

VEGREVILLE UNITED CHURCH
Minutes of Church Council Meeting
December 10, 2025 at 10:30 am, Friendship Room

Present In-Person: Georgina Baron, Rev. Laureta Blondin, Rob Bown, Bill Rowe, Ellen Johnstone, Pat Buehler, Holly Cependa, Antoinette Fortier, Heather Short, Shirley Rattray, and Irene Sabados

Meeting was called to order by Georgina Baron at 10:30 am

Devotion: Heather read a devotional from “Our Daily Bread” devotional book called “Unforgettable Lessons”.

Approval/Additions to Agenda: **Pat Buehler** made a motion and **Bill Rowe** seconded the motion to accept the agenda as presented. **CARRIED**.

Approval of Minutes for November 19, 2025: **Holly Cependa** made a motion and **Ellen Johnstone** seconded the motion to approve the minutes as presented. **CARRIED**.

Correspondence: firstthirdministry.ca - Georgina read the letter we got from Northern Spirit in regards to some exciting activities coming up in 2026 - retreats and getaways for children and young adults. Leaders' Online Gathering will be held the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. Posters will be posted and distributed in the New Year to let everyone know what events are happening. See firstthirdministry.ca for more information.

Old Business/Business arising:

- **Fundraisers** - Holly commented that our fundraisers have been going well. Our Christmas Tea and Bake sale raised over \$1700. The catering of the Christmas meal for the Golden Villa yesterday we made \$1050 (30 residents x \$35/meal) and for Parkview Manor on December 16th there will be less residents (20 x \$35/meal = \$700). Rev. Laureta commented that the Nativity Festival went well. There was not a large amount of people who attended but we still were able to get a good amount of donations (food and cash) for the foodbank. Pat commented that the profit for our Purdy's fundraiser was about \$380 and it will be a few weeks before we receive our cheque from them. Georgina thanked everyone for their involvement in the fundraisers which makes them so successful. Discussion took place later in our meeting that we will have our Chili Challenge Fundraiser on Wednesday, January 14th in the evening.
- **Remove Pews For Wheelchair Access; Replace with St. Mary's pews; Sanding and Staining of Pews** - The other two pews that we were thinking of moving from St. Mary's to replace ours, closer to the front (midway), will be done in January as it is getting too close to all our Christmas services. Ellen commented that Freeman has four more coats of stain to put on the back pews but this will also be done in January.
- **Camp Whitney - Support & A Delegate** - It was discussed that no one from our congregation had a chance to go to the meeting that was held in Mannville. Joan Anderson from Innisfree was able to attend as well as someone from Wainwright. We are needing some families to get involved. When Camp Whitney does their Spring Clean Up, we will have to watch for the date and send out the information to everyone.

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Committee Reports:

- **Treasurer's Report** - The cash flow sheet for November was distributed. Irene went through some of the items: **Under Income** - Env. Offerings \$2,595 and General Fund \$2,135; Funeral Fees \$700 was for the Orest Kolisniak funeral held at the church; Fundraising - \$2,143.42 (amount of \$302.40 e-transfer for payment of a Purdy's order; 50% of Rummage Sale proceeds \$961.02 we received from St. Mary's; Spaghetti Supper we brought in \$870 and split half the proceeds with St. Mary's; plus \$10 was a donation received from our Halloween Party Lunch); Vegreville Handbell Choir received \$200 in donations; **Under Expenses** - Admin. Costs \$130.20 for stamps; Admin Licenses was for our One License music copyright license and Adobe; Janitorial Supplies - 2 soap dispensers (credit \$66.44 for returned items); Repairs and Maintenance \$85 (donated cost of yard maintenance).

October Cash Flow Sheet:	Previous Balance:	12,654.55
	Total Inflows:	+ 7,877.42
	Total Outflows:	- 5,787.36
	Current Balance:	\$14,744.61

General Account	\$14,744.61
Memorial	1,109.43
Capital	0.91
Common Share (Profit Share)	487.00
	\$16,341.95

