

**VEGREVILLE UNITED CHURCH**  
**Minutes of Church Council Meeting**  
**February 12, 2025 at 2:00 pm, Auditorium**

**Present In-Person:** Sharon Lashmar, Rev. Laureta Blondin, Georgina Baron, Rob Bown, Heather Short, Bill Rowe, Shirley Rattray, Holly Cependa, Ellen Johnstone, and Irene Sabados **Present On Zoom:** Robert Paul

Meeting was called to order by Georgina Baron at 2:07 pm - Quorum Present.

**Devotion: Fellowship** - Shirley read the devotional for February 12<sup>th</sup> from Our Daily Bread booklet.

**Approval/Additions to Agenda:** **Heather Short** made a motion and **Holly Cependa** seconded the motion to accept the agenda with an additional item under New Business “Lending out Tea Cups”. **CARRIED.**

**Approval of Minutes for January 8, 2025:** **Ellen Johnstone** made a motion and **Bill Rowe** seconded the motion to approve the minutes with a correction under Social Media to delete Reagan’s name as he is not an Administrator, only posts the videos on Facebook and the other correction under Rev. Adam Hall’s information to state that the New Ministries Fund is “United Church New Ministries Fund”. **CARRIED.**

**Old Business/Business arising:**

- **Handbells** - Irene read an update from Lisa Topilko on what is happening with the Handbell Choir. There were 11 ringers that were in attendance and those who weren’t there for the meeting will be part-timers or substitute ringers. John Kubin has offered to donate funds to the Handbell Choir to cover the cost of the bill for servicing and polishing of the bells so we won’t have to use funds from our memorial account. The Handbell Choir has booked the Auditorium for Sunday evenings from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm from February 23<sup>rd</sup> until May 11<sup>th</sup>. No rehearsals will be held on holiday weekends. There will be an article in the News Advertiser to let everyone know about the Handbell Choir.
- **Fundraisers** - We got good comments on our Chili Challenge Fundraiser. Everyone really enjoyed it. March 4<sup>th</sup> is Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Our pie sale is on March 12<sup>th</sup> with the ladies getting together on March 11<sup>th</sup> to make the pies. Pat passed along some information on our Purdy’s Easter Fundraiser - orders to be in by March 25<sup>th</sup> and delivery to be April 4<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>. St. Mary’s traditional fundraiser for Easter is to sell Easter Lilies “In Memory” of a loved one. Laureta will look after this fundraiser.
- **Refugee Sponsorship** - Our refugee family has a vehicle now and will be taking their driver’s test soon. They are doing well and the family is adjusting to living in Vegreville.
- **100<sup>th</sup> Centennial Celebration** - Pat has booked the caterer for our celebration on June 7<sup>th</sup>, Diane Fausak. There is a menu selection of items to choose from. It was discussed that any of the items will be good (chicken or beef) and it was okay for Pat and Heather to choose which items to order. Ellen and Lisa to get together to discuss music for this day. Once Pat is back home from holidays, Georgina and Pat can look at getting an invitation list drawn up.
- **Updated Church Family Photos** - It was discussed that before June we will update our Photo Board to include the Anglican congregation. Maybe the memorials can be put into a binder to make some extra room on the wall.

**VEGREVILLE UNITED CHURCH**  
**Minutes of Church Council Meeting**  
**February 12, 2025, Page 2**

**Committee Reports:**

- **Treasurer’s Report** - The cash flow sheet for January was distributed to everyone. Under income we received donations to the memorial fund for \$70, in memory of Geri Tuck. The percentage we made for our Purdy’s Fundraiser was \$577.90 and Chili Challenge brought in \$515.00. Our offerings \$2,680.00 are a lot less than the previous month. Under expenses we bought more communion wafers at \$179.92 and candle oil at 141.08, under licenses \$480.76 was for our church website and for Adobe, case of paper towels was \$146.72, repairs and maintenance \$925.36 was for our Fire Extinguisher inspection, for snow removal of sidewalks and parking lot and for safe-t-salt (\$155.36 of this cost was donated). Photocopier costs (quarterly equipment lease \$508.80, quarterly copy costs \$196.71).

