

VEGREVILLE UNITED CHURCH
Minutes of Church Council Meeting
May 8, 2024 at 2:00 pm, Auditorium

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

Present On Zoom: Heather Short

Meeting was called to order by Georgina Baron at 2:05 pm - Quorum Present.

Devotion: Ministry & Personnel - Holly discussed “Red Dress Sunday” from the Northern Spirit Newsletter

Approval/Additions to Agenda: Pat Buehler/Ellen Johnstone made a motion to accept the agenda with the addition of “Refugee Sponsorship” and “Affirming Ministry” to the agenda **CARRIED.**

Approval of Minutes for April 10, 2024: Shirley Rattray/Holly Cependa made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. **CARRIED.**

New Correspondence:

Old Business/Business arising:

- **Fundraisers** - Holly commented on our Spring Tea and Bake Sale this past weekend and that there were 35 people that signed the guestbook and some who came in just to buy baked goods, jewelry, etc. Profits were just under \$1400. Thank you to Holly and her helpers. Our next event is the Hot Dog Sale on May 16th (then again on August 30th). Georgina ordered a Vegreville United Church sign/banner and it should be here on May 15th. On June 15th the BBQ and Book Sale will be held at the Church.
- **Donation of Three Paintings** - Georgina read the history of the family that donated the three paintings. We will attach a copy of the “history page” onto the back of each painting as well as hang one on the wall in the Study. We decided that the paintings will be put up in our Study Room. Bill and Wolf to put them up.

Committee Reports:

- **Treasurer’s Report** - Cash Flow sheet for April was distributed to everyone. Irene went through some of the items listed. Donations to Memorial Fund (\$75) were in memory of Olga Semotiuk and George & Lorna Hoggins. Fundraising income was for a payment for Purdy’s Chocolates (\$211.25) and our Ham Supper Fundraiser (\$785). We got a credit on our Insurance which was \$1249. Under expenses, Pulpit Supply (\$247) was for Caylee Bailey. Under Worship was for our Sound System Tech \$245.46 (for 2 months). Our photocopier copies was \$222 this quarter. Fundraising expenses we paid for the Purdy’s Chocolate order \$844.99 and the rest was donated supplies (\$170.99). There was one last bill for our snow removal in March (\$270). The janitor salary was for 2 months (\$497.73).

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| April Cash Flow Sheet: | Previous Balance: | \$ 2,089.38 |
| | Total Inflows: | + 6,221.59 |
| | Total Outflows: | - 7,371.01 |
| | Current Balance: | \$ 939.96 |

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|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| General Account | 939.96 |
| Memorial | 1,109.43 |
| Capital | 0.91 |
| Common Share (Profit Share) | 541.11 |
| | \$2,591.41 |

- **Finance** - Recommendations from our meeting: It was discussed that the Church pay for Georgina's mileage (one way as Georgina did not want full mileage) to Sherwood Park for an Ecumenical Meeting held on April 25th. **Pat Buehler/Ellen Johnstone** made a motion that we pay for 86 km x \$0.55/km = \$47.30 It was also discussed that the Church go ahead with changing the lights that are burnt out on the Cross and the light that is burnt out in the entryway. **CARRIED. Pat Buehler/Bill Rowe** made a motion to replace these lights as per quote from Bortnick Electric for \$675.00 plus GST. **CARRIED.** Discussion on the Food Bank will be noted under New Business.
- **Worship** - Ellen reported that the May 26th Trinity Sunday service bulletin is complete. The music will be provided by herself and Companions on the Journey. May 19th is Pentecost Sunday and Holly offered to lead worship. Senior's Lodge services will be cancelled for July and August. June 30th is the fifth Sunday of the month and it was discussed that we will join St. Mary's congregation for worship service over at their church. Then on July 7th we will have joint services here at our church. Ellen brought up holiday coverage for that day as she is away. We have Brenda Tuck, Tim Nawrot, and Lucille Landry that we can call on for coverage.
- **Christian Education** - Holly reported that Kid's Klub has been quiet and that at the end of May we will shut down for three months. Day Camp has been going really well, there was 12 children registered. Some of them came with their parents to the Spring Tea this past weekend. Next Day Camp is scheduled for July 23rd, 24th, & 25th and then on August 20th, 21st, & 22nd. They will be following the same church lectionary and we will need to renew our ROOTS on the web subscription in June.
- **Property & Maintenance** - Discussion took place on the pilot lights not working on the stove and that we need to be careful that pots do not boil over as we just changed the pilot tubes last year. Bill has ordered them and we are waiting for them to come in. Thostenson Plumbing will change these for us same as last year (he did not charge us last year). Harvey will be cutting grass again this year, we just need to call him when the grass starts getting too long. Dusk to dawn light in the front of the church will be checked for us by Bortnick Electric. Fans have been turned off now that it is getting warmer out. Discussion on the bench outside that it needs staining, Heather will ask Garth about it.
- **Fellowship** - Pat did some visiting at the Hospital and as it was Paul's last meeting with us, the Fellowship Committee gave him a going-away gift (a Vegan Cookbook). Everyone thanked Paul for supervising our meetings and expressed gratitude for his leadership while we were without a minister.

