

VEGREVILLE UNITED CHURCH
Minutes of Church Council Meeting
November 8, 2023 at 3:00 pm, Auditorium

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

Meeting was called to order by Georgina Baron at 3:12 pm - Quorum Present.

Devotion: Irene read from “Our Daily Bread” devotional for November 8th “Knowing The Shepherd’s Voice”

Approval/Additions to Agenda: Holly Cependa/Pat Buehler made a motion to accept the agenda with the addition of “Remit - Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization” to the Regional Business News. **CARRIED.**

Approval of Minutes for October 11, 2023: Pat Buehler/Ellen Johnstone approved the minutes as presented. **CARRIED.**

New Correspondence: United Way Donation Received - Irene informed everyone of the donation that was received from one of our members of the congregation, through United Way, and part of the donation was directed to us (\$292.13). This amount will go under “Donation from Charitable Organization”, they do not get a receipt, but it was discussed that Irene send a thank you note to the family that made the donation.

Old Business/Business arising:

- **Fundraisers - Spaghetti Supper** - There were 73 people that joined us for the Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser, plus 2 meals that were delivered, plus Kitchen staff, for a total of 80 meals. We made just about \$900. Everyone enjoyed the meal and stayed to visit. **Christmas Tea & Bake Sale** - We are looking for donations for our Christmas Tea and Bake Sale (donation of any kind of baking, pickles, relishes, jelly, items that are knitted, crocheted, or quilted) - this can be added to our Sunday Announcements. Helpers to serve for the Tea were discussed, we will also ask some of the older girls from Day Camp to help out. **Purdy’s Chocolates** - Our Purdy’s chocolate fundraiser is going well, orders coming in. Deadline for orders are November 25th and Pat will put in the order on November 27th when she is back from holidays.
- **Discuss Proposal from the Wendy Brook Music Festival** - We accepted their proposal, now we are waiting for them to get back to us on their decision after they had their meeting. We will take this item off the agenda as we haven’t heard back from the committee on a definite decision and it sounds like it may be a plan for further into the future than we had thought.
- **Schedule for Pulpit Supply** - We have all of our Sundays covered until the end of December. We were able to get Rev. Laureta Blondin to do our Christmas Eve Service for us, with communion. For Christmas Day everyone is welcome to join St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church for their service at 10:00 am. December 31st worship service will also be at St. Mary’s. Joint worship services are going well, we had almost 30 people in our Church last Sunday.
- **Corner Stone from the old Church** - The two stones were placed in our flowerbed out front. It was discussed that we will put an engraved plaque on one of them to show that it was donated by the Giebelhaus’ family. Vegtel still does engraving downtown, so we can purchase the engraved plaque there.

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- **Church Family Pictorial Directory** - Discussed that the photo-taking went well the other day. Once we have all the photos from the people who were going to send them in to us, then we can send all our information to IPC Canada. We discussed that we will want to have a group photo page included and decided not to have the advertising pages.
- **Faith & Fun Night (Edmonton Oil Kings)** - Discussed that we need to contact the other churches to see if there is more interest in this youth event. Irene to get emails of everyone in the ministerial association so we can find out if anyone from their congregation is interested.
- **Furniture** - We had lots of help to clean out the Minister's office and bring in the new furniture that was donated by the Giebelhaus' family. About eight of us gathered to clean and sanitize everything, move furniture in and out, and deliver the rest of Rev. Pamela Milton's belongings to her.

Committee Reports:

- **Treasurer's Report** - Cash Flow sheet for October was distributed to everyone. Irene went through some of the items listed. Memorial fund donations (\$130) were for Larry Ruptash, Gordon Miller, and Olga Semotiuk. Under fundraising there was an extra \$80 we made on Apple Crisp sales. Funeral fees (\$450) were from Alvin Myshaniuk's funeral. Rent of facility (\$175) was from the Gently Used Clothing Sale. Under expenses, pulpit supply was for Rev. JoAnne Kobyłka (\$232) and Mileage (\$251.90) was for Rev. JoAnne Kobyłka and for Pastor Paul Allard to attend our Council meeting. Photocopier payment of \$171.25 is a quarterly payment for copies made. Janitor salary was for two months (\$433.52). Repairs and Maintenance (\$61.99) was for lawn care, which the cost was donated, and for purchase of batteries.

September Cash Flow Sheet:	Total Inflows:	\$5,466.75
	Total Outflows:	<u>5,205.62</u>
		261.13
General Account	5,749.10	
Memorial	1,109.43	
Capital	0.91	
Common Share (Profit Share)	<u>601.23</u>	
	\$ 7,460.67	

- **Finance** - Discussion took place on the budget that was prepared by Irene and reviewed by the Finance committee - Income from Salem, we put in \$4,200 for bulletins that we may have to print for any funerals, baptisms, and services along with printing their Annual Report - this figure will be discussed by Salem's Board members. Kid's Klub, Day Camp, etc. we put in \$300 which we can use now instead of having all the items donated. We put in \$8,000 to Repairs and Maintenance so that we have extra funds in case something happens. It was discussed that we could maybe use this money to buy a commercial dishwasher. We put in \$300 under Honorarium as it will be policy on January 1, 2024 that Pastor Paul Allard, as our Supervisor, will be paid \$30/hour for his time that he is here for our meetings once a month. **Pat Buehler/Ellen Johnstone** moved that the budget be approved as presented. **CARRIED.**

