

ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
COUNCIL MINUTES FROM MEETING OF
Tuesday, June 13, 2023

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

Guests: Women's Ministry – Women's Fellowship and Sew 'n Sews

Meeting was called to order by President, Aaron Johnson, at 6:54 p.m. followed by opening prayer led by Rev. Reed.

The Women's Ministry discussion began with Toni Hill, representing Women's Fellowship. The bench for outside has not yet been delivered. The plaque to recognize their dedication will be presented in a special service sometime after September. This year's Fall Rummage Sale is October 5, 6, and 7.

Sharon Leonard, representing Sew 'n Sews, first asked if there were any questions. There were none. They have donated 239 items to Metro Detroit Share, Beaumont Trenton, and Veterans' Administration in Ann Arbor. One new item is made with a very soft yarn which the hospital chaplain reported was very helpful for people suffering trauma. It is very "cuddly" and calming. St. Paul new babies are also given blankets. This year there were only two. The group is now meeting on site after the Covid shutdown. They are in need of the cards they attach to each item. Dan Case will follow up on the cards they need. He also suggested they be recognized at a Sunday worship service in the future. The groups were thanked for their service.

Motion by Sue Mrowka, seconded by Marjie Barnard, to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2023 Council Meeting. Motion carried.

Agenda Additions/Deletions: Delete from New Business, Deacon's Room Furniture Update.

REPORTS AND UPDATES

Treasurer's Report: Dan Case reported that we are \$30,812 under budget. Many items are under in expenses. However, our contingency money from 2022 is being used. Marjie Barnard noted that the Fish Dinner money has not yet been included. However, it is less than 2022 profits. Rev. Reed asked what was in the benevolence requirements. These items are: \$50 per month to Fish and Loaves, OCWM (\$6000 due in November) and \$1200 community service money. Motion by Marjie Barnard, seconded by Toni Hill, to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Rev. George Reed: Written Report. Expanding on his written report, he noted that 43 people participated in the chats. Six Search Committee members also attended. The groups ranged in size from 6 – 15 with most with 6 – 8. He feels they went well.

Pastor Cheryl Schalm: Written Report.

REPORTS AND UPDATES (continued)

Trustees/Building and Grounds: Fred Miller reported that there is need for some tree trimming on the east side of the parsonage. Marjie Barnard reported that bids of \$1900 and \$825 have been submitted. (An additional tree trimmer's number was submitted for an additional bid.) Julius Enesey talked with the owner of the tree involved. He does not want us to continue cutting the grass on his property and was uncooperative regarding the tree trimming. The City of Taylor and Police Department verified that we can trim the branches that are on our side of the line without his consent or interference.

Dan Case reported that the door lock/camera system replacement is still being researched. The cost of this has not yet been determined for this prioritized upgrade which involves the camera/intercom. Dan Case added that we would find the money for this necessary measure. He also noted that monies donated for a specific purpose can only be used in that way.

Toni Hill reported that \$2000 from Women's Fellowship and \$3000 from Christian Education will be used to carpet the large classroom and theater room. Marjie Barnard cleaned the carpeting in the Confirmation Room (which turned out well) and will do the other upstairs rooms. Marjie Barnard also reported that Charlie Barnard fixed the drinking fountain in the West Lobby (6 hours of volunteer labor).

Deacons: Jennifer Ruffner reported that attendance was 358 during May with four Sundays. Facebook viewing is down and in person worship is comparable to 2022.

Elders: Pam Lange reported that 79 people participated in the June altar communion. Some of the pre-packaged elements are being taken to home bound and Facebook viewers. Two suggestions were made to better prepare for altar communion. The basket needed for the used cups needs protection from leakage. Also, the table used needs to be brought from the narthex to the chancel. It is heavy. Consensus was that the table should be placed in chancel before Sunday morning. Office personnel and/or choir on Wednesday prior to communion day could do this when possible.