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- **Ministry & Personnel** - Holly reported that everything is fine and no concerns. Janitorial concerns were addressed under New Business.
- **Regional Business/News & Ministerial Meeting** - Georgina and Laureta both went to the “**Joint Clergy Day with Ecumenical Partners**” on April 25th at the Glory Lutheran Church in Sherwood Park. It was interesting to hear the stories from the different shared ministries. Every church is different and every agreement is different. This Thursday is the **Northern Spirit Regional Meeting** on Zoom that Georgina will be attending. She will give us a report next month. Next year is the United Church of Canada’s 100th Anniversary. Pat and Georgina will be going through some things in the Bell Cupboard that will be going to Archives. There has been no ministerial meeting for a long time but the new chaplain at the Hospital might try and call everyone together.
- **Pastoral Charge Supervisor** - Paul thanked everyone for the fellowship and graciousness while he was our supervisor. It was a very good assignment and a good experience to take with him as he starts his new position in Terrace, BC.
- **St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church** - The Anglican church has been very busy with weddings, etc. They were blessed with a new person who joined the congregation just shortly after they had a family leave to Manitoba. Laureta has been appointed to be the minister for Dayspring Ministries (Vermilion, Wainwright, Edgerton). This will take up two Sundays a month (one Sunday in Vermilion and one Sunday in Wainwright/Edgerton). She did mention that her principle focus would be Vegreville United and Anglican joint venture.
- **Motion to accept reports – Holly Cependa/Bill Rowe** made a motion to accept reports as presented. **CARRIED.**

New Business:

- **Food Bank** - It was discussed at our Finance meeting to make a recommendation to accept the quote of \$4,100 for the electrical work that needs to be done in the Nursery if it happens that we go ahead with the Food Bank moving into our building. It was also discussed at Finance to make a recommendation that we charge \$700/month rent and if we find that utilities have gone up considerably, then we would reconsider this. Council members suggested maybe \$800/month might be a better figure in consideration of being able to pay the increase in our utility bills. A lengthy discussion about all that we need to consider before making a decision: Locks need to be put in on all the doors to the three rooms. We need to talk to St. Vladimir Orthodox Church in regards to the parking lot that is in between us and if they are in agreement to the Food Bank staff and clients parking right up to our side doors for pick-ups and trucks/vans coming in to unload food weekly. Ellen suggested that we need to stipulate that their access to the building will not be through the main doors, only the side door (proper signage to be put up on the doors). We will need a copy of their insurance. We can ask the UCC Property Resource Corporation for some guidance. Rev. Laureta will talk to Rev. Scott Reynolds. Discussed maybe having the Food Bank have their own electrical panel to feed the three rooms (therefore separate billing). Check with Bortnick Electric to get a quote for separate electrical panel. A separate phone/fax line would be their expense.

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- **Food Bank continued:** Elizabeth apologized for Tim not being able to come to the meeting but did bring forward some things to consider from when the Food Bank was with NorthPointe: As the Food Bank's volunteer board changes often, it is difficult to make decisions; utilities were more than they had expected; the rooms were not left as tidy as they should have been; there was accidental damage to the walls and floors because of the big carts being wheeled in and out; there was also damage done to the parking lot. Elizabeth to find out the square footage of the NorthPointe church rooms to have a comparison with our rooms that are available for the Food Bank. Discussion to continue at our next meeting once we have some answers to some of our questions.
- **Janitorial Concerns -** It was discussed about the Janitor losing her key to the outside doors, but then she found them and brought back the key she was given the other day. We had made arrangements to change the locks on the outside doors but then had to cancel that order. This was the second time reporting that her key was lost. Discussion took place that we draw up another letter to give to her in regards to her poor work performance. This is the third warning she has been given, so any more major concerns with performance that may arise in the future will result in a dismissal.
- **Refugee Sponsorship -** Holly reported that we got word from our family and that their interview is set for May 20th at 1:15 pm which is actually May 19th at 11:15 pm our time. Everyone's prayers would be greatly appreciated on the evening of the 19th that all goes well for the family. We are very hopeful that all will go well and we look forward to their arrival in Canada.
- **Affirming Ministry -** Rev. Laureta is preparing for May 26th service and Rev. Adam Hall did mention that in the bulletin we needed to make a change as we have to say that Vegreville United Church is "welcoming" instead of "fully affirming". The paperwork to become "fully affirming" has been given to Georgina. Rev. Adam Hall will appoint a Zoom Supervisor for us for the next meeting as Rev. Laureta is not able to be our Supervisor. We are needing to have a United Church Minister as a Supervisor.

Devotions next meeting: Treasurer

Closing Prayer: Pastor Paul Allard

Next Meeting: June 12th at 2:00 pm

Adjournment: 4:10 pm

Georgina Baron, Chairperson

Irene Sabados, Secretary