

VEGREVILLE UNITED CHURCH
Minutes of Church Council Meeting
December 13, 2023 at 2:00 pm, Auditorium

Present: Pastor Paul Allard, Georgina Baron, Holly Cependa, Heather Short, Bill Rowe, Pat Buehler, Ellen Johnstone, and Irene Sabados

Meeting was called to order by Georgina Baron at 2:15 pm - Quorum Present.

Devotion: Georgina read the daily devotional from “Our Daily Bread” for December 13th “Overcoming Trials”

Approval/Additions to Agenda: Pat Buehler/Heather Short made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. **CARRIED.**

Approval of Minutes for November 8, 2023: Holly Cependa/Bill Rowe approved the minutes as presented. **CARRIED.**

New Correspondence: Resignation letter from Val Rowe dated November 30th - Irene read a letter from Val Rowe, who will be resigning from the M&P Committee as of December 31st, 2023. The committee accepted the letter with regrets.

Old Business/Business arising:

- **Fundraisers - Purdy’s Fundraiser** - Pat commented on our Purdy’s chocolate fundraiser which we did really well. Over \$2000 in sales, which our portion of profits will be \$555. Holly commented on our **Christmas Tea**, which we made \$1269. Volunteers were fabulous, there was some food left over for Kid’s Klub and for fellowship after Church Services. **Nativity Festival** went really well and we donated \$700 to the Food Bank along with ten bags of food (and 2 youth snow suits). There were 203 nativity sets and 50-60 angels on display. People enjoyed the carol sings and enjoyed going through the displays.
- **Church Family Pictorial Directory** - We are waiting for the proof to come back to us for our directory. Irene to check on the photos that people ordered to see if they will be sent to the Church or to their home.
- **Faith & Fun Night (Edmonton Oil Kings)** - There has been no response to our posters or social media posts about the 19th of January Hockey Game at Roger’s Place. The Pastor from NorthPointe will book a bus (\$20 game ticket, \$5 or \$10 for transportation) if anyone is interested. Another youth event is coming up in March at the Bowling Alley.

Committee Reports:

- **Treasurer’s Report** - Cash Flow sheet for November was distributed to everyone. Irene went through some of the items listed. Under fundraising there was an extra \$70 we made on Apple Crisp sales; Spaghetti Supper (\$859); Christmas Tea (\$1269). Funeral fees (\$450) were from Florence Loomis’ funeral. Rent of facility (\$600) was from our Wednesday Night Group. Year end profit share (VCU) got deposited into our account (\$60.12). Under expenses, pulpit supply was for Caylee Bailey and Rev. Stephen Sparks (\$464) and Mileage (\$378.40) was for Caylee Bailey, Rev. Stephen Sparks, and Pastor Paul Allard to attend our Council meeting. Administration Costs (\$467.22) were for stamps, paper, new cheque blanks, deposit books, and envelopes. Fundraising expenses, donated (\$298.96). Maintenance & Repairs - flood lights, donated (\$199.95)

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November Cash Flow Sheet:	Total Inflows:	8,552.19
	Total Outflows:	6,093.51
		2,458.68
General Account	8,267.90	
Memorial	1,109.43	
Capital	0.91	
Common Share (Profit Share)	541.11	
		\$ 9,919.35

