

ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST ~ COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Council members present: Pastor Geoff Drutchas, Mark Ennis, Allen Gunther, Beverley Gunther, Michael Isaacs, David Lange, Pamela Lange, Gary Peters, Diane Poet, Dee Salsbury, Barbara Schultz, and John Smith.

Council member excused: Kristi Caruso and Fred Miller

Council member absent: Dave Badarak

Guests of Council: Representatives of the Worship Planning Ministry: Sally Sigman, Barb Schultz, and Rev. Drutchas.

1st Vice President Diane Poet declared the meeting open at 7:35 p.m. Rev. Geoffrey Drutchas offered a prayer to begin the meeting.

Motion was made by Dave Lange seconded by John Smith to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2017. Motion carried.

(F.Y. I. Due to an unexpected issue with the digital tape recorder used to record Council Meetings, the following report is the outcome of manually written notes only.)

Pastor Drutchas spoke first on behalf of the Worship Planning Ministry Team. Among the many thoughts shared with council was the thought that the Worship Planning Team functions in many ways in order to lead the church in the directions we need to go in order to stay vital, to progress, and hopefully to grow in faith as a congregation.

Sally Sigman shared an overview of the tasks she undertakes as the Church Organist and leader of the Children's Choir. On a more personal level, Sally, outlined the disappointment she had experienced following her knee surgery. Sally has served this church family for many years (28), and has seldom taken days off beyond her usual vacation dates. However, when she needed extra time to recover, she found she had to take a loss of income in order to recover her health. Sally felt this was a hardship. The Trustees will review the church's policy on employee sick pay and will return to Council with their findings and possible suggestions at a later date.

Barbara Schulz also shared some of her thoughts on the work of the Worship Planning Ministry Team.

Gary Peters gave the Financial Report. The income for the month of July was close to Budgeted amounts; however, August was very far from good.

Note: Most congregation members have continued to give generously to the Endowment Fund – however, that special fund is not our most urgent project. (Early giving on the part of our membership had meant that a lower amount is actually needed each month to cover the Endowment Fund debt.) Our on-going bills, however, are seriously in need of some extra giving. Utilities and other funds are in need of added income – if our membership has a few extra dollars to give, this is the time when the General Fund or Facilities Services would greatly benefit from those extra gifts.

Motion was made by Bev Gunther seconded by Dave Lange, to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Pastor Drutchas gave his report for the past two months. There were a number of items mentioned that are in need of updating or attention:

1. The Sound System in the Sanctuary is not working as it should – some microphone(s) are either off or may be inoperable.

2. A new Member and Friends Directory is vital and must be prepared as soon as possible.
3. Christmas planning and all facets of the holiday and the ways we celebrate.
4. Welcome to the 10 confirmands now enrolled in the first and second year classes.
5. Nephew of our Pastor, Ethan Drutchas, will complete all his requirements within the coming months, and a service of Ordination is on our horizon!

Printed report supplied by Pastor Cheryl Schlam, Christian Education.

Printed report supplied by Kathy Williams, Parish Nurse.

Mike Isaacs reported for the Trustees. Many projects were reported as having been handled by the Trustees over the summer months – among those was a thorough cleaning of the kitchen. On this topic, Cindy Romas reported the city inspector had been astounded during his inspection. His comments were beyond glowing as he noted the quality of the cleaning that had been done in that room. (Kudos to anyone and everyone who had a part in that good work!)

Dee Salsbury gave the Deacon's report, and had provided a printed copy for everyone. The report covered the months of June, July, and August due to our not having had a Head Deacon in June.

Barb Schultz provided a printed Elders Report. A volunteer sign up list for those who will serve communion on October 1, 2017 was passed.

Pastor Drutchas volunteered to help with clean-up following the second service on (Blue Jean Sunday? Notes on this somewhat unclear) also, Barb Schultz to pick up donuts and John Smith to brew coffee.

Discussion was held and all members of Council agreed on the need to host a Fund-Raising Pasta Dinner in November (first Friday?). In addition to the cost of each dinner, we will ask for and accept any additional monetary gifts toward catching up on our financial short-fall. Although it is not our usual practice to ask for monetary extras, the Pastor spoke about the need to express our hopes for "Simple Gifts." In this, we are reminded of our need for gifts of faith, gifts of faithfulness, as well as those things that are important to our day-to-day lives, and especially financial gifts; without which this church family cannot move forward.

A Motion of Unified Support towards catching up on our Budget Shortfall was made by David Lange and seconded by Barbara Schultz. The motion carried unanimously by Council and will be forwarded to the Cabinet Meeting scheduled for 09-19-17 for their support as well.

Some discussion was held concerning the Fall Rummage Sale. It is strongly suggested that volunteer sorters, and other helpful church members refrain from pre-selecting items from among the donated goods. In the hope of limiting this activity, it was suggested that only on Tuesday evening, prior to the sale, will any member be permitted to pre-select and/or purchase any item(s). One church member will be named Cashier on that evening. The Cabinet will be asked to adopt these guidelines at their September meeting.

The property (or part of the property) was once used by Taylor for a library - on the East side of the Parsonage - was donated to the city by St. Paul Church. That building is now to be sold, and there is some question regarding whether the portion donated to the city would now be returned to the church or not. The Trustees are to research the deed and determine if we have an issue on this sale or not.

Part of the Church By-Laws discuss the church's position on allowing a for-profit group use of the building. Cindy Romas, Church Secretary, spoke to this and reported that lacking this knowledge, she had permitted someone to rent our building and they in turn, made money on something they had sold. There is now another person who would like to rent the building and sell items for a profit. Following some discussion on this subject a Motion was made by Dave Lange, seconded by Mark Ennis to table the question until the next Council Meeting.

It was also discussed that as part of Kathy Williams health classes, an instructor is paid for the lessons she teaches to the women of the class.

Motion made by Dave Lange seconded by John Smith to grant an exception to the guideline which prohibits making money through use of our building. The exception is granted in order for the exercise instructor to be paid for the classes she teaches (Monday and Wednesdays @ \$5.00 per student per class). Motion carried.

Gary Peters spoke with regard to the office hours worked by Lauren Frederick, our new Bookkeeper. Lauren and her family have moved out of this area due to a change in her husband's job. She has suggested the alternate plan of working from the church office one day each week, and working from her home computer other days – as needed. This will save her a very long commute and will still allow the various jobs to be completed in an efficient and timely manner.

Motion made by Al Gunther seconded by Bev Gunther to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:56 p.m. with a unison recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverley Gunther