

ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
COUNCIL MINUTES FROM MEETING OF
Tuesday, May 9, 2023

Council Members Present: Aaron Johnson, Sue Mrowka, Julius Enesey, Dan Case, Jane Dykowski,, Toni Hill, Marjorie Barnard, Jennifer Ruffner, Conrad Heidt, Jeannette Wackro, Pam Lange, and Rev. Reed.

Excused: Pat Staffeld, Fred Miller, and Barbara Schultz

Also in attendance: Cindy Romas

Guests: Office Ministry

Meeting called to order by President, Aaron Johnson, at 6:59 p.m. followed by opening prayer led by Rev. Reed.

The Office Ministry began their sharing with Rev Reed saying, "I have an office." --referring to the pastor's office being available after the renovation. A memorial plaque will be placed near each entrance to the pastor's office recognizing the Frank and Arlene Wolfram's contribution making the renovation possible. Rev. Reed reported that a special recognition, dedication, and blessing of the office will be planned.

Sue Mrowka reported that the office is \$1000 under in expenses at this time and that she liked the new order of worship. She monitors supplies and sees that items are re-ordered when needed.

Cindy Romas reported that she was learning new, fresh, and different ways of doing things with Rev. Reed's guidance. Besides the routine items, the Cradle Roll and Baccalaureate Sunday services were being planned.

Margie Barnard related a concern about the mold issue being remedied in the family room. A wedding party using the sanctuary had not been notified that there was disarray in that room that would be there on their selected date. A lengthy discussion followed regarding who is in charge when there are rentals. It appears there were some missteps with a recent rental. The office secretary should be processing the applications, payments, and requirements for building rentals. Dan Case said there was a wedding book outlining the rules—who is the pastor, organist, participants, spaces available, paperwork, etc. Rev. Reed and Cindy Romas will meet to go over the wedding/rental information. Sue Mrowka and Cindy Romas expressed the need for better communication in such matters.

Motion by Toni Hill, seconded by Marjie Barnard, to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2023 Council Meeting. Motion carried.

Agenda Additions/Deletions: Add to New Business, Gun Safety Class

REPORTS AND UPDATES

Treasurer's Report: Dan Case reported that income was down \$25,000 for the year. March and April came in lower than the budget. One of the overages in expenses was in Music because of substitutes and hiring a new organist. Food license expense came in early and there were maintenance and repairs for the air conditioning. An article will be placed in the Tidings regarding these financial issues. Dan also reported that Elizabeth Bisaro, the bookkeeper, will be working from her up-north cottage during June and July because her residence here is being renovated. He will be able to coordinate with her what needs to be done at the church. Motion by Marjie Barnard, seconded by Jeannette Wackro, to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

REPORTS AND UPDATES (continued)

Rev. George Reed: Written Report. He expanded on his written report that he, Pastor Schalm, and Cindy Romas met to evaluate the prayer/visitation list. They divided visitation into 4 categories. They are: 1. Long-term care 2. Short term care. 3. Attention (Calls, cards, to check in) and 4. On the prayer list. He also reported that his first chat went well.

Pastor Cheryl Schalm: Written Report. On behalf of her and Christian Education, Dan Case requested the following. 1. Vacation Bible School be moved to July 10-14. 2. June 3 a group will be car-pooling to Eastern Market. 3. A Monday evening book study, Jesus Wept, would begin on June 5. 4. Plans for a movie matinee at the church on June 4-- Jesus Revolution. (Copyright issues may exist.) 5. Keith Collette's music group will perform on May 28. 6. Mission trip is July 23-29. Motion by Dan Case, seconded by Marjie Barnard, to approve these enumerated requests by Pastor Schalm. Motion carried.

Trustees/Building and Grounds: Marjie Barnard reported that Rev. Reed's covenant agreement has been extended another 6 months. After research and evaluation, we are going with a different insurance company—Brotherhood Mutual. There is savings in premium cost and the coverage costs for replacement are at a higher rate. Gutter guards have been approved for the parsonage to alleviate annual cleaning. A suitable roof over the family room bay has been approved at a cost of \$5800. (The church cost will be approximately \$2900 with the remainder coming from donations.) Marjie also detailed doors and table finishing touches for the pastor's office. The couch and chair in the usher's room were donated to the rummage sale and are replaced with the bench from the foyer. Dan case added that another bid for the parsonage windows is coming.

At this time, Cindy Romas was asked to leave the meeting as it went into an executive session to discuss a confidential matter. After approximately 30 minutes the regular meeting resumed.

Deacons: Jennifer Ruffner reported attendance was 675 in April. There was an additional Sunday as well as Easter. Scout Sunday had adequate bulletins for the scouts in attendance. Jeannette Wackro took extra effort to encourage people to sign up for chats with Rev. Reed as they arrived for worship.

Elders: Pam Lange reported that there were over 65 who took communion at the last offering. Generally, everyone liked the return to distribution at the chancel steps.

Pastoral Search Committee: Aaron Johnson reported that there are no candidates under consideration at this time. The next meeting will be June 11, 2023.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Annual employee reviews: A review outline with seven questions was displayed. Aaron Johnson and Rev. Reed met to develop this interview strategy. Motion by Toni Hill, seconded by Pam Lange, to approve the seven-question plan. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Interim Minister Covenant Agreement: Rev. Reed's covenant agreement will extend his commitment for 6 months. Motion by Dan Case, seconded by Julius Enesey, to approve the covenant agreement. Motion carried.
2. Visitation Strategy: As outlined previously in the minutes the visitations were categorized. The visiting elders group fell apart with the advent of Covid. Shirley Havenstein and Cleora Pattenau were mentioned as possible participants. Karen Hill does cards with some special enclosures. Pam Lange talked with Kathy Williams who had constructed a calling tree. Please give names to Aaron Johnson of those who may be interested in being a visiting elder. To provide better contact information, Cindy Romas addressed getting the directory information up to date. The envelope suppliers are good at address changes. Perhaps timely updates could be done in the Tidings.
3. Acolyte Volunteers: Council members were asked to sign up to acolyte. Marjie Barnard volunteered for June. Sue Mrowka also said she could do it. There are adequate wicks when there is a need to replace. Because the choir enters while the bell is ringing, it was recommended that 8 tolls are adequate even if everyone is not in place. Choir may be slower because of the robe requirement. This issue was directed to the worship committee. Motion by Marjie Barnard, seconded by Conrad Heidt to approve the acolyte procedure. Motion carried.
4. Council Retreat: Saturday, May 20, 2023 -- 9:00 a.m. to 1: 00 p.m. was tentatively set as a Council Retreat at the church.
5. Sexton Compensation: Dan Case recommended that since other pay positions were raised, the sexton compensation should also be raised. After discussion, Rev. Reed recommended that the entire compensation schedule be reviewed. The issue was tabled until a later date.
6. Gun Safety Class: John Smith has been approached about having a gun safety class for those who may be interested in acquiring a weapon/concealed permit license. Julius Enesey's son-in-law also can provide such guidance. The consensus was that if such an event was held, it should not be on the church grounds.

ROUNDTABLE

There was not additional discussion at this time.

Motion to adjourn by Marjie Barnard, seconded by Toni Hill. Motion Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m. followed by the Lord's Prayer in unison.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane L. Dykowski, Recording Secretary.

