

ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST ~ COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 14, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Council members present: Kristi Caruso, Alice Clubb, Pastor Geoff Drutchas, Mark Ennis, Beverley Gunther, Michael Isaacs, David Lange, Pamela Lange, Frederick Miller, Gary Peters, and John Smith. (Following the resignation of Suzanne Mrowka, the Council remains one member short.)

Council member excused: Allen Gunther, Kevin Kittendorf, and Diane Poet

Guests of Council: Dan Case; Scouting Services Organizations (due to late notices having been sent, scheduled Scout leaders were unable to attend the meeting; these leaders will be asked to attend a future meeting).

President Fred Miller declared the meeting open at 7:29 p.m. Rev. Geoffrey Drutchas offered a prayer to begin the meeting.

Motion was made by Dave Lange seconded by Mike Isaacs to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2017 Council Meeting. Motion approved.

Special Council guest Dan Case offered a brief report concerning finances needed for repairs to church facilities, as the need arises. The Generational Endowment fund cannot be used for this without first gaining a "Super Majority" approval of the Congregation. (A Super Majority vote requires approval by three-fourths of all members in attendance at a called Congregational Meeting.) To enable the Council to approve spending money for repairs as they occur (new roofs, heating system, or etc.) a different type of funding is needed. It was recommended that a new fund (Capital Appreciation Fund) be created, using the Interest, dividends, and Capital Gains that is earned by the Generational Endowment Fund. Each January, those funds are to be collected together in an account that can be used with Council approval for repairs or building replacement needs. Dan asked for a motion to transfer an amount of \$1,541.64 (the current amount of interest and appreciation in the fund) into the Asset Depreciation Fund.

Motion made by Dave Lange seconded by Michael Isaacs to transfer the amount of \$1,541.64 from the Endowment Fund into the Asset Depreciation Fund. Motion carried.

Dan Case also shared with Council, the information he's been able to gather concerning the demographics of this congregation. At the current time, we are recording 458 members. Of this number, 43% of the congregation is 60 years of age, or older. The statistics on this are not unexpected, but may help all of us in understanding the need for St. Paul to continue its outreach to younger families. Without question, our weekly offering is affected by this demographic. All of this information will be shared with the Vision Team in the hope of better understanding of where we are, as well as in the hope of making plans for the best methods for increasing our attendance and our donations.

Dan Case brought information concerning the Disability Insurance we carry on our part-time employees. Sally Sigman has been covered by this for a period of nine weeks to-date. Sally is nearly out of time for payment under this policy, but she needs to be told about this time limit, and very likely does not know the duration of her coverage. Mark Ennis offered to share this information with Sally.

Motion was made by Mark Ennis seconded by Dave Lange to ratify payment of a short time disability (four weeks) for Sally Sigman; this payment includes Sally's vacation time. (Clarification of the policy states that should Sally need additional sick/recuperative time during the rest of this calendar year, under this policy, she will not qualify for additional paid dates unless Council approves it in advance.) Motion carried.

Gary Peters detailed the information given in the Treasurer's Report. Gary noted that newly hired, Dianne Brainard, has elected to offer her resignation from her new position of Bookkeeper/Office Manager. Fortunately for the church, Marjie Barnard has stepped-up to ensure that the payroll was completed and this vital job is covered for the time being.

Gary went on to discuss financial details of our current expenses and expenditures. The Budget had been off target a little with regard to Lenten/Easter timing. The totals should balance next month better than at the time of this meeting. As always, Gary stated he is always available to discuss the church's financial details with council members.

Motion made by David Lange seconded by Michael Isaacs to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

The letter of resignation, dated March 7, 2017, received from Dianne Brainard was read to Council. Motion was made by Dave Lange seconded by Pam Lange to 'receive and file' Dianne Brainard's letter of resignation. Motion carried.

Compensation for Marjie Barnard was discussed and a verbal review was held concerning fair, temporary pay for Marjie.

Motion was made by Dave Lange seconded by Mark Ennis to approve compensation for Marjie Barnard as Interim Bookkeeper. The Council Treasurer is to determine an amount of compensation that is agreeable for the church as well as for Mrs. Barnard. Motion carried.

Pastor Drutchas provided a printed report and discussed the work he has been doing over the last time period. Pastor has been ill, and did spend some time recuperating at home. He also visited many members who were ill at home and those who are recuperating from their surgeries. Pastor noted that the Confirmation class for 2017 is preparing for this year's completion. Marjie Barnard's reception hosted by Council was a tremendous success and was deeply appreciated by Marjie.

Pastor noted the passing of Irene Anthony, who had been the first woman to serve as Council President at St. Paul. Ms. Anthony was a disabled adult and was a forerunner of advanced women's participation in the life of our church. Traditionally, a yellow rose, is taken to the funeral service to note the passing of any person who has served as a member of the Council.

Printed report was received from Christian Education.

Alice Clubb offered information on recent activities of the Trustees. John Smith gave added details for Alice concerning the recent storm damage done to the Parsonage roof. Chuck's Roofing was out and patched the roof. They recommended it is time to replace the roof (this is the second-layer roof installation); the facing boards, behind the gutters, also needs to be replaced. The Council offered its thanks to Alice for her service as a Trustee and wished her well on her move away from this locale.

Mike Isaacs, noted the on-going damage done by interior leaking, and/or winter ice-dams, and suggested we may need to look into larger repairs or alterations to the roof in order to stop this from happening.

Pastor offered his thanks to the Trustees, the Building and Grounds Committee members for ensuring that repairs have been done where needed. Pastor offered special thanks to Fred Miller for repairs undertaken by him on the fan motor that is relative to the church organ. Michael Isaacs also received thanks for some hi-tech special work he has undertaken (TV monitors, etc.).

Kristie Caruso reported that Kevin Kittendorf is still without electrical power, and was unable to print the monthly report for the Deacons. Discussion was held concerning the need for Council volunteers to serve as ushers and as Communion Servers, especially during the Easter season.

Elders report given by Dave Lange noted Communion served for March: March early service 68, and at the later service we served 113. Non active members are being reviewed with a report to come next month or so. Volunteer list for Communion service was passed. Eight servers will be needed for each service. Barb Schultz and Jeanette Wackro (among others) have volunteered to help as temporary Elders, but are not willing to serve a full term of service.

Mark Ennis reported that several candidates are being considered for the Choir Director vacancy, and interviews are on-going. The candidates are each very promising and we look for a successful and timely finish to our search.

At the last Fish Supper it was reported that we served 435 guests. The drive-through suppers are facing us and at this time, we are still looking for a person to help serve from the trailer on alternate Fridays.

New Members are to gather for a small supper hosted by Pastor Drutchas. Mike Isaacs indicated he is interested in attending the dinner, and will also represent the Council.

Discussion was held on altering the start time for future Council Meetings. It was suggested we could begin at 7:00 rather than 7:30 p.m. Discussion resulted in leaving this issue for the time being. Most members were unwilling to begin at 7:00 p.m.

Motion was made by Mark Ennis seconded by Bev Gunther to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m. with a unison recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverley Gunther