

ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
COUNCIL MINUTES FROM MEETING OF
Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Council Members Present: Pam Lange, Jane Dykowski, Sue Mrowka, Michael Isaacs, Toni Hill, Jeannette Wackro, Mark Ennis, Wendy Warner, and Dan Case. Also present: Rev. Anderson.

Excused: Tim Ruffner

Guests: Although, because of another meeting, Michelle Matney arrived later, her reporting is included here. In her always enthusiastic manner, Michelle had much to share. The usual cookie sale is much diminished this year. Most of the cookies are \$5 a box. The cause is that on social media there is misinformation about lead and poison in their contents. Another setback is the cost of travel for those annual trips. They will be taking a trip, July 31 – August 3, somewhere nearby to help with the costs. She has two members graduating from high school this year. They started with the group in kindergarten. Michelle has been the leader for 15 years. April 6 is Scout Sunday, April 7 the first woman judge in Taylor will take them on a tour of the court house, May 16 is their annual banquet, and May 22 is their participation in the Every Daughter Banquet. The graduates do come back for the banquet which has approximately 100 in attendance. For some of the troop members, this is the only activity they have. She related that the Christmas party was the best. She is very appreciative of the church's support of the group. Michael Isaacs related that the troop also does a lot for the church. They help at the rummage sales, do coffee hours, help at the Wild Game Dinner, they loaned the "bouncy house" for our Winter Blast, decorated fellowship hall for Christmas, and participated in Advent by Candlelight. Their safety while meeting here was mentioned. That issues will be addressed at the next cabinet meeting on March 18. There was thanks from everyone and encouragement to keep up the good work.

Meeting was called to order by Vice President, Sue Mrowka, at 6:33 p.m. followed by opening prayer led by Mark Ennis.

Approval of the Minutes: Motion by Toni Hill, seconded by Wendy Warner, to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2025 Council Meeting. Motion carried.

Agenda Additions/Deletions: To New Business add: 3. Conrad Heidt as Trustee

REPORTS AND UPDATES

Treasurer's Report: Written report. Dan Case just today was able to complete the written report. The new bookkeeper is still adapting to using the new system. He continues to concentrate on income and expenses. At present, we are \$415 positive for the year even though January and February have had low income. There was a \$1,000 invoice from October, 2024 that did not come through so it was paid now. We are above water. Motion by Toni Hill, seconded by Jeannette Wackro, to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Ministry Department: Interim minister, Rev. Linda Anderson, reported the week back after her vacation was very busy. She had a funeral and extra Lenten preparations in addition to the usual activities. She expressed concern for the lighted sign. The Lenten schedule should be on it. (She is hopeful to have 10 participants in the planned Wednesday programs.) Michael Isaacs and Dan Case agreed to work on managing the sign. Anthony Staten is also a possibility.

Ministry Department (continued)

Again, the topic of having a membership class was addressed. It is important that we invite and talk with individuals who may be prospective members. The Wednesday evening services will continue and Jeannette Wackro was concerned with a deacon having to be present. Rev. Anderson referenced a new book “Steps and Stones for Spiritual Growth.” She recommended it for our reading. On another topic, there will be a conference on March 30 at Mr. Hope UCC. The topics to be covered are: insurance, building security, and fire safety. St. Paul plans to participate in this event.

Trustees/Building and Grounds: Michael Isaacs reported that the new smoke alarms are in and conjoined. At the March 10, 2025 Safety meeting, the group decided to relocate the first aid “Center” at a lower level for easier accessibility. He and Toni Hill completed Eric Poet’s review. There are few changes of what he does. The lawn equipment is in for maintenance. The Fish Dinner trailer is in place. It may soon require some tire replacement. Tires will be evaluated for this replacement.

Deacons: Jeannette Wackro reported that the February attendance numbers are 180 in person and 95 on Facebook.

Elders: Pam Lange reported that 50 communed in February. They prepared for many more as it was the first communion in Lent. She requested Sue Mrowka order wafers and one box of cups. The pew communion went very well. No step-by-step procedure will be prepared.

Search Team Update: Mark Ennis reported they have one candidate under consideration, with whom they are planning a third meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Finalize plans for Council Dinner, Saturday, March 22, 2025: Every member and guest will pay for their dinners for the March 22, 2025 dinner at Baldo’s at 4:00 p.m. Sue Mrowka needs a final count by Friday prior to the date. She will supply the desserts.
2. Update status of Staff Reviews: Harold Fick’s review is pending as he recovers from the flu and pneumonia.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Facebook live attendance for membership: The consensus was that Facebook viewing should count for attendance. Motion by Dan Case, seconded by Michael Isaacs, to review any streaming attendance be a consideration when reviewing the bylaws. Motion carried. Because of the online participation and use by churches, issues are now treated differently. Change is necessary.
2. Member drops – 10 drops identified at the February 25 Elders /Executive Committee meeting: Motion by Toni Hill, seconded by Wendy Warner to drop 10 memberships as determined at the joint meeting of the Executive Committee and Elders. Motion carried. Rev. Anderson has sample letters available for use in the membership review. Jane Dykowski provided her with the one she and the group developed after the joint meeting. The Elders continue to review the membership rolls.
3. Update Rev. Anderson’s Housing Allowance: Motion by Dan Case, seconded by Michael Isaacs, to correct an error in previous minutes that the Interim Pastor’s housing allowance is \$14,000. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS (continued.)

4, Conrad Heidt appointment as Trustee: Motion by Dan Case, seconded by Michael Isaacs, to authorize Tim Ruffner, president, to appoint Conrad Heidt as Trustee for the remaining days of the 2025 term. Motion carried. This appointment can be approved by the congregation at the July Semi-Annual Meeting.

ROUNDTABLE

Dan Case shared that he would like to assemble those interested to discuss changes in the by-laws. This can make them more relevant to the times in which we now operate.

Motion by Dan Case, seconded by Toni Hill, to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. followed by the Lord's Prayer recited in unison.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane L. Dykowski
Recording Secretary.