

ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST ~ COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 10, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

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

Council member excused: Fred Miller and Diane Poet

Guests of Council: Worship Services Ministry

Second Vice President Pam Lange declared the meeting open at 7:30 p.m. Rev. Geoffrey Drutchas offered a prayer to open the meeting; the prayer included the many who have suffered from violence and from frightening weather conditions around our country.

Motion was made by John Smith seconded by Dave Lange to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2017 Council Meeting. Motion approved.

Additions/deletions were asked in addition to the listings of the printed agenda. Additions included: Discussion regarding Sunday Bell Ringers, and also the topic concerning the Sunday Usher's Schedule; these topics to be listed under Old Business. Under New Business we were asked to add some discussion regarding the Family Room.

Guests of Council for this meeting: Pastor spoke concerning the printed report provided by the Altar Guild. To the information given in the report, Pastor added that the Altar Paraments and the various duties of the Altar Committee are being very well handled in every way. Pastor voiced his concern about our sound system. He reported the sound output in the Sanctuary has been very irregular as to quality. It was his recommendation that we need to have it checked out and fixed/repared in any way we are able. Mike Isaacs shared information on our sound needs which include different microphones. Mike also volunteered to help out when and if we are ready to make changes, but is unable to take charge of the project himself. We need to add microphones in some areas to pick up the Choir and also the Organ. Eric Poet as our Sound Tech has been doing a very good job in the face of some very difficult circumstances.

Gary Peters provided a printed Treasurer's Report. He detailed some pertinent information concerning the Bar Graph he had provided. For the past month the church was called upon to spend a little more money than we were able to bring in. Late bills and other causes are largely the reason for this. Some seasonal differences can take responsibility for some of the rise in our expenses, for example the Office Supplies. These costs are not an increase, but are regular expenses that just don't occur each and every month. The Budget Ministry Meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 7, 2017. A letter will go out to those who are on this committee and their input toward the Budget for 2018 is very important. Recommendations for the next Budget will be available at the November Council Meeting.

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

Pastor Drutchas provided a printed report and discussed the varied work he has been doing over the last month. He spoke of the need to keep the congregation aware of the budget gap, and provided each council member with a bright yellow pin which carries the words, *Simple Gifts*. Pastor asked that we wear the pin on our clothing each Sunday in the weeks ahead. Pastor noted he has knowledge of other churches that are also facing budget shortfalls, and he underlined the need for all those of St. Paul Church to step up and continue to give to keep our church strong and viable.

A Printed report was received from Christian Education which detailed their activities, progress, and thoughts for the future.

A Printed report was received from Kathy Williams, Parish Nurse, detailing the many tasks accomplished by this vital church resource.

Michael Isaacs spoke with regard to the Trustee Report for the past month. The Trustees have been in touch with Matthew Horn regarding the committee's request for him to assume the task of keeping our outdoor sign updated. There have been some issues with main power switches having been turned off, in areas where no one should have accessed.

The Deacons Report was called for and was discussed by Dee Salsbury. Due to the number of changes of Deacons this year, Dee asked for a little Council guidance for her in order to understand and do the job. Council members explained generally what is needed each month. Dee was well prepared and able to give a comparison of attendance numbers for this year to previous years; good job, Dee!

A printed report was provided by Dave Lange for the Elders. Dave asked for some discussion about the Christmas Holiday worship schedule for this year. With Christmas Eve occurring on Sunday, there will be a lot of activity with morning worship services and with the evening worship services.

Pam Lange opened the Old Business portion of the meeting with a question about the suggestion for a Hospitality Coordinator position. This will be tabled until a later date.

Pastor spoke regarding the subject of *Simple Gifts*. It was his suggestion that we speak of it weekly, if possible, to keep the need for meeting our budget up front, and in our thoughts. Dave Lange suggested the use of special donation cans to be placed on our tables (for the Spaghetti Dinner and following) and ask for a free-will offering – change is suggested, but we would not turn down other gifts. Dave thought the cans could also be in place during coffee hours. There was a short discussion concerning our need for responsible handling of any money collected.

Pam Lange reported the response from members of the Congregation regarding the upcoming Spaghetti Dinner has been very positive. The News Herald, and Comcast will both be carrying information about the dinner, and it's hoped we will have a good turn out. As tickets are sold, it is noted that we need to mark the ticket stubs with an 'A' for Alfredo sauce in order to know which sauce is needed.

Discussion was opened regarding the use of our building by Vendors (those who earn money from sales of things offered within our building). Generally, the building is not to be used for profit making businesses, and there are guidelines in place concerning who may or may not use the building. Pastor felt that non-profit organizations might be asked to pay less for our building than businesses that operate solely for profit. In the past, the Howe-Peterson Funeral Home had used the building for groups dealing with grief counseling. This could be an area where although the business is "for profit," the tasks they undertake are in-line with what the church is about. Now that we are air conditioned in the Fellowship Hall, they might like to consider using the building once again. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the topic, and it was suggested that the Trustees meet, consider, and prepare a Morals Clause to use as a guideline in agreeing to outside groups using our building.

Motion was made by Barbara Schultz seconded by Gary Peters to authorize the rental of church space for use by profit making groups/businesses, *provided* the use is compatible with our own church's mission. Prior to allowing the rental, the Head Trustee (in consultation with the other Trustees), must approve the use of the building and let the Church Secretary know of their approval.

Ushers: Pastor explained the need to set up a training session for new Ushers, and for Bell Ringers. It was suggested we might consider setting up a training session to follow the 10:30 p.m. service. Those who usher are in a position where they represent our church; and appropriate dress is important, but not to the point of causing a hardship. A large variety of neckties as well as clip-on ties are available to anyone who needs one to wear on Sundays. Pastor suggested we might announce a week in advance that training classes are to be held, and we could schedule the class for two consecutive Sundays.

Bell Ringers: A list is needed of those who can ring the bell on Sunday mornings. Although there are already a number of members who can ring the bell, added names would make the scheduling a great deal easier.

Church Secretary, Cindy Romas would like to return to her former office hours (the same hours she formerly worked). The outdoor sign will need to be changed, but no one on council had any objection with this change. The answering message will need to be amended in order to direct callers for leaving a message. Dan Case will be asked to take care of this change after his return from vacation.

Bev Gunther asked for volunteer help with expenses of Council's hosting dinner for the homeless guests of ChristNet. Set up, serving, and clean-up are going to need council volunteer hands as well.

Set up for Sunday service became a problem recently because some well intentioned person removed the bud vase needed for the early worship service. The vase is to be kept in the hallway closet adjacent to the Pastor's Office.

The mat used for babies in the Family Room is to be placed and removed by someone with the ability to navigate the stairs. It is suggested the Family Room attendant will be asked to do this, and she can ask for additional help as needed (optimally, it's a two person job).

The possibility of an electric sign was discussed. A sign company has been contacted by members of Council, and a price will be sought in order to make a reasonable decision on the subject.

Motion was made by Dave Lange seconded by John Smith to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m. with a unison recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverley Gunther