

**VEGREVILLE UNITED CHURCH**  
**Minutes of Church Council Meeting**  
**December 11, 2024 at 2:00 pm, Auditorium**

**Present In-Person:** Georgina Baron, Holly Cependa, Heather Short, Pat Buehler, Ellen Johnstone, and Irene Sabados

**Present On Zoom:** Sharon Lashmar, Rev. Laureta Blondin, and Bill Rowe

Meeting was called to order by Georgina Baron at 2:04 pm - Quorum Present.

**Devotion: Property & Maint.** - Bill was on Zoom so Heather read from "Our Daily Bread" Devotional Booklet for December 11 "Jeremiah 29:10-14" titled "God Will Answer"

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

**Approval of Minutes for November 13, 2024: Heather Short made a motion and Ellen Johnstone seconded** the motion to approve the minutes as presented. **CARRIED.**

**New Correspondence: Cosmopolitan Music Society (Handbells)** - Irene let everyone know that we got a request from the Cosmopolitan Music Society in Edmonton that they would like to borrow our handbells. It was discussed that it is better that the handbells get used because at the moment they are sitting in storage and haven't been used for a long time. **Ellen Johnstone made a motion and Pat Buehler seconded the motion** that there be some stipulations that come with lending the handbells - we would have to check that our insurance has the handbells listed separately; the Cosmopolitan Music Society should have a rider on their insurance for the handbells (we would need a copy of this); a letter/contract signed by both parties that lists everything we are lending (2 octaves, each bell listed separately); the date that the handbells will be returned; also that if we find a handbell director in the future that we would request that the handbells be returned to us. **CARRIED.**

**Old Business/Business arising:**

- **Fundraisers** - We discussed some new fundraisers for the New Year - Wednesday, January 15, 2025 we decided to have our "Three Kings Chili Challenge Fundraiser" - our 4-H group offered to help us out with this event; Pat offered to do our Purdy's Easter Chocolate Fundraiser again - Purdy's Christmas Chocolate Fundraiser brought in \$577, cheque to arrive once our Postal Strike is over; Pi Day is March 14, 2025 so we will do the same as we did this year for Pi Day is bake the pies on Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> and have the pick up date Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> (we have enough apples in our freezer to make 20 pies); our Spring Tea we will have sometime in May (we will have helpers from our 4-H Club again).
- **Refugee Sponsorship** - Holly commented that our refugee family is settling in quite nicely. The parts for their used car, that was donated to them, came in and soon they will have their own transportation. For now they have been relying on committee members for transport in town and to Edmonton. They got their International Driver's Licence now but can't apply for their Alberta Driver's Licence until they get their new PR Cards.

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- **Refugee Sponsorship, Continued** - The family will be ready for an afternoon or evening, sometime in January or February, where we can invite the community to an information sharing session where they will tell their life story and people can ask questions. A newspaper article will be coming out soon as they were interviewed by Rosanne from the News Advertiser.
- **100<sup>th</sup> Centennial Celebration** - Discussed our Minister's Board in the Narthex that has all the ministers' names on it. Arthur at the News Advertiser suggested our only option to add new names to this board is to have an "added piece" stuck onto it with the names that are missing from the board. We will get this completed before our Celebration. We are looking at maybe getting some funding from the United Church of Canada for our big Centennial Celebration (next due date for submission is March 15<sup>th</sup>). No date has been chosen for our celebration as we are waiting to hear what date the Northern Spirit Regional Council has chosen.
- **Sacramental Elder Training** - Holly was excited to let us know that she received her "Approval of License to Administer Sacraments" today. The license will be in effect until December 31, 2025. Everyone congratulated Holly on the approval. We chose the date of January 19<sup>th</sup> for a Covenanting Service. There is a layout of the service in the Handbook. Holly distributed a draft copy of a Baptism Policy for everyone to look over as we do not have one. (Until now it has been up to each minister.) Discussed that for the United Church services we could have communion inserts (copies are in the file cabinet in the office) in order that we not waste so much paper.

**Committee Reports:**

- **Treasurer's Report** - Cash Flow sheet for November was distributed to everyone. Irene went through some of the items listed. Under Fundraising \$1356.05 was brought in for our Christmas Tea and Bake Sale, along with e-transfers received for payment of Purdy's chocolates; under miscellaneous income we got a donation for our old pulpit and baptismal font. Under expenses, the cost of janitorial supplies and repairs and maintenance was donated. Under UCW \$219.90 we bought sympathy flowers and flowers for Rev. Pamela as they are moving out of town. Administration costs were for a roll of stamps \$103.95. We had a \$70.00 credit on our visa from our defective flood lamp, there is still a credit of 15.62 left on the statement.