<b>January Cash Flow Sheet:</b>	<b>Previous Balance:</b>	<b>\$11,850.61</b>
	<b>Total Inflows:</b>	<b>+ 4,818.18</b>
	<b>Total Outflows:</b>	<b>- 7,364.31</b>
	<b>Current Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 9,304.48</b>

<b>General Account</b>	<b>9,304.48</b>
<b>Memorial</b>	<b>1,109.43</b>
<b>Capital</b>	<b>0.91</b>
<b>Common Share (Profit Share)</b>	<b>487.00</b>
	<b><u>\$10,901.82</u></b>

- **Finance** - At our Finance meeting today we discussed that we can lower the cheque to our RSV account to \$1200.00 now that the Denominational Assessment for the first quarter has been paid. Also, we discussed that our piano in the Sanctuary will need some “hammer” repair and the estimate might be up to \$200. The Wendy Brook Music Festival will be paying for the tuning of two pianos. (This will be done before March 6<sup>th</sup>) **Bill Rowe** made a motion that our next cheque to our RSV account will be \$1200 and that we get the hammer work done on our pianos at the same time as they come to do the piano tuning, seconded by **Ellen Johnstone. CARRIED.**
- **Worship** - Our covenanting service for Holly Cependa went well on January 19<sup>th</sup>. The only thing is we couldn’t hear MaryAnn Pastuck very well on Zoom. Holly was very pleased that her family could join her on that day. Colleen Albert from the Lutheran Church asked about our Living Last Supper items. They are doing a community event for Palm Sunday in the evening at the Lutheran Church. **Ellen Johnstone** made a motion that all the items for the Living Last Supper be given to the Lutheran Church (except for the pictures to be returned the next day); we are requesting that they acknowledge that it is the resources from the United Church and that the United Church members made the costumes; this is to be put in their program for that evening. **Heather Short** seconded this motion. **CARRIED.** Lisa and Ellen are doing the cleaning in the Choir Room. There are lots of boxes of old books, etc. One copy of the old music is being kept. They found an old choir book from 1897. Voices United Hymn books from 1991 we will not keep but the 1997 books we will still keep.

**VEGREVILLE UNITED CHURCH**  
**Minutes of Church Council Meeting**  
**February 12, 2025, Page 3**

- **Worship (continued)** - There are lots of “Songs of the Gospel People” hymn books and the Anglican Church has some as well. Thank you to Ellen and Lisa for cleaning out this room. Ash Wednesday is a full service here at the United Church at 7:00 pm. Holy Thursday will be a potluck supper then the service in the evening. Good Friday will be a quiet service at the United Church in the afternoon and a service at Salem in the morning. Easter Sunday not sure yet as maybe Rev. Adam Hall may come to do our service. Rev. Laureta to give him a call. March 9<sup>th</sup> is Daylight Savings, reminder to set your clocks ahead. Georgina will be coordinating the World Day of Prayer for March 7<sup>th</sup> (changed to March 14<sup>th</sup> since our council meeting).
- **Christian Education** - Holly mentioned that we have started Sunday School again (there has been some kids attend lately). We are using the same curriculum as for our Day Camp. Day Camp went well (Feb. 6 & 7). There were 5 children. Next Day Camp is March 25, 26, & 27. Bible Study will start up once Rev. Laureta joins us in our building.
- **Property & Maintenance** - Snow clearing is going good, everything is being kept up and cleaned. Salt for the sidewalks is all stocked up for the next time we are needing it. Piano to be moved into the middle of the stage after the meeting to keep the area in front of the furnace room clear.
- **Fellowship** - Heather will be going to Mundare next week to meet with Velma. Her family has requested that we go and visit her. Velma is very happy to be receiving our newsletters.
- **Ministry and Personnel** - Linda is still covering for Janitorial. She has been checking up on Traci who is recovering well but still has some rehab that she needs to do before returning to the Church. It was expressed that Linda is doing a very good job with cleaning “Thank you to Linda”. Georgina got an email from Lisa Topilko that she was wanting to pass along to our Council - a grateful message for Irene and all the support and help with the Handbell Choir who is meeting in the Church Sunday evenings as she was coming in and unlocking the doors for them.
- **Regional Business News & Ministerial Meeting** - Georgina will be going to the Regional Meeting May 29<sup>th</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup>. Registration will be online but not until mid-March. August 7-12 will be the National General Council meeting. Laureta has been invited to the regular meetings with the Northern Spirit Clergy. On the morning of Ash Wednesday there will be a service at St. Joseph’s Hospital.
- **Pastoral Charge Supervisor** - Sharon commented that she has been a part of the presbytery for 25 years. Thank you to Sharon for being here as our supervisor and we appreciate her.
- **St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church** - Rev. Laureta commented that on March 2<sup>nd</sup> will be the last service at St. Mary’s with Bishop Stephen London preaching and presiding. The building is still up for sale and they are also looking into the building being used as a rental space if there are no buyers. The Town of Vegreville was approached and maybe this can be used as an outreach space. The building will not be deconsecrated yet as we might not be able to sell. Lisa and Laureta have worked hard on getting a draft memorandum of agreement for the other members to take a look at. Bishop Stephen London and Rev. Adam Hall to look over the agreement as well.

