

VEGREVILLE UNITED CHURCH
Minutes of Church Council Meeting
March 13, 2024 at 2:00 pm, Auditorium

Present: Pastor Paul Allard, Georgina Baron, Holly Cependa, Heather Short, Bill Rowe, Pat Buehler, Ellen Johnstone, Shirley Rattray, Rev. Laureta Blondin, and Irene Sabados

Meeting was called to order by Georgina Baron at 1:55 pm - Quorum Present.

Devotion: Bill read from “Our Daily Bread” devotional titled “Cries of Distress”

Approval/Additions to Agenda: Holly Cependa/Ellen Johnstone made a motion to accept the agenda with two additional New Business items; report from Rev. Laureta Blondin and report from Pastor Paul Allard. **CARRIED.**

Approval of Minutes for February 14, 2024: Pat Buehler/Heather Short made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. **CARRIED.**

New Correspondence: Bissell Centre - Irene read a letter from the Bissell Centre on their thankfulness for our generous donation in December of 2023. **Email from Rev. Carolyn Woodall** - Irene read the email from Rev. Carolyn Woodall regarding a meeting on March 21st gathering all congregations in the area that encompassed what once was called the St. Paul Presbytery. Georgina commented that it is very important to get together with the other United Church congregations in the area to see how all the churches are doing. Georgina and Holly are not able to make it to the meeting but if anyone else is interested in going, let Irene know this week.

Old Business/Business arising:

- **Fundraisers** - Holly commented that the pie sale went well. Holly, Pat, and Heather did all the preparation and baked the pies the day before the sale. Thank you to all the pie ladies. It took 5 ½ hours to get all the pies ready. There were 25 large pies and 42 small pies. We made \$753 and it worked really well to have the pie sale on the same day as our Senior’s Luncheon as a lot of people stayed to have lunch. There were 23 people for our Senior’s Luncheon. Our Ham Supper Fundraiser will take place on April 17th. Pat commented on the Easter Purdy’s Fundraiser that there wasn’t as many orders as at Christmas time but we still made \$222 profit (Thank you to Pat for organizing the fundraiser again.)
- **Baptisms (Possible 3 baptisms on Easter Sunday)** - Rev. Laureta commented that there will be no baptisms as the one family that was interested in two baptisms could not get the whole family together for that day. The grandmother knows that Rev. Laureta can do an emergency baptism at any time and then they can all come back to the Church another day for the baptism service. There was a young family from the Anglican Church that was interested in one baptism but the Dad works in Fort MacMurray and couldn’t be there for Easter Sunday.

Committee Reports:

- **Treasurer’s Report** - Cash Flow sheet for February was distributed to everyone. Irene went through some of the items listed. Donations into our General Fund were a lot lower these last two months. Fundraising income was mostly from our Pancake Supper. There were a lot of donated items under janitorial supplies, fundraising expenses, day camp expenses, and kid’s klub expenses.

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- **Treasurer's Report continued** - Under repairs and maintenance there were some donated expenses, as well as the cost of ceiling fans and downrods (\$268.98) for the Sanctuary. Sidewalk snow removal was \$465.

February Cash Flow Sheet:	Previous Balance:	\$ 8,852.38
	Total Inflows:	+ 3,699.42
	Total Outflows:	- 6,227.65
	Current Balance:	\$ 6,324.15

General Account	6,324.15
Memorial	1,109.43
Capital	0.91
Common Share (Profit Share)	541.11
	\$7,975.60

