

ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST ~ COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 18, 2016, 7:30 p.m.

Council members present: Alice Clubb, Pastor Geoff Drutchas, Julius Enesey, Arlene Felske, Allen Gunther, Beverley Gunther, David Lange, Pamela Lange, Frederick Miller, Suzanne Mrowka, Gary Peters, Candace Poet, Diane Poet, and John Smith.

Council member excused: Kevin Kittendorf

Council Guests - October: Worship Services Ministry; Dorothy Evison, Altar Guild; Cindy Romas, Church Secretary; Doreen Thompson; Michelle Matney, Girl Scouts

Meeting called to order by Council President Pam Lange at 7:30 p.m. Meeting opened with prayer led by Rev. Geoff Drutchas.

Motion made by Julius Enesey seconded by Fred Miller to approve the minutes of Council Meeting held on September 13, 2016. Motion carried.

Additions, deletions, or corrections to the Agenda:

Doreen Thompson - Sharing Concerns regarding the cost of use of our building

Michelle Matney - Girl Scout Pie Sale

Church and Council Communications - Suzanne Mrowka

Food and Drink Guidelines for new room addition - Pastor Drutchas

Letter received from Mark Ennis

Name Tag wall boxes - Fred Miller

Privacy concerns of the Room with a View - Fred Miller

GUESTS OF COUNCIL: Doreen Thompson had asked to speak to Council regarding a conversation she had been either part of, or had overheard portions of, that had caused her some concern. Doreen reported the conversation had concerned the 'high' fees charged by St. Paul for use of our building. This was relative to the added cost of using the new Room with a View, particularly for weddings. Doreen asked that council consider, review, or perhaps re-evaluate the fees charged to people who may wish to use the building.

Council openly discussed the fees charged by St. Paul. Several members who have used the church for weddings, and other functions noted they felt our costs were very reasonable. Pastor reported he had personally made a large number of calls to other facilities prior to any determination of fees for the new addition. Other churches in this area are much the same as we are at this time, and several are a little higher.

Suzanne Mrowka mentioned that the perception of an *"extra charge"* for use of the new room, would be eliminated if we simply increase the price we ask for use of the Sanctuary. In this way, the new room will be able to earn income for the church without the appearance of being a frivolous add-on charge. Following open discussion, Council was agreeable to this format for increasing fees charged for weddings or other uses of the Sanctuary.

WORSHIP SERVICES MINISTRIES: Pastor reported on his duties as worship leader of the church. He outlined some new thoughts that he and other leaders have been discussing in order to update and to enliven our worship services. Several *"new for this church"* ideas were discussed, as was the acknowledgement that sudden changes can be upsetting for some of our members. We plan to move as smoothly and kindly as we are able, in adding music or other new features to our worship services. In this way we will strive to allow every member to be comfortable with any differences or changes in the worship experience.

Michelle Matney, our Girl Scout Troop Leader, announced the girls would like to do some tasty-fund-raising through pie sales. The pies will come from Roberto's Bakery and a small amount of money will be earned for each pie sold with a small profit going for the needs of the Troop. The number of girls in the troop continues to grow which increases the cost of books, manuals, and other supplies. The girls of this Troop seem to love

their time here at St. Paul; they are always on hand to help with any project they have been asked to help on.

Motion made by Dave Lange seconded by Fred Miller to allow the Girl Scouts to sell pies for delivery in time for Thanksgiving. Motion carried.

Dorothy Evison of the Altar Committee reported the Candle Sticks on the Altar, in recent weeks, have been placed too far back for the ladies of the Altar Guild to reach comfortably. After a short discussion, it was thought to have been done by a member of the cleaning crew. Julius will speak with them to ask that they not place the candlesticks all the way back on the Altar since this is a problem for us.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Gary Peters reported on progress made by himself and others in preparing a budget draft for use next year. Gary had a time-line form for use in creating new budget amounts. The proposed new budget will be discussed following the October 30, 2016 services. A discussion will be held following each of the morning worship services. We will discuss it at our next Council Meeting on November 8, and further changes as needed will be made before it is presented to the Congregation.

Weekly giving (income from weekly Offering Envelopes) is still lower than what we need each week as shown in the budget and the pattern continues to be a source of real concern. Expenses for us, thankfully, remain low in most areas - the budget numbers for the office, however, are likely to be increased due to some office equipment and contracts on them. The charges for carpet cleaning were reasonable - and is done every second year. The waterproofing needed for the basement is not yet showing, and will increase costs. Gary repeated his willingness to meet with anyone on Council if they have questions about the income or expenses on his report.

Motion made by Dave Lange seconded by Fred Miller to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Gary made us aware that next year's Budget will have an increase for advertising - this was one of the suggestions made by the Vision Team in order to keep the name and knowledge of this church within the "public eye".

