

VEGREVILLE UNITED CHURCH
Minutes of Church Council Meeting
January 14, 2026 at 10:00 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 10:06 am

Devotion: Shirley read a devotional from “Our Daily Bread” devotional book called “Comfort of God”.

Approval/Additions to Agenda: **Heather Short** made a motion and **Ellen Johnstone** seconded the motion to accept the agenda as presented. **CARRIED.**

Approval of Minutes for December 10, 2025: **Pat Buehler** made a motion and **Holly Cependa** seconded the motion to approve the minutes as presented. **CARRIED.**

Correspondence: None

Old Business/Business arising:

- **Fundraisers** - Holly discussed some of our fundraisers with the Chili Challenge being held tonight. We have eight pots of chili registered so that should be plenty for everyone to vote on. It’s been a busy December for fundraisers. The two catering functions went well. We are planning a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper for February 17th and Pie Day in March sometime.
- **Remove Pews For Wheelchair Access; Replace with St. Mary’s pews; Sanding and Staining of Pews** - We were waiting until after Christmas so that we can move the other two pews to our church and remove the other ones. This will be scheduled for sometime this month. Also, the re-staining of the pews will be done after the other pews get moved.
- **Annual Reports** - It was discussed that we will put together one Annual Report for our joint ministry, combining both Vegreville United and St. Mary’s reports, including Financial Reports.

Committee Reports:

- **Treasurer’s Report** - The cash flow sheet for December was distributed. Irene went through some of the items: **Under Income** - Env. Offerings \$3,715 and General Fund \$6,146.42; Memorial Fund \$220 was from donations made in memory of Orest Kolisniak and Lillian Ziegler; Fundraising \$4,841.83 was for catering fundraisers \$1760, Christmas Tea \$1729, and payments for those who bought Purdy’s chocolates \$1352.83; Funeral Fees \$250 was for Lillian Ziegler’s funeral. **Under Expenses** - some of the items under Worship (\$912.04) \$607.43 were for donated supplies for a wooden cross for Easter worship services, \$269.88 for communion wafers, \$34.73 for Baptismal certificates; under Photocopier fees (\$773.41) \$264.61 for quarterly copy fee and \$508.80 for quarterly lease fee; under fundraising expenses (\$2,818.44) \$1671.08 for payment to Purdy’s for chocolate orders and a cheque to St. Mary’s \$864.50 for 50/50 split of Christmas Tea profit; repairs and maintenance (\$633.52) \$195 for sidewalk snow removal and annual extinguisher maintenance was \$135.50, the rest of the items \$303.02 were donated to the church; Handbell Choir expenses \$145.55 to Brandenburg Music.

VEGREVILLE UNITED CHURCH
Minutes of Church Council Meeting
January 14, 2026, Page 2

December Cash Flow Sheet:	Previous Balance: 14,744.61
	Total Inflows: +15,456.75
	Total Outflows: <u>-10,671.93</u>
	Current Balance: \$19,529.43

General Account	\$19,529.43
Memorial	1,109.43
Capital	0.91
Common Share (Profit Share)	487.00
	<u>\$21,126.77</u>

- **Finance** - Some recommendations from our Finance Meeting - **Pat Buehler** made a motion that we transfer \$2,500 to our RSV Pastoral Charge account this month to cover expenses, seconded by **Ellen Johnstone**. **CARRIED**. Lisa Topilko joined our Finance meeting to get more direction on what the Handbell Choir can pay the church for the use of the building. Suggestions were to pay for a portion of heat, insurance, etc.; then it was decided that maybe a rental fee can be paid each year to help out with costs. Lisa will meet with her choir members to decide on an amount they think would work.
- **Worship** - December was a busy month for Worship. On November 30th was a blended service for the first week of Advent. We had a Lessons and Carols service on December 21st with choirs joining us from the Lutheran church and Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church. Our Christmas Eve service went over really well, with some different musical instruments including flute, piano, guitar, handbells, and organ. We had some really good comments from the many people who joined us that evening. In February we will have an Ash Wednesday blended communion service in the evening. Holly made a suggestion that for our bigger services like the Lessons and Carols, that we use the mics and someone lets people know where to stand so the sound is good and everyone can hear. Next year maybe we will schedule the Lessons and Carols for 2:00 pm in the afternoon instead of 7:00 pm in the evening as a lot of the seniors do not like to go out in the evenings in the winter.
- **Christian Education** - December was very quiet as there was no Kid's Klub and no Day Camp. There were a couple children for Sunday School. We have decided that we will continue with Day Camp only as we have been getting lots of children attending, whereas for Kid's Klub some afternoons there were no children at all.
- **Property & Maintenance** - Bill reported that we had lots of snow in December. Parking lots and sidewalks were kept clean and ready for our many events. Clarence was able to replace one set of taps in the kitchen (new shut offs were added). One more tap to fix and Clarence will get the inserts to fix the drip. (Since our meeting, Wolf was able to come in and fix the dripping tap.) Discussion took place on the thermostats and as there were numerous suggestions and ideas on what would be best to save money, we have decided that we turn the heat up from 14 to 16 throughout the week, until Spring, and see how it shows up on our billing.

