

ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST ~ COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 14, 2016, 7:30 p.m.

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

Council members excused: Alice Clubb, Arlene Felske, and Kevin Kittendorf

Council Guests - June: Women's Fellowship & Health Ministries - Sew 'n Sews and Red Hat Ladies; Sharon Leonard & Kathy Williams

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

Motion made by David Lange seconded by Diane Poet to approve the minutes of Council Meeting held on May 10, 2016. Motion carried.

Additions, deletions, or corrections to the Agenda:

Training of new office staff

Vendors for Picnic; Pastor Drutchas

GUESTS OF COUNCIL: Diane Poet reported briefly on on-going activities of the Women's Fellowship which will include cutting fruit in advance of the July Picnic

Sharon Leonard gave a verbal report for the Sewing Guild. An open invitation was issued for all ladies of the church to come to the next meeting of the sewing group and witness the good work that is on-going. There is no requirement for any needlework experience since there are many different tasks (even non-stitching ones!) that need helpful hands to accomplish. There was some discussion regarding the idea of combining all the women's groups as a single unified entity with one monthly meeting; this would allow everyone to get a little knowledge of what the other groups are doing, and would also keep everyone updated on what all each of the groups are involved with.

Kathy Williams gave an overview of the many tasks she does for the church each month. The Parish Nurse position began as a shared task and could so easily be this again. If any member has this kind of medical training and would like to help Kathy in sharing the tasks, they would be most welcome.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Gary Peters provided a printed report covering the past month. He gave an overview of the past month's financial activities. At the mid-year we are still under the dollar amount of what we had hoped to receive through our weekly envelopes, but luckily for the church, our operating costs continue to drop. Building rentals remain on the low side, and hopefully we can get this source of income up in the next months.

Motion made by Julius Enesey seconded by Fred Miller to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

MINISTRY ADMINISTRATION:

Pastor Drutchas provided a printed report and also shared a verbal overview of his current services to the church family.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Printed report received.

HEALTH MINISTRY– Printed report received; topics were well covered during the Guest of Council portion held earlier.

TRUSTEES and BUILDING AND GROUNDS REPORT – A printed report was received. Julius Enesey reported work being done on drains and some flooding that happens in the basement area as a result. This situation will be worked on in the weeks and months to come. Final electrical, glass work, and most other wall and interior details have been completed in the new Room With a View addition. Comment was received with concern over the open space between the new handicapper ramp and the building; which would give space for

smaller children to fall and be injured. Julius will speak with the contractor this issue. New and donated furniture items will be reviewed for use in this new room.

DEACONS:

Printed report received.

ELDERS:

Printed report received.

REPORT OF THE VISION TEAM: Focus groups were formed and various areas of church function and operations were considered. Visits were made to a number of local churches by the groups to take a look at how those churches function.

From the surveys and on-line responses, a number of ideas were discussed or presented. Number one on most lists was the desire to have worship services begin and end on time. Often mentioned was the wish for more upbeat or contemporary music. Some expressed the hope that we become a more welcoming congregation. It was noted that many other churches advertise their presence in the community with flyers and other forms of printed material.

A lengthy discussion took place with a number of different ideas brought up by members of council. Members of the Visioning Team helped council members to better understand the thoughts and outlook of the congregation and other local churches about making/or not making changes at St. Paul Church.

Activities for young people is very important to the continuing growth of this church family. Mid-week functions are one way of keeping our youngsters active in their own church. Church school alone is not enough to keep our teens and pre-teens eager to stay active in the church.

The discussion was sincere and very diverse with many areas of church life examined. A lot of helpful thoughts were shared and it was clear, throughout the time of self analysis, that everyone wants the same results. We all want to keep this church family strong and growing. We want to remain faithful to our beliefs and faithful to the congregation that has worked together for so many years, to keep this church alive and successful.

To begin new activities it will be necessary to create some kind of budget to fund the changes. Some type of fundraising might be considered, and a number of different possibilities were outlined.

In closing it was said that Council can now pick up the different issues as discovered by the Vision Team and following study, can begin to implement changes which they agree upon.

Several members of Council voiced their opinion that the Visioning Team needs to bring the top issues to Council for approval or enactment. The purpose or job of the Council is to then discuss the issue and to either approve or disapprove the proposal.

The team discussed the idea and proposed to meet further to determine which changes, or what type of change, they prefer to suggest to the Council. The Council in turn, agreed to begin with questions about the Music Ministry: Guest musicians and/or vocalists, a more current type of music for the worship, etc.; all in cooperation with and the support of Mark Ennis.

OLD BUSINESS:

Julius Enesey discussed the need to revise all church forms dealing with use of the building, sound tech fees, etc. Every form will be accurate, and every form will now show a revision date of 6-14-2016. No pre-printed forms will be used from today onward. When someone makes arrangements to use part of the building, the office staff will print the appropriate form directly from the computer. This will eliminate old forms floating around with incorrect information on them.

Motion by Gary Peters seconded by Dave Lange to discontinue use of pre printed forms and to amend all current forms for total accuracy; with a result that all forms will be stored in the computer and will be printed out at the time they are to be used.

Motion carried.

(The following was not announced until after the start of September, 2016.) The resignation of Marjie Barnard has been received and she will be with us only through the end of this year. We are all saddened by this news,

but will support her and wish her well as she begins a very well earned retirement. A search will be conducted for someone who will be able to take on the many tasks that have been done by Marjie. It is hoped that we can locate someone prior to Marjie's departure in order for that person to receive adequate training.

Pastor Drutchas suggested a topic for the September Council Meeting should be a review of all church security processes.

With changes in our bookkeeping process, the congregation will appreciate an assurance that church funds are protected in every way possible.

Motion by John Smith seconded by Julius Enesey to set aside an amount equal to one month's salary in order to pay our new Bookkeeper concurrently with Marjie Barnard.

Motion carried.

Pastor discussed some issues concerning the Picnic. A Pig Roast was suggested, as was the information that Ray's Prime Meats will provide the cooked meat at a price per serving. Desserts and cakes can also be outsourced, etc. Pastor asked if the Council suggests that each group should decide if they wish to pay a vendor for supplied food for the picnic. No decision on the group outsourcing was made.

Motion made by Julius Enesey seconded by Fred Miller to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:32 p.m. with a prayer led by Pastor Drutchas followed by a unison recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverley Gunther