Gary Peters and Dave Lange both explained changes that will be made in the repayment formula as shown in the new Budget for the Endowment Fund.

MINISTRY ADMINISTRATION:

Pastor Drutchas provided a printed report and also shared a verbal overview of his recent activities. Pastor has prepared a form for the Confirmation Class to show the dates they are to serve during worship services. The newsletter may be undergoing a few changes as we move forward. Barbara Gish has been experiencing some health problems and may or may not be able to continue publishing it. Please keep Sally Sigman and the members of her family in your prayers as they each continue to deal with health problems.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Printed report received.

HEALTH MINISTRY– Printed report received. Pastor noted that Kathy Williams has offered several classes that have been very well attended, and we are very blessed to have her on the job! Classes were offered dealing with Balance Issues, Mental Health, Diet needs for Diabetics, etc.

TRUSTEES and BUILDING AND GROUNDS REPORT – A printed report was received. Julius spoke about repairs recently made in and around the building. The new sump pump operating in the basement worked well during recent heavy rains. There was a very unhappy accident with the Butterfly Garden. It was mowed down and may or may not recover in the spring. The cocoons and the plants may have been terminally damaged.

A part of the Trustee's job duties is to find members who may be interested in serving on Church Council. An important part of joining the church is the spoken, spelled-out, expectation that every member will be willing

to volunteer themselves in order to keep this church alive, active, and vital.

Julius expressed his unhappiness with the lack of interest displayed by many of the congregation when he has asked them to help. Every member needs to help - every member should **want** to be a part of keeping St. Paul an active congregation. And, no one calling themselves part of this congregation can expect to sit in the pews each Sunday, and yet never willingly step forward to become a part of all we do.

DEACONS:

Printed report received.

ELDERS:

Arlene Felske reported the number of persons who took Communion on October 2, 2016 as:
(at the 9:00 a.m. service - 67 and at the 10:30 a.m. service - 93)

OLD BUSINESS:

Revised job descriptions were discussed. By-law changes have also been approved by Council and will be voted on by the congregation at our next Congregational Meeting.

Diane Poet stated that Jim Poet will volunteer to take the State Food Handler's Class as needed by the church and will then be listed as the official member certified to oversee food handling duties and kitchen useage for St. Paul U.C.C.

Motion made by Julius Enesey seconded by Fred Miller to approve Jim Poet taking the State Food Handler's course (fees to be paid by the church - cost not to exceed \$200.). Motion carried.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held this year on Sunday, January 15, 2017 - following the 10:00 a.m. worship.

Council Installation and the yearly Council Dinner will be held on the following Sunday, January 22, 2017, and will be held at Pete's Place on Telegraph Road.

Motion by Al Gunther seconded by Fred Miller to hold the Annual Meeting following the single 10:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, January 15, 2017. Motion carried.

Al Gunther suggested moving the table that currently holds large Hymnals and Bibles, to another part of the Narthex. This would allow us to move the Lectern/Podium stand (that seems to be an impediment for easy access to the Sanctuary) forward toward the double doors (to the spot formerly occupied by the table holding the Bibles, etc.). This will give easy access to the Sanctuary, particularly for those walking in from the new entrance door, the Room With a View, or from the new restroom.

Suzanne Mrowka spoke on the subject of Council Communications. There had been a change in the start time of a meeting, which was not shared with everyone. Discussion was held between a number of council members with no formal changes made.

Beverages in the new addition or other areas of the building was discussed at length. Although there is a security deposit on the new room, other areas of the church are not intended for drinking beverages. A discussion of all areas of the church and where we may or may not allow beverages followed. Although we don't want to turn away families or members who may want to have a beverage, at the same time, we need to be cautious with what is allowed so that we don't end up with a mess. There is to be a protective spray put on the new furniture to help guard against stains.

It was suggested that privacy is needed in the new room for mothers who may need to nurse. There has been at least one case of accidental intrusion, which caused just a little discomfort for everyone except the baby.

Further discussion is needed before we can decide exactly which direction we need to take on this issue.

Pam Lange shared with Council that Mark Ennis has offered his resignation as Music Director. Mark has

served St. Paul Church for 17 years and will be sincerely missed. He pointed out that he is not leaving this church as a member, and has every intention of offering his vocal talent as needed, but that he can no longer head the total music program.

There was some discussion concerning a possible reduction in size for the cabinet that holds the name tags. It is possible to downsize the cabinet and still hold all the tags. Discussion also took place concerning the coat rack on that side of the Narthex.

John Smith asked for Council donations to help pay for the food costs of the meal that was prepared by Council and served to the ChristNet guests on their final day with St. Paul U.C.C. Cash donations received above what was needed were donated to the Council Fund.

Motion by Gary Peters seconded by Fred Miller to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m. with a prayer led by Pastor Drutchas followed by a unison recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverley Gunther