

ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
COUNCIL MINUTES FROM MEETING OF  
Tuesday, October 10, 2023

**Council Members Present:** Aaron Johnson, Sue Mrowka, Dan Case, Jane Dykowski, Marjorie Barnard, Jennifer Ruffner, Conrad Heidt, Jeannette Wackro, and Rev. Reed. Also in attendance: Cindy Romas

Excused: Julius Enesey, Pam Lange, Fred Miller, and Toni Hill

**Guests:** No Council Guests

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

Motion by Sue Mrowka, seconded by Conrad Heidt, to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2023 Council Meeting. Motion carried.

**Agenda Additions/Deletions:** Add to New Business, Pictorial Directory and add to Old Business, Sanctuary Doors.

#### REPORTS AND UPDATES

**Treasurer's Report:** Dan Case elaborated on the published report that September was our worst month this year for income. We are approximately \$52,690 under in income, but also under approximately \$23,000 in expenses. He pointed out areas that were at odds with the budget—both over and under. The General Operating Account will be making a \$6000 payment to OCWM in the next month. We are attempting to keep from using our reserve funds. Motion by Marjie Barnard, seconded by Sue Mrowka, to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

**Rev. George Reed:** Written Report. He read from his written report that he has accepted a position near his home. Therefore, his resignation here at St. Paul will be effective November 30, 2023. His last day in the pulpit will be Sunday, November 19, 2023. (This report was distributed to the congregation via email on October 11, 2023.) Several council members thanked him for his service and wished him well.

**Pastor Cheryl Schalm:** Written Report.

**Trustee/Building and Grounds:** Margie Barnard reported that two bids to repair the steeple have been received. There is a large difference in the amounts--\$21,200 and \$4750. More research needs to be done. Conrad Heidt pointed out that insurance may pay for some of the necessary repair caused by wind damage. Marjie Barnard continues the painting in upstairs rooms. The East Lobby will be painted this week.

**Deacons:** Jennifer Ruffner orally reported that attendance is down about 100 from last year in September. September attendance was about 373 and the picnic attendance was the same as in 2022.

## **REPORTS AND UPDATES (continued)**

**Elders:** Written Report. Approximately 65 persons were served communion in September. Sixty-two communed on World Wide Communion Sunday.

**Pastoral Search Committee:** Aaron Johnson noted that currently the committee is in contact with 2 candidates.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Acolyte Volunteers: October and November, Aaron Johnson; December, Marjie Barnard; and January is to be determined.
2. Sally Sigman Presentation: The date for the presentation is October 25, 2023 at 8:00 p.m. at her current residence. The available room can accommodate a limited number of people. Please contact Pastor Schalm if you wish to represent the council. Members of adult and youth choirs are encouraged to attend.
3. Christnet: Referencing Pastor Schalm's written report, Dan Case reported on the status of Christnet. Guests will be coming after check-in at the center, served dinner, and provided sleeping space. There will be no other meals or shower privileges. Our sign up indicates that the meals are covered. The monitors for each night's shifts have not been established. It is unclear if the program's leadership has met and a schedule established. Once there is more definition to the program, it was suggested St. Paul take one of the first 3 weeks in January. Also, perhaps we can partner with another church if necessary. Motion by Jeannette Wackro, seconded by Dan Case, that we tentatively agree to cover a week. Motion carried.
4. Sanctuary Doors: The Safety Ministry recommends that the front and east sanctuary doors remain unlocked during worship. When deacon and council representative are away, a council member in worship should step to area at that time. Motion by Marjie Barnard, seconded by Conrad Heidt, that sanctuary doors be unlocked during worship services. Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Budget Updates: Dan Case reported that working on the budget he could reduce it by approximately \$3,000. The Committee will meet November 9, the congregation will have an opportunity for input on November 12, and a draft will come to council on November 14. It was noted that pledging in 2023 resulted in approximately \$100,000. Our budget is approximately \$300,000.
2. New Council Candidates: Volunteers have been recruited to fill the Trustee, Deacon (one year) and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President positions. We are in need of 2 candidates for elder and one candidate for deacon (three year terms.)
3. Rev. Reed's Group Concerns and Suggestions: The list of concerns gathered at the small group sessions was discussed. It was noted that the Moment of Concern list can be reduced. Cindy Romas could delete names after one being on the list three weeks unless concerns /requests remain. Facebook Live reaches many in distant locations. Action items should be re-visited from time to time.
4. Third quarter financial performance: Generally our investments are looking good. Of the \$10,000 donated by the Wolframs \$4,800 remains.

**NEW BUSINESS (continued)**

5. By-Law Review: Dan Case indicated the practice has been to review the by-laws every five years. He will proceed with plans for such a review.
6. Christmas Pageant—Live Nativity: Pastor Schalm has requested permission to use live animals in the Christmas Eve pageant. Smaller animals will be used and carpeting would be protected. She feels this would enhance the program. Motion by Dan Case, seconded by Marjie Barnard, to have a live Nativity in the sanctuary. Motion carried with one opposing vote. Also, Pastor Schalm has requested permission for an Ice Camp on January 26, 27, and 28. Motion by Dan Case, seconded by Jennifer Ruffner to grant such permission. Motion Carried.
7. Wild Game Dinner: Dan Case requested January 27, 2024 for the Wild Game Dinner. It would follow the same format as in prior years. Fellowship Hall and the West Room will be used much of the week. Motion by Dan Case, seconded by Sue Mrowka, to have the Wild Game Dinner on January 27, 2024. Motion carried.
8. Pictorial Directory: Dan Case has been contacted by the prior directory company for our interest in having them again. The consensus was that the time is not good. Also, this company did not deliver a very good product for the cost. Several individuals who ordered pictures had to have them redone.

**ROUNDTABLE**

Dan Case shared the Facebook statics. This is a summary of how people were engaging with the information about our church. Jeannette Wackro shared a complaint she received regarding a memorial tree purchased for a deceased member. The complaint was about the location and upkeep of the area. The purchaser thought it would be placed closer to the church. Conrad Heidt asked that we include in our prayers the people impacted by the Israel/Hamas war. Aaron Johnson shared that he would report on the Vitality Day event relating to part-time pastors at the next council meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Jeannette Wackro, seconded by Marjie Barnard. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. followed by the Lord's Prayer in unison.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane L. Dykowski, Recording Secretary.