

## ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST ~ COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 8, 2016, 7:30 p.m.

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

Council member excused: Arlene Felske and Kevin Kittendorf

Council Guests - November: Pastoral Ministries; Pastor Drutchas, Parish Nurse Kathy Williams, Visiting Elders Representative, and Council Elders.

Pastor Drutchas led the assembled group in a prayer of opening at 7:27 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Council President Pam Lange at 7:30 p.m. President Lange expressed her wish that the council move expeditiously through the Agenda in order to keep the meeting length to one hour or slightly longer if at all possible.

Motion made by Diane Poet seconded by David Lange to approve the minutes of Council Meeting held on October 18, 2016. Motion carried.

Additions, deletions, or corrections to the Agenda were asked for.

Under Old Business: Another look at our form which is used for Weddings at St. Paul.

Comment was raised concerning beverages in the Room with a View addition; and also in the Usher's Room.

Under New Business: Concern was raised regarding pay for Marjie Barnard prior to her last date of employment and wages to be paid to Dianne Brainard during her training period.

**GUESTS OF COUNCIL:** Pastoral Ministries - Pastor Drutchas had prepared a printed report that covered his regular duties of the past month. A large number of different tasks that are a part of doing his job in the last months of each year were noted. Pastor reported the Chocolate Social did not show an increase in attendance and Pastor suggested the need to consider returning the date to a Sunday for next year.

Pastor reported that Barbara Gish continues to struggle with her health and her editing the monthly Tidings Newsletter. Both the Pastor and Treasurer, Gary Peters have been working on finding some less difficult way to assemble and proof the newsletter for the coming months.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** - Gary Peters gave the Financial Report for the period of October, 2016. The income and expenses line items have been removed from the usual printed report - this shows our financial position a little more clearly (the endowment funds raise some confusion with regard to the actual amount of money on hand for paying bills). As in earlier months, we are operating over the actual amount of money that comes in each month, and although we have used great care in the amounts we are spending, we need to stay in control of church expenses.

Suzanne Mrowka raised the question about the amounts asked in fees for use of the building. She felt the lack of current rentals is a result of higher fees asked. Council took no action concerning the fees currently being asked of those who wish to use the building.

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

David Lange raised the subject of Stewardship Sunday. He voiced his concern that many of our members may be sending extra dollars to the Endowment Fund rather than the more usual practice of giving with their weekly envelopes. A discussion concerning this thought was held, however, no changes were suggested for this time.

#### MINISTRY ADMINISTRATION:

The Pastor's Report had been given earlier in the meeting.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** – Printed report received. Pastor Schalm reported the recently held Youth Retreat was very successfully held and the church can hope to see positive returns for many years in the future, based upon the positive energy shown by the young people who were part of this experience.

**HEALTH MINISTRY**– Printed report received. Pastor Geoff reported that Kathy Williams has expressed the desire to locate another Parish Nurse from within the Congregation to take some of the responsibilities and work from her shoulders. She has been heroically carrying it alone since the passing of Mary Smith several years back.

**TRUSTEES and BUILDING AND GROUNDS REPORT** – A printed report was received. The new light has been installed over the Tree of Light in the Narthex. Julius noted there are now two light switches for the Deacons to turn on to turn for all the different lights.

Dianne Brainard is working November at half pay. At the end of this time period, we (St. Paul Church) and Dianne will make a final decision concerning her employment with the church.

Harold Fick has shared his concerns about the way his salary is paid, and although he had previously accepted a 10-month pay schedule, he would now like to amend that agreement. Council discussed this change but cannot change that agreement until the end of the year. In January the pay schedule can be altered to a 12-month schedule if that is Harold's preference. The Trustees, Church Council, and finally, the Congregation is required to discuss and then to vote on any change in the amount of pay for any church employee. Pastor spoke with warm praise for the excellent care Harold has given to the grounds and the property of St. Paul Church. Pastor also noted the excellent quality of the work being done by every church employee. The Congregation and this Council are all grateful to each of these special friends, members, and workers. Julius continued the Trustee Report with the information that for 2017 Michael Isaacs has agreed to run for Trustee; Mark Ennis has agreed to run as an Elder; and Christy Caruso has agreed to run as a Deacon. Alice Clubb further announced her plan to resign from Council no later than March of 2017. Pastor shared that Daniel Newton has expressed an interest in learning to ring the bell, and may consider becoming an Auxiliary Deacon also.

#### DEACONS:

Printed report received. Candace Poet gave the count of attendance for the weeks of October. The numbers were comparable for each of the Sundays in October.

**ELDERS:** Suzanne Mrowka reported the Communion numbers for November 11, 2016 as: 70 for the 9:00 a.m. service and 121 for the 10:30 a.m. service. There will be pew communion served on December 4, at each service. Please make every effort to be available (particularly) for the early service on that date.

The printed schedule for Council Rep has disappeared from the Usher's Room. If anyone has a copy, please put it in the rack in the Usher's Room as soon as possible. If anyone has this schedule on a home computer - please get a copy posted A.S.A.P.

Pastor suggested that we begin to refer to the Room with a View, as the *Family Room*. This was the original intention for the room and other names for it are no longer relevant.

Pastor began the discussion concerning beverages inside the new Family Room. Council agreed on the denial of any/all alcoholic beverages within the church building. There was agreement on the use of a closed container for beverages with the church building, but there was some disagreement about the precise wording of what may or may not be consumed inside the church. The form will go back to Dan Case for re-wording and will be discussed again at a future meeting.

The Annual Meeting was set for January 15, 2017

Council Installation and Council Dinner will be January 22, 2017

Julius was asked if any bids have been received on the closed-circuit TV system for the Sanctuary/Family Room. Bids have begun to be gathered and final details are yet to be discussed.

Al Gunther raised a question about the Ushering Schedule that is supposed to be made for the members of the Confirmation Class. Pastor responded that although there are a few parts to be finalized, the schedule will be completed very soon.

Discussion took place on the fees charged for use of the building, by groups that are run as, or by, a business. It was noted that there has been research done locally on the value of our building as a rental space

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A Position Description is currently being worked out for the Music Director's opening. The Search Team needs to be a part of the entire process, and it is expected to kick off in January of 2017.

Jim Poet has attended the class for the Food Handler's representative for the church. Details on all of this are not fully known at this time.

A lovely thank you note has been received from Dee Salsbury and Kim Martinez for Council support in the hosting of ChristNet.

Motion by Dave Lange seconded by Fred Miller to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m. with a prayer led by Pastor Drutchas followed by a unison recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beverley Gunther