- **Finance** - Some recommendations from our Finance Meeting - **Ellen Johnstone** made a motion that we transfer \$3,000 to our RSV Pastoral Charge account this month to cover expenses and still have some funds left over in the account for the new year, seconded by **Pat Buehler**. **CARRIED**.
- **Worship** - Ellen commented that everything is coming together nicely for the Lessons & Carols Service. Also to note that for December Rev. Laureta will be covering all the services each Sunday.
- **Christian Education** - Holly wasn't able to make it for the last day of the **Day Camp** on November 14th so she thanked Lisa Topilko for covering the morning session and Georgina Baron for covering the afternoon as well as Antoinette who is always there to help out with the sessions. We had from 7 to 11 children for the 3-day Camp. Holly stated that the **Kid's Klub** has not been working out on Thursday after school so it has been cancelled for the rest of December and re-evaluated in January. Some feedback received is that maybe Monday or Tuesday would be better but Holly is not available these days. There haven't been many people interested in the **Bible Study** sessions but we did go ahead with it once a month in the Prayer Room.
- **Property & Maintenance** - Snow removal is being done by the same people as last year and they are keeping the sidewalks and parking lot cleaned when it is needed. Freeman Johnstone is staining our pews, still a few more coats left to do. Bill to look into the tap that is dripping in the kitchen as well as at another sink the cold water tap doesn't close properly (you have to have it perfectly aligned to stop running).

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- **Property & Maintenance (continued)** - We still have water running down the wall in the Sanctuary and staining the wall. This is the same problem we have been having over the years. Rev. Laureta noticed there are cracks in the drywall over the entrance to the Auditorium. She noticed this when they were changing the banners. Discussion took place that we do need a paint job throughout the whole building and maybe take a look at doing this in the Spring.
- **Fellowship** - Heather and Pat have been doing visits separately but they will be going out together to do a visit in Mundare before Christmas, to see George & Velma. We purchased a gift certificate (with donations from some of our members) for Bert & Donna who have just moved into Vegreville in May of this year and he is a throat cancer survivor. They were going to a United Church in Edmonton but now have been coming here to our services.
- **Ministry & Personnel** - Traci is doing well, working at Wal-Mart as well as doing our janitorial here at the church. She will be polishing the pews with Murphy Oil before Christmas.
- **Regional Business News & Ministerial Meeting** - Regional emails are being forwarded to our Council as usual. There is a lot of information for those who are interested. Rev. Laureta got an invitation from the Roman Catholic priest to meet up but it didn't work out so will have to meet another time. Maybe we need to look at working together with other churches as a congregation instead of getting the ministers together. On a positive note, it was brought up that various churches as well as the Handbell Choir are involved in our Lessons & Carols service. We should start putting in announcements for other churches in our bulletin and they can put our event announcements in their bulletins.
- **St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church** - Rev. Laureta mentioned that they decided at the last Vestry Meeting that they would have their Annual Meeting on February 23rd. As that date did not work out for Holly (she had other commitments), we discussed changing it to February 1st and having one meeting for both St. Mary's and Vegreville United. **Pat Buehler** made a motion that we have our Annual Meeting together on February 1st immediately after worship service, then we will have the potluck lunch, **Heather Short** seconded this motion. **CARRIED**.
- **Motion to accept reports** - **Ellen Johnstone** made a motion to accept the reports as presented, seconded by **Heather Short**. **CARRIED**.

New Business:

- **Auditor for Year End** - **Shirley Rattray** made a motion and **Bill Rowe** seconded the motion that we have the same auditor as in previous years, Rod McMinis, do the review of our books again. Also, we would give him a \$100 gift certificate as an honorarium. **CARRIED**.
- **Annual Report Due Date/Annual Meeting Date** - As mentioned earlier in the meeting our Annual Meeting will be on February 1st right after worship service. We discussed that the due date for submitting committee reports to Irene will be Monday, January 12th.
- **Candle Holders from Flowerland** - We had six boxes of candle holders (36 in total) given to us by Flowerland (Shirley brought them in for us.) Each box had different "sayings" on them. It was decided that the two boxes of candle holders that say "A sister is a special blessing" will be given to the Royal Purple ladies;

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- **Candle Holders from Flowerland (continued)** two candle holders that say “God grant me serenity, wisdom, and courage” will be put in the Multipurpose Room for the AA meetings; the rest of the candle holders with “Faith lights the way” on them and the remaining “God grant me the serenity, wisdom, and courage” will be given out by the Fellowship committee when they do their visiting, or given to families as expressions of sympathy, etc. Special flameless candles will be bought to place inside the holders.
- **Storage for Christmas Village (Stage?)** - The Christmas Village that was donated to us will not be put out this year, maybe look at putting it out next year. For now it was discussed that we store the boxes under the stage.

Devotions next meeting: Ministry & Personnel

Closing Prayer: Rev. Laureta

Next Meeting: January 14th at 10:00 AM in the Friendship Room

Adjournment: 11:45 AM

Georgina Baron, Council Chair

Irene Sabados, Secretary