

ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
COUNCIL MINUTES FROM MEETING OF
Tuesday, November 14, 2023

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

Excused: Dan Case

Guests: Pam Lange, the representing Elder, was the only person from Pastoral Ministries at the meeting. There was a brief discussion of the need to develop a visitation pastoral ministry among the lay membership. Also, there was conversation of visitation expectations of the church members.

Meeting was called to order by President, Aaron Johnson, at 7:02 p.m. followed by opening prayer led by Aaron Johnson.

Motion by Toni Hill, seconded by Fred Miller, to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2023 Council Meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Toni Hill, seconded by Julius Enesey, to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2023 Special Council Meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Jeannette Wackro, seconded by Fred Miller, to approve the minutes of the October 29, 2023 Special Council Meeting. Motion carried.

Agenda Additions/Deletions: Add to New Business: Allow AA Sponsor meeting space, and Conversation for Council Only.

REPORTS AND UPDATES

Treasurer's Report: Written report and notes prepared by Dan Case. In his absence, Aaron Johnson, pointed out the downward trend in giving. At the current rate we will be \$30,000 - \$40,000 in the negative by year's end. Motion by Marjie Barnard, seconded by Fred Miller, to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Rev. George Reed: Written Report.

Pastor Cheryl Schalm: Written Report.

Trustee/Building and Grounds: Fred Miller reported that a new receptacle was installed in Fellowship Hall. The trustees shared copies of the Covenant Agreement prepared for the new part-time interim pastor, Rev. Linda Anderson.

Deacons: Jennifer Ruffner reported that September's attendance was lower than in 2022.

Elders: Pam Lange reported that 80 people took communion on November 5. She also thanked Mark Ennis, Sue Mrowka, and Jane Dykowski who prepared and served the communion in her absence. She thanked Sue Mrowka for preparation of the Totenfest candles and Marjie Barnard, who was lector that day, for helping Rev. Anderson with the service and reading the memorial list.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Acolyte Volunteers: November, Aaron Johnson; December, Marjie Barnard; and January, Sue Mrowka.
2. Christnet Hosting: Aaron Johnson reported that there are several uncertainties surrounding the continuance of Christnet. Since Wayne Metro became involved during Covid, many changes have happened. Since there are no night programs, the \$100,000 from Salvation Army is withdrawn. Bible study was considered by some to be offensive to some and it has been discontinued. Consequently, many donors have withdrawn their support. The leadership of the Petris is sorely missed. St. Paul's week was moved to April.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **2024 Budget Update:** The committee has been working to lower expenses. The major subtraction was lowering the settled pastor's salary to \$85,000 maximum. (The salary remains controversial among some of the membership.) The audit expense is not needed in 2024, but should be necessary in another year. From 2022 to 2023, there were 38 plus non contributors. That number has been rising each year. Julius Enesey expressed the need to clean up our membership rolls. (Because of Covid, that process done by the elders was delayed.) The amount of money expected to go to OCWM is based on the number of active members. Active membership is determined by attendance, communion participation and contributions. Aaron Johnson will present a Moment of Sharing at the upcoming Sunday morning worship service. At that time, he will also share information about Rev. Linda Anderson's position as part-time interim. She will lead worship most Sundays except when Pastor Schalm is leader and a few other Sundays when Rev. Anderson already had previous commitments. She will probably be flexible with her time because of events (funerals, meetings, visitation, etc.) Therefore each week's number of hours may vary.
2. **New Council Candidates:** Tentatively, Fred Miller will assume a Senior Elder role for a one-year term and Mark Ennis will assume a 3-year term as elder. We are in need of two deacons (1-year and 3-year positions).
3. **Vitality Day Discussion:** Aaron Johnson shared information from the part-time ministry seminar he attended. Even though our church is not at that juncture, such a decision must be made before it is too late. (St. Mark's Church was given as an example.) The membership must look outward rather than inward. If such a move becomes necessary, the congregation's members must pick up some of the operational duties. There was also some discussion of liability with solo visitation.
4. **Update Funeral Fee Schedule for Sexton:** After several attempts at various situations and costs, the topic was tabled for further research.
5. **Approve Updated Job Descriptions based on changes from Mid-Year Reviews:** The job descriptions for Administrative Assistant, Sexton, Grounds Keeper, and Office Manager were available for review prior to the meeting. Motion by Toni Hill, seconded by Fred Miller, to approve the aforementioned job descriptions. Motion carried.
6. **Interim Minister Status:** Discussed earlier in the meeting and referenced there.

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

7. First Aid Certification and Stipend: Motion by Fred Miller, seconded by Toni Hill, to have Kathy Williams teach the First Aid Certification Class and be paid a stipend of \$100. Motion carried.
8. AA Sponsor Meeting Place: Motion by Toni Hill, seconded by Conrad Heidt, to permit an AA Sponsor to meet in our facility for one hour on Wednesdays from 9 – 10 am. Motion carried.
9. Conversation for Council Only: At 8:20 p.m. motion by Sue Mrowka, seconded by Conrad Heidt, to suspend the minutes. Motion carried. At 8:25 p.m. motion by Fred Miller, seconded by Toni Hill, to reconvene the meeting. Motion carried.

ROUNDTABLE

Changes in communion format should be taken up by Worship Planning with Rev Linda Anderson as her first Sunday here will be a Communion Sunday. Sue Mrowka will follow up on that.

Sue Mrowka put forth an idea of providing a “food” bag to be given out at Fish and Loaves as another congregation has done. Members of the congregation would fill a bag with staples for a meal and gift card for meat. These are given out at Fish and Loaves as totally separate from the food pantry operation. Jane Dykowski suggested maybe this could be done at a time other than the holiday. Aaron Johnson suggested maybe in January when we would ordinarily have had Christnet.

Michele Matney requested April 28, 2024 for the church use for the Girl Scout Banquet. Toni Hill will work with her on this for an alternate date as Rummage Sale is set for that time frame.

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