Pastoral Search Committee: Aaron Johnson and Barb Schultz have resigned from the committee and Pam Lange has been added. Pam Lange reported that there is no activity at the present time. The next meeting will be July 15. Mark Ennis was in contact with Cheryl Burke, Associate Conference Minister, who will be at a conference meeting on July 1. She suggested we prepare an "ad" for her to share with those at that meeting regarding our needs. Kari Cappello is doing that.

Picnic Report: Sue Mrowka shared that Candace Poet will manage the kitchen, Pastor Schalm has arranged for the petting farm and children's activities, and that we are using a different tent and chair company from Belleville as prior company was becoming very costly. A request has been sent to Howe-Peterson for covering the cost if they wish to do so. Jane Dykowski noted that she and Peggy Staten will have at least 3 baskets for raffle. Jane Dykowski volunteered to set up and manage that raffle. Marjie Barnard will look into the ice cream choices. July 31, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. is the next Picnic Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Employee Reviews: Rev. Reed, Cindy Romas, and Harold Fick reviews have been completed. There are 8 more to be scheduled. Dan Case recommended these reviews be kept in a secure office file and not be distributed via email to council members.
2. Acolyte Volunteers: June, July, and August are covered by council members. Fred Miller will be gone two Sundays in August. Jane Dykowski will probably be available to cover those dates Julius Enesey suggested that maybe there is a "mechanical" flame to more easily use in the recessional.

3. Sexton Compensation Update: There was discussion of time the Sexton has to spend for events. Some have been running into extra hours. Motion by Julius Enesey, seconded by Sue Mrowka, that the rate be \$100 for weddings and \$80 for funerals for up to 4 hours. Motion carried.
4. Council Retreat: There was extensive discussion of things council members should know about where things are at the church, where light and power switches are, etc. To have leadership become more familiar with the facility and procedures, a tentative retreat is scheduled for Saturday, September 16, 2023 from 9 – 1, including coffee and donuts.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Semi-Annual Meeting Agenda: A tentative agenda for the July 9, 2023 semi-annual meeting was reviewed. Cindy Romas noted that she would be out of the office some days prior to the meeting; but, if everything was to her by July 5, she would have meeting materials ready.
2. Meeting Parliamentarian: Jennifer Ruffner will enlist her husband, Tim, to be the parliamentarian for the semi-annual meeting.
3. Wedding Process Updates: The applications for church use for weddings and rehearsals was reviewed. The times allotted for each and additional cost for extended time was discussed. Payments are to be recorded by Cindy Romas. After original security deposit, all fees are to be paid 2 weeks prior to the event. Also, fees for organist, pastor, sexton, etc. are to be made out to them and submitted at that time. This process avoids those activities on the event day. Motion by Conrad Heidt, seconded by Jeannette Wackro, to approve the Wedding Reservation Forms. Motion carried.
4. Organist Search Status: There will be a decorated cake for a special coffee hour recognizing Beverly Glenn's service to our church's music ministry. Jennifer Ruffner will order the cake. She and husband, Tim, have the coffee hour that Sunday. The music program has been planned for some weeks ahead after she leaves. Notification of our need for an organist is on LinkedIn and the American Guild of Organists, Detroit Chapter. Jane Dykowski suggested that we should look at this as an opportunity to utilize the musical talent we have recently had to provide variety to our worship. Beverly Glenn, John Jeannette, and the Colette's may be interested in providing an anthem or special service music which would also free up the choir. Jane personally asked Beverly Glenn about this. She would be open to such use of her talent.
5. Zoom Account Status: Dan Case shared that he was working to find a way a zoom account could be shared. He has been unsuccessful. For now, the Search Committee has it to use.
6. Office Closure Policy: The closure policy for weather was reviewed. Generally, when schools are closed, the church will also be closed. Motion by Marjie Barnard, seconded by Sue Mrowka, to approve the Closure Policy. Motion carried.

ROUNDTABLE

Conrad Heidt asked that the tentative October 21, 2023 date for a craft show be taken off the schedule. Sally Sigman is improving and would like to have plaque presentation at church when she is able.

Motion to adjourn by Conrad Heidt, seconded by Marjie Barnard. Motion carried.
The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m. followed by the Lord's Prayer in unison.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane L. Dykowski, Recording Secretary.

