

## ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST ~ COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 10, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Council members present: Alice Clubb, Pastor Geoff Drutchas, Julius Enesey, Arlene Felske, Allen Gunther, Beverley Gunther, David Lange, Pamela Lange, Frederick Miller, Gary Peters, Candace Poet, Diane Poet, and John Smith. (Following the resignation of Suzanne Mrowka, the Council is one member short.)

Council member excused: Kevin Kittendorf

Guests of Council: 2017 Council Candidates - Kristi Caruso, Michael Isaacs, and Mark Ennis

President Pam Lange declared the meeting open at 7:28 p.m. Rev. Dr., Geoffrey Drutchas asked everyone to join hands in a recitation of the Lord's Prayer. He also asked that we all remember Sally Sigman in our prayers as she recovers from knee surgery.

Pam Lange asked if everyone had read the minutes from the December 13, 2016 meeting in preparation for a vote of approval.

Motion by Diane Poet seconded by Dave Lange to approve the December 13, 2016 Council Minutes. Motion carried.

Additions, corrections, to the minutes:

Candace Poet has date changes for the Master Event Calendar - Cole Slaw making.

Al Gunther will update on knee surgery he will have in February.

Dave Lange – update on Vision Team.

No scheduled Council Guests were present. It was reported by one member, that those who serve as part of the church's Financial Ministry had not been notified. A reminder may be needed, however, since there is already a printed list that remains unchanged and the list shows which month each group is scheduled to be at the Council Meeting. A representative of each group is invited to attend one meeting each year, in order to offer information about their group. This is a benefit for council members in keeping themselves current on all the "who, what, why, and when" issues of the church. This list will be reprinted and needs to be distributed once again to each church group.

The current schedule of guests will be altered as necessary in order to accommodate all of the groups.

Gary Peters provided a printed financial report. Gary reviewed the report for the benefit of those in attendance. Over-all, we continue to be slightly under the dollar amount we had been expecting to receive. Church spending shown in the budget for 2017 will be somewhat lower, in order to meet the budget we have set up for ourselves. The Fund Activity Report indicates that we have been able to pay our bills as they were received by redirecting or re-labeling money as received/deposited. We are very close to spending more than we have received. The endowment fund payback and the changes that will be made in the 2017 Budget (wording/designation) should enable members to have a more understandable method of directing their donations to the church.

Motion made by Dave Lange seconded by Bev Gunther to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Pastor Drutchas provided a printed report that outlined the varied tasks he has been doing over the last 12 months. Home visits, Bible Study Class, Worship Services, and etc.

Pastor Schalm provided a printed report that listed the many tasks she has been involved with and shows the involvement of her Ministry in our church life.

No report was received from Kathy Williams, Parish Nurse. The print schedule for Kathy's report cannot always coincide with Council Meetings. She will provide a current report within the next several weeks that will detail the many tasks she handles each month.

Julius Enesey provided a printed report concerning the many duties he has undertaken as Head Trustee. The television in the new Visitors Room is being worked on and is expected to be up and running soon. The boilers for the church's heating are not functioning as they should. A new heating company is being sought to take on this issue. Barbara Schultz and Jane Dykowski have been wonderfully helpful and will continue to offer their assistance with the vacancy of one Elder. The Council offered its most sincere thanks to Julius for the outstanding work he has done for the church during his tenure. Alice Clubb also thanked Julius for being helpful to her as a Trustee.

Candace Poet spoke regarding the need for volunteers to serve as the Council Rep during Sunday Services (each week of every month) of the year. A sign-up sheet was passed for members of the Council to select more than one month of the year in which to serve as the Council Rep.

Arlene Felske gave the count of those who took Communion during December 2016. On December 24, Pew Communion was served for both evening services. At 7:00 p.m. we served 142 – at 11:00 p.m. we served 155. On Christmas morning, December 25 at 10:00 a.m. we served 76.

Arlene received the thanks of Council for her unwavering service of the past three years. Arlene said it was a major undertaking for her, but one she will nonetheless miss now that it is ended. Arlene furnished a list of all those in the Congregation who are eligible to serve Communion.

Pastor Drutchas spoke with regard to the ongoing search for a Choir Director. The Worship Planning Team will be meeting within a week and will be deciding upon the qualities most needed by our Choir Director. The Trustees and other members of Council will be a part of the search. *Ideally*, we would like to have a candidate determined by April.

Pastor Drutchas offered his sincere thanks to Barbara Gish for her many years of service as editor of the Tidings Newsletter. The Gish family has a long and faithful history of printing help to the church and we have been blessed by their knowledge and willingness to help us. Gary Peters and the Pastor have been working together to develop an on-line system for inputting information and for the final assembly of a printed and also an on-line version of the newsletter. Pam Lange also noted that the oversized signage used for the Steak Fry can be used for other special events and seemed to bring in a lot of extra visitors. Council will need to check on the cost of banners to determine if the cost is friendly for our purposes.

The Installation Dinner for both incoming and outgoing Council members is to be held on January 22. Pete's place is ready and willing to have us. Due to another use of the room we cannot arrive before 6:30 p.m. The cost for each attendee is nearly \$14.00. Spouses are welcomed. Please let the Pastor know if you and your spouse will be there.

Motion made by Dave Lange seconded by Fred Miller to approve the Dinner for January 22, 2017 at Pete's Place; and to provide a check from available funds to secure the use of the room and the meal. Motion carried.

The Annual Council Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, February 4, 2017, from 8:30 (earliest arrival) with activity to begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be at our own expense at a local restaurant.

Al Gunther offered his thanks to those who served on Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning. His appreciation came with a reminder to those who serve on holidays that the service does not end at the last prayer of hymn. There are some clean-up duties that require you to remain after the end of the service. With many hands to do the jobs needed, it will not take much time. If no one will stay to do the tasks that are necessary . . . someone must do the work alone.

Pastor spoke regarding his interest in trying to host a much earlier church service for a future Christmas Eve. Younger families need an earlier time choice in order for them to worship with their children before it becomes their bedtime. Also, Senior members who may drive alone also need a much earlier time, since so many seniors choose not to drive later in the evening.

Marjie Barnard will be undergoing knee replacement surgery within a week. On February 26, it is suggested that she could be well enough along in the recovery process, to enjoy a special observation in celebration of the fifteen years she has given the church as our Bookkeeper as well as the many other services she has given us. This needs to be added to the Agenda for the February Council Meeting.

A date change is necessary for the making of the Cole Slaw (as shown on the All Church Calendar of Events) for the Fish Fry. The date will move back from March 2 and 3, to February 24 and 25.

Newly elected Council Member Kristi Caruso spoke with us briefly about her life here at St. Paul Church. Michael Isaacs also shared some information on his background as an active church member. Mark Ennis was given a pass on speaking about himself, since we all know a great deal about him.

Dave Lange shared some information about the Vision Committee and gave Council some ideas about the plans for future projects.

Motion was made by Diane Poet seconded by Al Gunther to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. with a unison recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beverley Gunther