**VEGREVILLE UNITED CHURCH**  
**Minutes of Church Council Meeting**  
**February 12, 2025, Page 4**

- **Motion to accept reports - Holly Cependa made a motion and Ellen Johnstone seconded** the motion to accept reports as presented. **CARRIED.**

**New Business:**

- **Wendy Brook Music Festival/Piano Tuner** - The Festival will take place on Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup> and they will be using the Auditorium, Sanctuary, and Friendship Room. (Rental Fee for Auditorium and Friendship Room and will make a donation for the use of the Sanctuary). A motion was made for the piano repairs under Finance Committee report above.
- **Key for Outside Door - Lisa Topilko** - Motion was made by **Shirley Rattray** and seconded by **Holly Cependa** that Lisa can be given a key to the outside doors so she can access the church when she needs to for the Handbell Choir. **CARRIED.**
- **Housing & Basic Needs** - Antoinette has been attending the Housing & Basic Needs Committee meetings. She informed us that there are a lot of people having financial difficulties in town and they are wanting to have a space to gather, to meet people in the community; they have discussed that the members are not wanting to come to a “church” and maybe getting together in the Senior’s Centre would be a better idea. Antoinette will keep us informed of what decisions they make at their next meeting.
- **Pride Committee** - Holly informed us that she has been attending the Pride Committee meetings but they have separated into two groups (**Pride Committee** through FCSS then the other group is renamed **Vegreville Proud Committee** which includes the Queer Community and Allies). Holly is a member of the Vegreville Proud Committee now. Holly’s interest is more along the lines of acceptance (Basic Human Rights). They would like to host a movie day and would like to rent the church one day a month (daily or hourly rate). This month is “Black History” month. She would also like to use the church for “community education” as well. Holly to reach out to Irene to book a day once they have a date and time set for their movie.
- **Lending Out Tea Cups** - Lil Yakimchuk’s daughter-in-law asked if we were willing to rent out our tea cups and saucers. It was discussed at our Finance Meeting today that we would not want to lend out the tea cups as they are very fragile and someone would have to be available to pack them up really good and then check that they came back without any missing or broken. Heather and Laureta offered to package up the tea cups so **Shirley Rattray** made a motion that we lend out 30 tea cups to the Yakimchuk family and **Holly Cependa** seconded the motion. **CARRIED.**

**Devotions next meeting:** Sharon Lashmar

**Closing Prayer:** Sharon Lashmar

**Next Meeting:** March 12, 2025 at 2:00 pm

**Adjournment:** 3:40 pm

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**Georgina Baron, Chairperson**

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**Irene Sabados, Secretary**