

ANGLICAN & UNITED CHURCH MINISTRIES
Minutes of Church Council & Vestry Meeting
March 16, 2026 at 7:00 pm, Friendship Room & Zoom

Present In-Person: Pat Buehler, Heather Short, Ardythe Butler, Rob Bown, Joanne Veldkamp, and Irene Sabados

Present On Zoom: Holly Cependa, Rev. Laureta Blondin, Bill Rowe, Val Rowe

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Holly Cependa at 7:04 pm

Devotion: Ardythe read a devotional from “Our Daily Bread” booklet called “True Integrity”

Approval/Additions to Agenda: **Pat Buehler** made a motion and **Heather Short** seconded the motion to accept the agenda with an addition under Committee Reports “Diocesan News” and under New Business “New Banner”. **CARRIED.**

Approval of Minutes for February 23, 2026: **Rob Bown** made a motion and **Pat Buehler** seconded the motion to approve the minutes (with a statement from Holly to be more aware of recording **Action** items at our meetings). **CARRIED.**

- New Correspondence: Rental Inquiry - Home School Co-op (11 families) - Irene read an email from Susan Prestash from the Home School Co-op. Susan inquired about our rental costs to book the Auditorium, Friendship Room, and Multipurpose Room once or twice a month for schooling children. Discussion took place that this would be a good source of extra income for the Church. **Joanne Veldkamp** made a motion to approve only a trial for the Home School families to rent the church in May & June; **Pat Buehler** seconded the motion. **CARRIED.** Irene will email them back to set a date for a trial run to see if the church would work out for them and confirm times and questions we had.

Old Business/Business arising:

- **Fundraisers** - Holly discussed some of our fundraisers: We had a very successful Pie Day on March 13th (the ladies made 30 large pies and 47 small pies). They were all sold out on March 14th within 8 minutes of opening the doors for the sale. A total of 60 hours of volunteer time went in to the fundraiser and we made \$785. Jean Nash from the Lions Golden Villa has contacted us regarding booking us to cater their Christmas meal again this year (discussed that we would be serving at the front of the common room). Our Co-op Hot Dog Sale days are all booked for the summer (Thursday, May 14th; Friday, July 3rd; Friday, July 31st; and Friday, September 4th). Pat and Wolf are not available on May 14th but maybe Freeman can help with a truck and trailer to load the barbecue that day. Maybe we can get our Church banner changed before the Hot Dog Sales to say “Anglican & United Church Ministries” instead of “Vegreville United Church”. On Wednesday, April 22nd we have a Ham Supper in the evening. Tim and Elizabeth Nawrot are able to help out that day and discussion took place on everyone who will be donating the hams, potatoes, etc.
- **Sale of the Anglican Church Building** - There has been nothing further to report on the sale of the building, no more offers and no one got back to us yet from those who did look at the building. Rev. Laureta will discuss with the Bishop how we can make better use of the facility if we can’t sell it. Joanne mentioned that right now we are tax exempt so if we used it to “rent out” that we would have to pay property taxes. (At the moment it is \$2500).

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- **Committee Operations Manual - Fellowship** to have theirs completed tomorrow. **Finance** will discuss their duties at their next meeting. **Worship** will get together to write theirs out, nothing on paper yet. **Christian Education** - there is no one heading this department but Ardythe, Lisa, Holly, Antoinette, and Laureta will get together to write theirs out. **M&P** - Rob and Shirley to talk about their duties and get something written up. **Property & Maintenance** will get theirs done next time they meet. **ACTION** This should be completed by the end of this year. First draft is due before our September Council/Vestry Meeting.

Committee Reports:

- **Rev. Laureta** - Laureta commented that it has been busy this month with Worship. All the bulletins are done up until Easter Sunday. Services were done in the Vegreville Manor, Century Park, Viking (2 services), and Long Term Care had restrictions so we couldn't go in there to do the service. Not many funerals.
- **Rector's Warden** - Ardythe has been helping with scripture readings and helping with coffee and treats after services once a month. She also helped with the last fundraiser we had.
- **People's Warden** - Jim Bragg was not in attendance, no report.
- **Treasurer's Report (Joanne)** - Joanne emailed the balance sheet as of February 28th showing **Income at \$4,614.50** and **Expenses at \$7,393.10** equalling - **2,718.73 (deficit)**. Total in **Bank Accounts and GIC's \$120,254.19 (As per attached.)** Joanne stated that Vestry was in agreement with keeping the Fundraising dollars in the Vegreville United Church Account. **Joanne Veldkamp** made a motion to keep the Fundraising profits in the United Church Account until such time the accounts are combined, **Pat Buehler** seconded the motion. Joanne mentioned an amendment to the above motion that this is with exception to the selling of Christmas trees/wreaths & lilies. **CARRIED.**
- **Treasurer's Report (Irene)** - The cash flow sheet for February was distributed. This past month the outflows were more than the inflows but Irene explained that our Power and Gas Bill was higher (\$1,603.14). **Under Income:** Memorial Fund donations (\$165) were in memory of Olga Larsen; Fundraising (\$543) was for the Pancake Supper; Rent of Facility (\$150) was from the 4-H Club; Vegreville Handbell Choir had \$300 in donations. **Under Expenses:** Fundraising Expenses (\$271.50) was for the 50/50 split of the Pancake Supper profits with St. Mary's; Repairs and Maintenance (\$436.94) was for sidewalk snow removal and salt for the sidewalks.