<b>November Cash Flow Sheet:</b>	<b>Previous Balance:</b>	<b>\$5,275.60</b>
	<b>Total Inflows:</b>	<b>+ 4,071.95</b>
	<b>Total Outflows:</b>	<b>- 4,085.01</b>
	<b>Current Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 5,262.54</b>
	<b>Plus Profit Share</b>	<b>54.11</b>
		<b>\$ 5,316.65</b>

<b>General Account</b>	<b>5,316.65</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>\$6,913.99</b>

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- **Finance** - Finance items from our meeting will be discussed under new business.
- **Worship** - Rev. Laureta and Clarence brought over the Advent Candles from the Anglican Church so we can use them here for Sunday. The Nativity Festival went well. Lisa Topilko delivered the cash and food, that was donated, to the Food Bank and they were very grateful for the donation.
- **Christian Education** - The Nativity Walk went really well. There were 15 people that went through. Heather, Holly, Antoinette, and Sierra Ezio dressed up and told their part in the Nativity Story. We intend to do the same for next year but will have to watch not to have it on the same day as the Town's Christmas Light Up Parade. Discussion took place on Kid's Klub and because there is only one regular attendee, we will not be continuing in the New Year. Day Camp will continue at the end of January.
- **Property & Maintenance** - Bill reported that we had to do some parking lot snow removal after the last snowfall. There were some toilet seat repairs in the ladies washroom, otherwise not much to report for the month.
- **Fellowship** - Pat and Heather had three places that they visited and they took chocolates and pointsettias with them. (Rod & Joyce Stewart, Elvera Miskiwi, and David & Joyce Ziegler)
- **Ministry and Personnel** - Nothing new to report this month. Linda Henderson has been covering for our janitor until she is ready to come back to work. Linda's agreement will be extended for the month of January as Traci is still not well enough to come back.
- **Regional Business News & Ministerial Meeting** - Nothing new to report.
- **Pastoral Charge Supervisor** - Sharon commented that we should be starting to share financials with St. Mary's Vestry and they should be sharing their financials with our Church Council. Sharon asked about Salem being a part of our RSV Pastoral Charge which we mentioned that they are still included with us, they contribute funds into our RSV account, they usually have four services per year, and they did request that Rev. Laureta come and do a service for them if it works out. Out of our RSV Pastoral Charge account we pay our yearly UCC Denominational Assessment, the secretarial wages come out of that account, telephone/internet charges come out of that account, and a quarter of photocopier fees come out of that account as Salem staff sometimes come to the office to get bulletin copies made for their services as well as have their Annual Report copied on our office photocopier.
- **St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church** - Rev. Laureta mentioned that there were not many people that came to the Nativity Festival because on the Friday night was also the Town's Christmas Light Up Parade. This Sunday Laureta will be in Vermilion and next Sunday in Wainwright. In regards to the sale of the Anglican Church - there has been more interest and sounds like they are serious.
- **Motion to accept reports** - **Pat Buehler made a motion and Heather Short seconded** the motion to accept reports as presented. **CARRIED.**

**New Business:**

- **Key Request** - (Discussed at Finance Meeting) Rev. Laureta has requested a key to the exterior doors, everyone agreed that she can sign for a key. Irene to order two extra keys from Tim's Locksmithing (one for Laureta and one spare to have on hand).

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- **Shared Ministry Agreement Committee** - Bill Rowe and Ellen Johnstone agreed to be on this committee along with Lisa Topilko and Lyle Grant from St. Mary's.
- **Inventory Committee** - Heather Short and Pat Buehler agreed to be on this committee.
- **Auditor for Year End - Holly Cependa made a motion** that Rod McMinis from Vermilion be our reviewer of our Church books again, **seconded by Pat Buehler. CARRIED.**
- **Annual Report Due Date / Annual Meeting Date** - We chose the date of January 19, 2025 for our Annual Meeting and reports should be emailed to Irene by January 10, 2025.
- **Pat Buehler** - Georgina & Pat made a presentation to Irene of a beautiful quilt that Pat made. This was in thanks for a previous year when Rev. Pamela was still here and Irene did not put any hours in for one month. This was very much appreciated and thank you from Irene.

**Devotions next meeting:** Fellowship

**Closing Prayer:** Rev. Laureta Blondin

**Next Meeting:** January 8, 2025 at 2:00 pm

**Adjournment:** 3:10 pm

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**Georgina Baron, Chairperson**

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**Irene Sabados, Secretary**