

ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
COUNCIL MINUTES FROM MEETING OF
Tuesday, April 8, 2025

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

Guests: There were no guests.

Meeting was called to order by President, Tim Ruffner, at 6:30 p.m. followed by opening prayer led by Tim Ruffner.

Approval of the Minutes: Motion by Toni Hill, seconded by Sue Mrowka, to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2025 Council Meeting. Motion carried.

Agenda Additions/Deletions: To New Business add: Building use request by Ray Wiles from the Merry Twirlers.

REPORTS AND UPDATES

Treasurer's Report: Written report. Dan Case expanded on his written report that in March income of \$21,000 and expenses of \$13,915 leaves us in the positive by c. \$7,024. We are below budget, however, the general fund has risen from \$31,473 to \$37,998. Mark Ennis inquired about the organ repairs. That bill will be submitted when all of the work is completed. Motion by Jeannette Wackro, seconded by Wendy Warner, to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Ministry Department: Interim minister, Rev. Linda Anderson, reported that this is a very busy time with the coming Easter schedule. Everything seems to be going well.

Trustees/Building and Grounds: To much laughter, Michael Isaacs reported that we have "3". His reference is to now having "3" trustees. The group enthusiastically welcomed Conrad Heidt, who has accepted the position of trustee. Toni Hill and Dan Case related that during the recent cold spell, a homeless person "camped" in the north hall entrance. The remnants of the camping included a sterno for fire and warmth. That was a main concern. Discussion followed about having the area continuously lighted. Michael Isaacs will check into that possibility. Michael Isaacs pointed out that the West Room should not be used for meetings while the exit is blocked by the trailer used for drive-thru dinners.

Deacons: Jeannette Wackro reported that in March 318 attended in person and 103 attended on Facebook. She also reported that she would be covering Palm Sunday and Teri Staffeld will cover Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.

Elders: Dan Case reported for Pam Lange (who had a family emergency) that 68 communed on Sunday, April 6. The Girl Scouts participated. There was confirmation that the first Sunday communion is tincture.

Search Team Update: Mark Ennis reported that sadly the candidate in whom they were interested and who was interested in us has withdrawn because of a unique situation that arose in his current congregation.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Update status of Staff Reviews (Harold Fick): Michael Isaacs and Toni Hill reported that Harold Fick's review had been completed. There were conflicting comments made by some people involved in the process. The consensus was that Harold does an excellent job on our grounds maintenance. We need to compliment him on a regular basis on the beautiful and careful care he provides. The naysayers need to be ignored. As an additional note, the equipment maintenance has been done at no cost to the church.
2. Status of Zero Contributor Letters: At this time, no letters have actually been sent. The list is prepared, the letter and response form is prepared, and Cindy Romas will do the printing. Wendy Warner, elder, will follow up on the progress of these notifications.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Delegate for Detroit Metro Association Meeting: Dan Case reported that the association has not yet set a date for said meeting. This item is deferred to the May meeting.
2. Narthex Security during Sunday Service: Sue Mrowka noted she was unwilling to discuss at this time. However, Dan Case reported that a make-a-wish card was received requesting that the doors be locked during the service. That item has been referred to the Safety and Security Committee. At this point, Jeannette Wackro addressed a concern about who was to cover the narthex security when the deacon and council representative were not present there. It was suggested that those on duty sit in pews facing the door rather than those pews facing the altar. Also, Toni Hill related that she has been staying in the Usher's Room during worship which she will continue to do. Conrad Heidt, Wendy Warner, and others offered to come to the narthex area at any time when necessary.
3. Building use request by Ray Wiles from the Merry Twirlers: A proposal for building use from Ray Wiles for the Merry Twirlers was distributed to everyone. After a lengthy discussion the following issues became evident: 1. Because of the specific floor use in areas where "square" dances are done, there could be an expensive floor refinishing necessary. 2. More importantly, at this time the request for every Monday use is not possible as the Girl Scout Troop uses the area at that time. Also, the 2nd and 4th Fridays use would have very limited availability because of church activities. 3. Discussed at great length was our concern for community outreach. Even though we wish to welcome outside groups into our facility and worship, filling this request at this time would not work. Motion by Mark Ennis, seconded by Toni Hill, to decline the Merry Twirlers building use request at this time. Motion carried with one negative vote cast by Sue Mrowka.

ROUNDTABLE

The organ repairs will be completed on Friday, April 11. One of the reasons for some of the issues is the temperature changes in the sanctuary. There are some broken contacts which the repair person believes he can fix.

Toni Hill reported that she has received some complaints about the Bulletin and Morning Tide. Several suggestions were made of ways to condense some items and make it more readable. Also, the prayer list needs to be regularly evaluated. Sue Mrowka will share these suggestions with Cindy Romas.

ROUNDTABLE (continued)

Sue Mrowka reported that there was no one to do the coffee hour on Palm Sunday and suggested it be cancelled for lack of volunteers. Dan Case quickly reported that the Poet Family has agreed to provide coffee hour on Palm Sunday.

Toni Hill initiated a conversation about the fish dinners. There have been complaints about the dinners and the number of sales has been dropping. Many suggestions were offered. This is really a Cabinet issue. Rather than a Cabinet issue, Jane Dykowski suggested there be a Fish Dinner Committee as the whole Cabinet is not involved. Michael Isaacs suggested we drop the discussion at this time and do a complete re-think next year.

Dan Case reported there is a change in storing Facebook coverage after July 1.

He also shared that he and Jim Poet participated in a program on security and insurance in which Rev. Anderson was also a participant. Rev. Anderson thanked them for their contribution to the program.

Dan Case shared that 57% of our emails are opened. 100% of the last council email was opened.

Sue Mrowka shared the Maundy Thursday plans for soup and bread. The soup will come from Secret Recipes and the bread from Panera. The beverages would be made here. She asked for help in setting up for this event and the Easter Sunday Brunch. Tim Ruffner reported that plans for set up are after church on Palm Sunday. He also generously offered to be there when necessary. There will be a noon service on Good Friday.

Jeannette Wackro expressed our need to reach out to the community whenever possible.

Motion by Michael Isaacs, seconded by Sue Mrowka, to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m. followed by the Lord's Prayer recited in unison.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane L. Dykowski
Recording Secretary.