February Cash Flow Sheet:

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Previous Balance: | \$17,363.03 |
| Total Inflows: | + 5,281.00 |
| Total Outflows: | - 6,301.35 |
| Current Balance: | \$16,342.68 |

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| General Account | \$16,342.68 |
| Memorial | 1,109.43 |
| Capital | 0.91 |
| Common Share (Profit Share) | 487.00 |
| | \$17,940.02 |

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- **Finance** - Some recommendations from our Finance Meeting - **Pat Buehler** made a motion that we transfer \$1,000 to our RSV Pastoral Charge account this month to cover expenses, seconded by **Heather Short**. **CARRIED**. Our quarterly Denominational Assessment is not due until May 1st. Discussion took place on Rev. Laureta's expense account for mileage for 2025 and that it should be given to us to review quarterly and not yearly. Rev. Laureta to talk to Gordon and Patti at Autumn Rose about moving the funeral mileage to families who are paying for the funeral instead of having the church pay for it. **Rob Bown** made a motion that we leave this with Finance to make a decision in regards to the Clergy Travel and bring back a recommendation; **Joanne Veldkamp** seconded the motion. **CARRIED**.
- **Worship** - Rev. Laureta read Ellen's Worship Committee Report as Ellen was not in attendance. **(See attached.)** There was a change to this report where it states that Laureta and Clarence also helped put away the Christmas village under the stage; it should read only thanks to Pat, Wolf, Heather, and Freeman who helped put away the Christmas village. It was discussed at the Worship meeting that we should consider moving the summer services in July and August to 9:00 or 9:30 am. (To be determined.)
- **Christian Education** - Holly stated that Day Camp has been going well with Antoinette, Ardythe, and Lisa helping out. Holly will stay to help out with Day Camp until the end of the school term. Last Day Camp is May 1st. Bible Study - there have been 3 people in attendance, we are expecting 4 people this coming up Thursday. Rev. Laureta thanked Irene for taking the leadership role with the Bible Study.
- **Property & Maintenance** - Bill stated that the weather has been good. Sand and gravel was spread onto the parking lot before the Wendy Brook Festival so it wasn't so slippery. Rev. Laureta came in to steam clean the coffee spill in the Narthex and behind the altar. We will have to replace all the carpets one day as they are old and worn out. Ellen was concerned about the doors that have a space at the bottom but this was looked at and fixed in the past. We have been putting draft stoppers that Pat made at the bottom of each door to help with the draft. Joanne mentioned that Jim had a suggestion that in order to have more space in the front where they play music that the 2 front pews could be switched to the smaller Anglican pews. **Action:** Rev. Laureta, Lisa, and Jim to meet with Bill to see how we can reconfigure the pews to make more room in the front of the Sanctuary.
- **Fellowship** - Heather and Pat have visited 7 people in the last month. They will be visiting 5 or 6 people in the next week. Pat sent out cards for March birthdays and anniversaries. Both Heather and Pat helped out with the pie baking. Heather has been helping Joyce Stewart with things after Rod passed away. Joyce has some vases to give away and they can be used in the church.
- **Ministry & Personnel** - Rob talked to Irene and everything so far is ok. He mentioned that if there are any problems that arise, Irene can call him. Shirley was not in attendance so Irene reported that Traci has been doing ok.
- **Regional News** - Holly mentioned that she can't attend the Regional Council meeting in Grande Prairie because of the distance and timing doesn't work out for her. Holly talked to Two Hills United Church and they are starting a cluster within our area. We will hear from them soon.

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- **Diocesan News** - Rev. Laureta will share news from the Diocese on Facebook. She will also share online worship services designed for rural areas for Easter.
- **Motion to accept reports** - **Ardythe Butler** made a motion to accept the reports as presented, **Heather Short** seconded the motion. **CARRIED.**

New Business:

- **Sanctuary Roof Repair or Replacement** - Discussion took place on the roof damage after the high winds we had a while back. Once the weather is nicer and the snow is melted off the roof, Wolf will go up to check on the roof. Maybe repairs could be covered by insurance. Also discussed that 4 years ago we had an inspection done on the roof and they stated that the roof should last another 5 years. **Action:** Bill will look after overseeing this project with the roof and get back to the committee next month.
- **New Banner** - Georgina's son made the Church banner for us a few years ago that said "Vegreville United Church". This banner is used at our events like the Hot Dog Sale at the Co-op. Discussion took place that we need to get a new banner done up and what the fee would be to have this made. Rev. Laureta discussed maybe we can have a new logo for our ecumenical shared ministry and she will show us three different designs next month. Heather suggested a cross.

Devotions next meeting: People's Warden (Jim Bragg)

Closing Prayer: Rev. Laureta

Next Meeting: April 20th at 7:00 pm

Adjournment: 8:30 pm

Holly Cependa, Council Chair

Irene Sabados, Secretary