VEGREVILLE UNITED CHURCH
Minutes of Church Council Meeting
January 14, 2026, Page 3

- **Fellowship** - Heather and Pat have been doing some visiting. Went to see George and Velma in Mundare. They took them “Our Daily Bread” devotional booklet and a special candle/with holder (holders were donated by Flowerland). Pat has been visiting with Pat Stewart and was able to visit with Lynda Paul in Grande Prairie. Heather went to see Joyce and Rod Stewart. Rev. Laureta went to visit Marion Baxandall and Marion Austin in the Hospital and will take communion this afternoon (Heather to go with Laureta).
- **Ministry & Personnel** - Shirley reported that she has been communicating regularly with Traci and she is doing well. Traci has also been starting to help out with some of our events at the Church. Rob has met with Irene, discussing our combined annual reports and even though we signed our agreement in October, there are still some things that are not combined like our Finances and having a representative on M&P.
- **Regional Business News & Ministerial Meeting** - Georgina read out Rev. Adam Hall’s email with his response to our letter of concern about the amendment to the income tax act (2024). Because this amendment was halted, the Region has not been working towards an alternative as one is not needed at this time. Also, Laureta reported that according to the Anglican Diocese, they are not worried, therefore not pursuing it further. Laureta reported that there will be a Pastoral Care Meeting the week before Ash Wednesday and Laureta agreed to attend.
- **St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church** - The Rummage Sale fundraiser went really well and the building is all cleaned up and stuff moved out. Everyone is happy that we are doing things together and also we are finding ways to include the community as well. Christmas Eve service was really nice and we had a good attendance, even though it was storming.
- **Motion to accept reports** - **Holly Cependa** made a motion to accept the reports as presented, **Ellen Johnstone** seconded the motion. **CARRIED.**

New Business:

- **4-H Public Speaking Events (Room Rental)** - Jamie Galeta from the 4-H Club called to ask what the charge would be for renting the Auditorium and Kitchen for February 28th for their District Public Speaking event (50-60 people). The Club is willing to pay the \$150/day charge and will pay this ahead of time. **Holly Cependa** made a motion that we accept this rental on February 28th, and **Heather Short** seconded this motion. **CARRIED.** The previous monthly rental that was approved by the Board for the 4-H Club monthly meetings was cancelled by Jamie.
- **Wendy Brook Music Festival (March 9 & 12 - Auditorium, Sanctuary, and Friendship Room)** - Irene let everyone know the dates that the Festival will be in our Church. They book the space each year and give us a donation for the use of the Sanctuary and pay our normal rental fee for the Auditorium and Friendship Room. Wayne comes to tune our two pianos each year for the festival and this is paid by the Wendy Brook Music Festival. Irene to call Ellen to let her know the date he will be coming in.

VEGREVILLE UNITED CHURCH
Minutes of Church Council Meeting
January 14, 2026, Page 4

- **Vegreville Transportation Services** - We got a call from Trish at Vegreville Transportation Services looking for volunteers from the Church to help with guiding people to their appointments, etc. once they are dropped off at their location and then guiding them back to the van after their appointment. Anyone interested can call Trish at 780-603-7425. This note will be placed in our Sunday bulletin. They have been calling all the churches in town as well.

- **Georgina reported that this will be her last meeting and she will be stepping down as Council Chair. She has been involved in the Church for over 42 years and now she needs to spend more time caring for her family. Thank you to Georgina for all her service throughout the years.**

Devotions next meeting: Treasurer

Closing Prayer: Rev. Laureta

Next Meeting: Will be a joint meeting, to be determined which evening.

Adjournment: 11:35 am

Georgina Baron, Council Chair

Irene Sabados, Secretary