- **Finance** - There was no Finance meeting this month. We are still doing okay by transferring the same amount to our RSV account, \$2,000 monthly. Our United Church of Canada Denominational Assessment is being paid quarterly at \$1,144.75 out of our RSV account. The second quarterly payment is due on May 1st.
- **Worship** - Ellen reported on the World Day of Prayer that went well. With Easter coming up, there are banners that need to be put up in the Sanctuary after Church this Sunday. We are all going over to the Anglican Church for Palm Sunday. The Easter banners come down at Pentecost, May 19th. Rev. Laureta read a nice email in regards to the World Day of Prayer that was held here in the Church on March 1st.
- **Christian Education** - Holly reported on our Kid's Klub - there are four children registered but sometimes only two of them show up on the Thursday. The children enjoy the program and it is going well. Next Day Camp is scheduled for March 26, 27, and 28th. There are three children registered so far. Reagan has resigned from helping out with Day Camp but will still be helping out with Kid's Klub on Thursdays. There are five people involved in the Bible Study, meeting only on the days when everyone can get together.
- **Property & Maintenance** - Bill reported on the big dumps of snow we have had the past month. There is still one light on South side of our building that is not working (Vantage Builders have not been able to fix this.) Our Christmas lawn nativity figures have fallen over, once the snow is gone we will pull all of them out. Thank you to Wolf for installing the peep hole. Irene mentioned that it has been working well for her.
- **Fellowship** - Heather and Pat will be visiting Gloria Balla and Velma Sample in Mundare and also Ann Thompson and David & Joyce Ziegler here in town.
- **Ministry & Personnel** - We are welcoming Shirley into the M & P Committee. She is supervising our janitor. Val has met with Shirley to give her the details of the janitorial position. Holly let us know that, regretfully, she is not able to attend the meeting in Vermilion on March 21st.

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- **Regional Business/News** - The Northern Spirit Regional Annual Meeting will be over Zoom this year on May 3rd and 9th. Georgina will be attending. Northern Spirit emails are being sent out to Council members for their information.
- **Ministerial Meeting** - Rev. Laureta let us know that she is the only one left in the ministerial committee since COVID, as the others do not want to get together for a meeting. FCSS had invited all the ministers to a meeting last fall, along with RCMP and other community officials - there are certain protocols in place for visiting Hospitals now.
- **Motion to accept reports – Pat Buehler/Heather Short** made a motion to accept reports as presented. **CARRIED.**

New Business:

- **Winter Heating Bill** - Discussion took place on our heating bill as it has been really high the last couple months. We did turn all three thermostats up a bit higher as it was better for the pianos in each area. We are getting closer to Spring and warmer temperatures so our bills should slowly be getting lower.
- **Chest Freezer** - The breaker for the kettles in the kitchen was the same as for the freezer and when both kettles were plugged in at the same time, it tripped the breaker and most of the food in the freezer had thawed out. It was decided that we move the freezer to a different plug-in in the Friendship Room and put a sign above the plug-in in the kitchen **“not to plug in more than one kettle at a time”**.
- **Rev. Laureta Blondin** - Rev. Laureta reported that at their last meeting a motion was made to sell their building and move into our building to share ministry. It was a unanimous vote, everyone agreed. The Anglican Church building belongs to the Diocese of Edmonton and there will be a local realtor working with an Edmonton realtor for the sale of the property. The funds from the sale will be held in trust for Capital Projects and can be used for upgrades that are needed here at the United Church. There will be a joint service on May 26th with Rev. Adam Hall leading the service and the Rev. Canon Dr. Scott Sharman will be doing the Sermon. It was discussed that there would be two Sundays a month where there will be an Anglican service and two Sundays a month where there will be a United service to keep each of our identities and then when there is a fifth Sunday in the month we would have a blended service. A thank you was extended to Rev. Laureta.
- **Pastor Paul Allard** - Pastor Paul let us know that his term of appointment at Hardisty, Hughendon, and Sedgewick is up at the end of June. He will attend two more of our Council meetings (April and May) and then will not be available to be our Pastoral Charge Supervisor after that. A thank you was extended to Pastor Paul.

Devotions next meeting: Fellowship

Closing Prayer: Pastor Paul Allard

Next Meeting: April 10th at 2:00 pm

Adjournment: 3:10 pm

Georgina Baron, Chairperson

Irene Sabados, Secretary