$475; our Handbell Choir expenses were \$787.50 (this cost was already donated to the Church); under World Day of Prayer we brought in \$375 in cash (a cheque was made out to Women's Interchurch Council of Canada for this amount).

March Cash Flow Sheet:	Previous Balance:	\$ 6,543.03
	Total Inflows:	+ 6,891.61
	Total Outflows:	- 7,342.98
	Current Balance:	\$ 6,091.66

General Account	6,091.66
Memorial	1,109.43
Capital	0.91
Common Share (Profit Share)	487.00
	\$ 7,689.00

- **Finance** - For the month of April we will now be paying Rev. Laureta through our RSV Pastoral Charge account for Pulpit Supply (this amount will be transferred to Northern Spirit Regional Office by the 28th of each month and they will in turn top up the wages and then pay Laureta directly). St. Mary's will also be paying Pulpit Supply for half of the services each month. For this month we need to transfer to RSV Pastoral Charge account \$762 for Pulpit Supply for 3 Sundays; \$1,112.25 for Quarterly Denominational Assessment due May 1st; and \$1,400 for the Secretary's wages, telephone/internet, etc. It was recommended at the Finance Meeting that we transfer \$3,500 to have extra funds in the account. **Pat Buehler** made the motion that we transfer \$3,500 to RSV Pastoral Charge account for April, **Ellen Johnstone** seconded this motion. **CARRIED**. Also, at our Finance Meeting we discussed that the Fundraiser tonight for the Food Bank there will be no charge for the auditorium as it is an outreach to support the Food Bank. Rev. Laureta commented that once the Anglican Church building is sold then we can discuss a monthly payment to cover our church building expenses.
- **Worship** - There were over 45 people in attendance at our World Day of Prayer service on March 14th. We served refreshments after the service with tea, coffee, and desserts made from recipes from the Cook Islands. Ellen mentioned that she kept one copy of the old music and hymns when cleaning out the choir room. Ellen thanked Laureta and Lisa for their help. Hymns have been chosen for our Easter service. Ellen and Companions on the Journey will be sharing in the music ministry.

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- **Worship (continued)** - There will be a covenanting service in the fall for Laureta. There will be days when Laureta can not be here for the Sunday service then Holly will be asked to step in. Holly requested that she know a few weeks in advance so she can plan to fill in for Laureta. Laureta will take the time to discuss coverage with Holly and the distribution of consecrated elements.
- **Christian Education** - Holly commented that our three day Day Camp went really well and we had up to 8 children. Our egg hunt is scheduled for 4:30 pm on Maundy Thursday. They will be using the Kindergarten Room, Friendship Room, Nursery, and hallway to accommodate all the stations. We are hoping that some families may stay for our potluck lunch and service later in the evening. Antoinette and Holly to meet and discuss helpers for that day. There has not been any Sunday School children for a couple Sundays now and it was discussed that according to policy, we are needing to have a room with windows in order to meet with the children (or have 2 adults present). Maybe the back of the Narthex can be used for now for Sunday School classes.
- **Property & Maintenance** - The parking lot was cleaned at the end of March after we had the big snowfall. Bill donated two speakers with four mics to help with sound in the Sanctuary but when they were trialed there was too much feedback. Thank you to Bill for donating these and they will be useful in the Auditorium.
- **Fellowship** - Pat mentioned that she went with Heather to do some visiting this past month - going to Mundare to visit with Velma Sample then to Two Hills to visit with Elvera Miskiw. Pat will be going to Grande Prairie at the end of the month and will get to meet up for a visit with members that moved there.
- **Ministry & Personnel** - Rob mentioned that there is nothing new to report. No complaints.
- **Regional Business News & Ministerial Meeting** - Regional emails are being sent out to everyone. Georgina is registered for the Northern Spirit Regional Council meeting at the end of May. Laureta mentioned that she is talking to the Chaplain at the Hospital about getting the Ministerial Meeting up and running. Also, it is looking like the Alliance Church and NorthPointe church are working together (there are two services listed for Good Friday).
- **Pastoral Charge Supervisor** - Nothing new to report.
- **St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church** - Rev. Laureta mentioned the conditions of the sale of the church come off this Saturday. So far she hasn't heard any news from the inspection that was done.
- **Motion to accept reports** - **Holly Cependa made a motion and Bill Rowe seconded** the motion to accept reports as presented. **CARRIED.**

New Business:

- **Items being moved from the Anglican Church** - We are moving items around in the church (cleaning) to make room for items from the Anglican Church. The baptismal font will be moved professionally as it weighs over 1000 lbs. Because there is a minimum 2 hour charge, we may as well get them to move the more heavier items at the same time, not just the font. It would be good to let the movers know which room to move all the items (except for the font which will go into the Sanctuary). Maybe the kindergarten room would be good so it doesn't interfere with our Day Camp on May 2nd and the Spring Tea on May 3rd.

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- **Prayer Room** - Antoinette wanted to book the Prayer Room for April 11th for National Day of Silence. It was agreed to and Irene will check the calendar for a time that would be good to open up the Prayer Room for one hour.

Devotions next meeting: Treasurer

Closing Prayer: Rev. Laureta Blondin

Next Meeting: May 14, 2025 at 2:00 pm

Adjournment: 3:20 pm

Georgina Baron

Irene Sabados, Secretary