- **Finance** - Discussion from our Finance Committee Meeting, we made a recommendation to go ahead with replacing the **two ceiling fans in the Sanctuary** that are not working. **Pat Buehler/Ellen Johnstone** made a motion to accept the quote of \$960 plus GST from Bortnick Electric to install the two ceiling fans, which we will need to purchase. **CARRIED**. Another item we discussed at our Finance Meeting is the **maintenance of our organ** that is not working properly, estimated at \$500. **Ellen Johnstone/Bill Rowe** made a motion to go ahead with the general maintenance that will be needed to our organ as well as do a yearly maintenance check on the organ from now on. Murray Schneider coming out next week. **CARRIED**. We had a call from a group who wanted to **book our Auditorium** every Wednesday for yoga. Irene will call them back to let them know that this is approved as per our rental rates listed. It was decided to have our **Annual Meeting on February 11, 2024** after Worship Service (12:00 pm). Pastor Paul Allard will be able to join in on Zoom. Irene to set up a Zoom Link for our meeting. Discussion took place on organists that cover for Ellen when she is not able to play at the lodge or worship services. **Pat Buehler/Holly Cependa** made a motion to pay our **out of town organists** from farther away (ie: Myrnam) an honorarium of \$50 and organists that are closer to Vegreville (ie: Ranfurly) an honorarium of \$35. **CARRIED**. **Holly Cependa/Ellen Johnstone** made a motion to give a \$250 donation to the **Bissell Centre** and \$100 donation to **“Our Daily Bread”**. **CARRIED**. Discussion took place on our **funeral brochure, fee for the minister** that is listed at the moment is \$250. It was discussed that this might be a little low for ministers who will be doing a funeral service in our Church. **Pat Buehler/Bill Rowe** made a motion to increase this amount to \$300 starting January 1, 2024. **CARRIED**.
- **Worship** - Nativity Festival already discussed earlier. White Gift Sunday will be this Sunday. Any gifts collected can go to the Christmas Bureau if they are still accepting gifts or the Bissell Centre. Irene to call and check into it. Next year we will do our White Gift Sunday sooner, maybe the first week in December. Discussion took place on our Christmas Eve service. For communion, we will have real wine as well as juice as we are having a combined service with St. Mary’s. Decision was made to have real candles for the adults and tea lights for the children. Music for the service will be Ellen, Lisa, and Jim. Pulpit Supply for December and January is all set. Elizabeth Nawrot might be available for February, Ellen to check with her.

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- **Christian Education** - Holly commented that she was away for a couple weeks. Numbers for Kid's Klub have been very low. We found helpers for the tea from our Day Camp group, Max & Kira enjoyed helping out. The next Day Camp is January 2, 3, and 4, 2024. There is no Sunday School as there are no children coming to the services. No one offered to lead the handbell ringers. Maybe Taneen Rudyk's son, Maxim might be interested.
- **Property and Maintenance** - Bill reported that he put motion sensors around the building. He had met with Vantage Builders and the current outside lights are not LED. Ceiling fans were discussed earlier, these will be replaced. Burnt out flood lights to be replaced at the same time as the fans, while the lift is here. Nativity scene was placed outside by our sign as we do every year. Bill bought more bags of salt to have on hand for the icy sidewalks. Discussion took place on painting of the building inside - we will discuss this in the New Year as we will need to paint hallways, rooms, front of stage, etc. Bill and Paul moved the bench out front and tarped it for the winter.
- **Fellowship** - Heather and Pat did some visiting this month with Elvera, Phyllis, and Dave & Joyce. Also delivered their Purdy's chocolate order to them. Velma is in Mundare now and she likes it. Discussed maybe with all the leftover food from the luncheon today, maybe we can deliver some to Pamela and Sidney. Ellen offered to take it over to them.
- **Ministry & Personnel** - Holly mentioned that they had a discussion with our janitor and hopefully any problems are resolved. Discussed encouraging people to join our committees as there are fewer of us.
- **Regional Business/News** - Regional news being emailed to Council. Georgina contacted Rev. Adam Hall and there is nothing further required for us with Rev. Pamela Milton's letter. She is not allowed to attend Salem or Vegreville United services or events. Sidney is allowed to attend. The Region has kept in contact with Pamela. Irene to check on Pamela's T4, whether it got sent here. Rev. Scott Reynolds will be moving to Red Deer, his last day is December 31st. He will be working for the National Church. (For information - Georgina did services at Unwin United Church, they were connected with Andrew United Church. They are closed down now, they were the first Ukrainian United Church.
- **Ministerial Meeting** - No meeting held.
- Motion to accept reports – **Holly Cependa/Heather Short** made a motion to accept reports as presented. **CARRIED.**

New Business:

- **Items discussed with reports above.**
- **Senior's Friendship Lunch** - It was discussed that we would continue the luncheons on the same day as our Council Meetings, without extra grant money.

Devotions next meeting: Worship

Closing Prayer: Pastor Paul Allard

Next Meeting: January 10th at 2:00 pm

Adjournment: 3:42 pm

Georgina Baron, Chairperson

Irene Sabados, Secretary