

ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST ~ COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 14, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Council members present: Kristi Caruso, Alice Clubb, Pastor Geoff Drutchas, Mark Ennis, Beverley Gunther, Michael Isaacs, David Lange, Pamela Lange, Frederick Miller, Gary Peters, Diane Poet, and John Smith. (Following the resignation of Suzanne Mrowka, the Council remains one member short.)

Council member excused: Allen Gunther, Kevin Kittendorf

Guests of Council: Groundskeeper, Harold Fick

President Fred Miller declared the meeting open at 7:37 p.m., and asked Rev. Dr., Geoffrey Drutchas to lead us in prayer. Pastor Drutchas welcomed all new Council Members and asked for God's blessings as the group began its work for this congregation.

Fred Miller asked for a motion to approve the Minutes from the January 10, 2017 Council Meeting. Motion was made by Pam Lange seconded by David Lange to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2017 Council Meeting. Motion approved.

Additions, corrections, to the minutes:

Guidelines for the publication and sharing of various information concerning this church. Financial, member information, and etc.

Harold Fick offered a brief report for the benefit of Council that gave everyone present some insight into the various tasks he performs for the church. Pastor pointed out that with over ten acres to maintain, the work Mr. Fick has been doing is outstanding. Harold was asked to point out any issues or problems he may be having as he does his job. The Ford Tractor was mentioned, but it is being looked into already, so this may not be an issue at the moment.

Harold mentioned that he's had the "sometimes" problem with those who attend funeral services/or weddings at St. Paul. A few of those who are our guests have brought food or beverages into the Sanctuary. Even when asked, a few of these guests were unwilling to dispose of food or beverage items from the Sanctuary. The major problem occurs with guests who have not finished their food or beverage, but then leave the refuse on the floor under a pew. This causes spills, leading to both carpet and pew cushion damage. Anyone seen entering the Sanctuary with a beverage or food item will be approached politely by a Deacon or other, and that person will be asked to refrain from taking any food item into the Sanctuary.

Mention was made of an improperly operating fan motor (either in or nearby the Organ) and will be referred to the Trustees for remediation.

Pastor and Council offered their thanks to Harold for his visit with the Council, and for his input in helping all of us understand the work he does.

Gary Peters provided a newly revised financial report form. Changes have been made in how our income and expenses are recorded in order for everyone to understand the church's financial position. Gary suggested a short information line might be added to Sunday Bulletins to remind everyone about their giving plan and/or their giving options. Details of over and under budget items was discussed. We are budgeted for \$450.00 each month toward the repayment of the Endowment Fund. For the moment, we have received more toward that one fund than we had needed, but the on-going \$450 will remain in our budget until the total repayment has been completed. Total expenses are shown to be under our approved budget, and the mild winter weather is a big part of this moderation. Diane Poet mentioned that we need to be vigilant in keeping our focus on church attendance and subsequent giving in order to move forward with the ability to meet all our bills.

Several Council members spoke regarding different church budget issues. Fundraising projects were spoken of; however by the month of June, Pastor Drutchas believes we will have a clearer idea of where we are going with our finances, and we will be able to alter our direction on spending, and etc. in order to keep ourselves on

track. Pastor Drutchas suggested the Executive Committee put their efforts toward discovering all possible ways to either re-direct funding or re-evaluate our funding sources in order to be current on the budget.

Motion made by Dave Lange seconded by Michael Isaacs 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 month. An increase in his home and hospital visits; Pastor has led Bible Study Class, Worship Services, and etc. The church family is well served by his good will and helpful heart.

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.

Kathy Williams, Parish Nurse was unable to provide a printed report for the past month. Pastor spoke his regard for the work being done by Kathy as she heads the Health Ministry Program for St. Paul. They have worked to coordinate their time and visits to ensure that those who need a visit during periods of ill health are well served. We are all very grateful to both the Pastor and to Nurse Kathy Williams for making this happen so smoothly.

Alice Clubb gave a report on current tasks being overseen by the Trustees. Additional details were shared by Michael Isaacs. It was noted that the window replacement work is scheduled to begin within a day or two.

Dave Lange shared information about the Tree of Faith Leaves having been etched, and also plaques made for this location and also for the Family Room. Although this is not a Trustee item, Dave asked for the information to be included within this area.

Kristi Caruso offered information on behalf of the Deacons. Kristi did a great job of interpreting her brand new job as Deacon – Thank You, Kristi! The pattern of when the holidays fell on Sunday, and other worship day/date alignments helped to hold down attendance and also the church income. The Congregation is reminded to: Please come to church! *And also*, Please give as generously as you are able!

Dave Lange reported for the Elders on the count of those who took Communion recently. There was no communion served in January of 2017, however there were 63 served on the first week of February – first service, and 85 who were served at the second service.

For Communion: At least one Deacon will be needed on Ash Wednesday, March 1, 2017. On Sunday, March 5, 2017 we will need four Council volunteers to help serve communion. Members of Council are required to serve pew Communion on Easter Sunday

On February 6, 2017 (appx. 50 minutes; between the two morning worship services) the Council will head up the hosting duties for a time of special appreciation for Marjie Barnard. Pastor has some frozen quiches in storage and has offered them for the celebration; also some other special breads, and other treats. He suggested we make a real effort to make this celebration as meaningful for Marjie as she has always been to this church. A variety of suggestions was made and all thoughts will be considered. A gift certificate for the final designated outing will be prepared and presented to Marjie.

John and Barbara Smith will serve as “go to” supervisors for Marjie's special day. They will be making final decisions for everything that needs to be done.

Pastor Drutchas reviewed current progress on the search for a new Choir Director.

New Business: The Council Minutes have not been attached to the Newsletter in the last number of months as had been done in the past. However, it was pointed out that with the use of the Internet, any/all information about membership, church spending, and any other “in-house” data (much of it financially sensitive) should not be made this public. A more careful look will be taken of how, why, and where we publish private information about this church's membership and finances.

As a result of Council discussion, it was decided that the Council Minutes need to be free of details of actual financial information. It was further decided that the Council Minutes will continue to be part of the Tidings (on-line) and will continue not to show actual financial data.

Motion was made by David Lange seconded by Rev. Geoffrey Drutchas to define policy on this issue as: Council Minutes will be included on-line as part of the Tidings Newsletter. Other information, which includes a hard copy of the Council Minutes will be available to Church Members only, by visiting the church office during regular business hours. Motion carried.

The Girl Scout Troop has requested permission to sell Girl Scout Cookies during the Drive Through Fish Dinners, only.

Motion by Bev Gunther seconded by Diane Poet to permit the Girl Scout Troop to sell Girl Scout Cookies during the Drive Through Dinners, only. Motion carried.

The Girl Scout Troop has also requested permission to sell Pies to be picked up on Good Friday (two days before Easter).

Motion was made by John Smith seconded by Dave Lange to permit the Girl Scouts to take orders and sell pies to be picked up on Good Friday. Motion carried.

Pastor shared the names of some members who are in need of our special prayers at this time, and asked us all to include those names in our prayers.

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 Bev Gunther to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m. with a unison recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverley Gunther