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- **Worship** - Ellen stated that the **pre-filled communion cups** worked okay on Sunday. They opened easy for everyone and we decided we will continue to use them. For Christmas Eve service, Rev. Laureta Blondin will bring communion wine and we will use the wafers that are under the communion table. Banners are all set up and the sanctuary is ready for our **Remembrance Day service** on Sunday. This will be taken down before Christ the King Sunday on the 26th of November. Ellen has lots of Murphy's Oil for cleaning the pews on November 21st clean-up day, so we don't have to purchase any. Pat mentioned that she has her "Food Safe" course so that she can work in the kitchen for our **Nativity Festival** on Dec. 1st & 2nd (she will just take a refresher course). We have lots of Hot Dogs that were donated for these two days and we can check with the Anglican Church members to see if they are donating the baking again. There are enough long tables for the displays and the tablecloths are in the Bells cupboard. Also discussed volunteers that are available to help out. There was a **Baptism** requested by one of the families in Day Camp. Sarah Rainville is wanting to get baptized (5 ½ years old). **Holly Cependa/Pat Buehler** made a motion that we approve this request and ask Rev. Stephen Sparks if he can do this on November 26th, if there is enough time to get prepared. **CARRIED.** Irene to call Rev. Stephen Sparks.
- **Christian Education** - Holly reported that Kids Klub and Day Camp are going well. Kid's Klub is adding a newcomer every week. With Day Camp there have been close to 20 children each day (Georgina, Antoinette, & Reegan are helpers). Next Day Camp is January 2, 3, & 4, 2024. It is working well with Linda Henderson getting snacks ready in the kitchen and doing clean-up. Georgina will be leading Kid's Klub while Holly is away on holidays for November 30th and December 7th. There hasn't been any Sunday School as there are no children attending Worship Services. Bible Study was discussed and Irene mentioned that there are a few ladies that still want to participate; everyone thought it was okay for us to use the Minister's Office to get together, no set dates, just when everyone is available. Ellen is not available for December 19th Lodge Services, Irene to call Lucille, who helped out with music the last time that Ellen was away.
- **Property and Maintenance** - Bill reported that he trimmed the trees by the exit doors at the front of the Sanctuary. Irene thanked Bill as it looks so clean now and can be used for Funerals if required in the future, or just as our normal emergency exit. Bill let us know that when they moved the tower, the base has writing on it but the writing is facing the building instead of the other way where people can read it. Wolf Buehler came in to fix the toilet that was plugged, there was a pen dropped into it. Discussion took place on the fans in the Sanctuary that are noisy and are in need of some maintenance. We will need to call either Vantage, Pulse Electric, or RJV Electrical as they would have a manlift to reach the high ceiling. Ellen to check with Pulse Electric to see if they are available to do this, and if not Irene to check with RJV. Exterior doors are still not sealed good at the bottom and when we have a snowstorm we usually get snow blowing into the building. Wolf to check the door sweeps.

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- **Fellowship** - Heather and Pat did some visiting separately this month. Pat and Georgina called some of our members in regards to photo-taking for our Church Photo Directory. Georgina called Diane Blair and she is moving to Fort St. John. Holly went to visit with Velma Sample. We had a couple deliveries for our Spaghetti Supper, one to Century Park and one to Golden Villa. Georgina to look into coupons from VTSS for transportation for members of the community to attend our church events.
- **Ministry & Personnel** - Holly and Val went over the position description with our janitor. Discussed that she needs to be watchful of our calendar of events and to know when to come in for extra cleaning during the week. If she is not available, then she needs to let us know that we need to fill in for her.
- **Regional Business/News** - Regional news being emailed to Council. An email came out to let us know that in the new year we will be paying our Ministerial Supervisor an honorarium, along with mileage, for attending our meetings. Discussed availability of a Minister for us for Sundays - Rev. JoAnne Kobylka will be busy now until the end of the year. Creeann Anderson doesn't drive and with winter coming up, she may not be able to get someone to drive her this way. Catherine Bailey, from Two Hills, is still available to do services for us. Georgina commented that she drove to Mannville one Sunday to attend Rev. Carolyn Woodall's service (Carolyn does services in Vermilion, Mannville, and Kitscoty). Holly brought up the "**Remit**" and explained that approval of this Remit will enable the creation of an autonomous National Indigenous Organization within The United Church of Canada. This would acknowledge Indigenous peoples' rights to their own spiritual identities and to self-determination, and would be consistent with the Caretakers of our Indigenous Circle's Calls to the Church and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Remit requires a vote by every regional council and each pastoral charge's governing body. Abstentions are considered a vote against the remit. There will be an online meeting on Thursday, November 23rd at 6:30 pm MST if anyone is interested in learning more about it.
- **Ministerial Meeting** - Georgina commented on the last meeting that she attended. It was a very short meeting and Rev. Laureta Blondin is the only one that has been attending the meetings the longest, the rest are all new ministerial staff. Calvin from NorthPointe Community Church is the Chair and Laureta is the Treasurer.
- Motion to accept reports – **Pat Buehler/Ellen Johnstone** made a motion to accept reports as presented. **CARRIED.**

New Business:

- **Bible Study & Baptism** discussed with reports above.

Devotions next meeting: Finance

Closing Prayer: Pastor Paul Allard

Next Meeting: December 13th at 2:00 pm

Adjournment: 4:56 pm

Georgina Baron, Chairperson

Irene Sabados, Secretary