

ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
COUNCIL MINUTES FROM MEETING OF  
Tuesday, January 9, 2024

**Council Members Present:** Aaron Johnson, Pam Lange, Jane Dykowski, Marjorie Barnard, Jennifer Ruffner, Jeannette Wackro, Dan Case, Sue Mrowka, and Rev. Linda Anderson.

Excused: Toni Hill and Fred Miller

**Guests:** There were no guests.

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

Motion by Marjie Barnard, seconded by Jeannette Wackro, to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2023 Council Meeting. Motion carried.

**Agenda Additions/Deletions:** Add to New Business: Council meeting time change.

#### **REPORTS AND UPDATES**

**Treasurer's Report:** Aaron Johnson verbally reported that over all in 2023 we are down approximately a net of \$26,000. When Dan Case arrived, he expanded on more specific happenings. The December revenue was \$15,078, but holiday envelopes are down. At the current rate, we would be down approximately \$3100 per month. He recommends that we evaluate every month where we are. Some of the items that have been accomplished have been possible by special specified donations. This would true of the sound systems. Motion by Margie Barnard, seconded by Sue Mrowka, to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

**Rev. Linda Anderson:** Rev Anderson acknowledged that the Christmas Eve services did not run smoothly. This was partly due to the disorganization of the bulletin. The pageant went well earlier in the month. She conducted a funeral in the past week in addition to visitation. After Bible Study on, January 9, one of the participants fell when leaving and needed first aid. The Taylor Fire Department came and checked on the individual. An incident report has been completed. Rev. Anderson also related that she was happy to be here and things were going well.

**Pastor Cheryl Schalm:** Written Report.

**Trustee/Building and Grounds:** Marjie Barnard reported that the door closer is back on the West Lobby bathroom. A vent into space under stairs, UGL paint and insulation have been added to remedy the excess water accumulation. Marjie Barnard and Toni Hill met with the cleaning people to talk over complaints. He was very apologetic. They will be doing an extra clean to address the issues. Lisa (prior regular cleaner) will return next week.

**Deacons:** Jennifer Ruffner reported that 589 in person and on Facebook attended in December. The numbers are down from 2022, but up from 2021.

**Elders:** Pam Lange reported that the Christmas communion was anticipated to be larger than it actually was. Sixty and sixty-one communed at the two Christmas Eve services. Fifty communed on January 3.

**Search Team Update:** Marjie Barnard reported there are second and third zoom interviews with 2 candidates and the team has received a new resume this week.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. 2024 Budget Updates: Dan Case reported that there will be some minor changes in the budget before it goes to the congregation—maybe \$1000 in resources. There was a discussion about clarifying the Health Ministries budget with Kathy Williams. There is a total of \$1500--\$500 of that is in mileage area of the budget. Dan Case will clarify that with her.
2. New Council Candidates: At this time we are in need of one deacon and a 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president. There are a couple of tentative spots being considered by perspective candidates.
3. By-law Change Proposals: The main change is in permitting council members to serve an additional 3 years on a year-to-year basis after serving two 3-year consecutive terms. Other changes included removing the Resource Development Ministry, adding office manager designations where necessary, and removing “take communion” from membership requirements. There followed a lengthy discussion of having auxiliary deacons, elders, and trustees. This is a good testing opportunity for help and for anyone thinking about stepping into one of those positions. Motion by Jeannette Wackro, seconded by Dan Case, to approve the proposed by-law changes. Motion carried.
4. Annual Meeting Agenda: Motion by Marjie Barnard, seconded by Jeannette Wackro, to approve the Annual Meeting Agenda. Motion carried.
5. Endowment Financial Performance 2023: Aaron Johnson shared the standing of the Endowment Fund. The portfolio showed a 14 plus% increase in value. Motion by Dan Case, seconded by Jennifer Ruffner, to move interest, dividends, and capital gains (earnings) of \$10,412.71 into the Asset Appreciation Fund. Motion carried.
6. Council Retreat: The consensus was that a council retreat is helpful in fulfilling our responsibilities. Saturday, February 17, 2024 – 9:00 am to 12:00 noon was selected as a tentative date. Coffee and donuts would be provided.
7. Council Dinner – Outgoing/Incoming: Sue Mrowka will check out possible locations. The item was tabled until the next meeting with the new council members.
8. Organist Search: The compensation for an organist is beyond our budget in those areas currently checked. Some suggestions were music stores and school music teachers. The worship planning team plans the music program. Instrumental anthems were also suggested.
9. Council Meeting Time Change: Sue Mrowka would like the meetings to be at 6:00 p.m. This item was tabled until the new council is in place.

**ROUNDTABLE**

Council was reminded that the January 16 Cabinet Meeting is mainly for planning the Fish Dinners. There was discussion regarding the cutting back of food items at the coffee hours. The coffee hour to honor Women's Fellowship that was the same day as the pageant rehearsal was particularly sparse. An ending date for three-year council terms needs to be corrected to 2027 in the bulletin. Jane Dykowski will email Cindy Romas this correction. The 2024 Coffee Hour Schedule will soon be available.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m. followed by the Lord's Prayer in unison.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane L. Dykowski, Recording Secretary.