

ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST ~ COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 13, 2016, 7:30 p.m.

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

Council member excused: Julius Enesey, Kevin Kittendorf, and Diane Poet

No scheduled guests are invited to attend December Council Meetings.

Prior to the called start of the Council Meeting, Pastor Drutchas offered Council a progress report on ongoing attempts to produce a new Tidings monthly newsletter. There are a number of different methods we might elect to adopt, and every effort will be made to select the one found to be most versatile and user friendly for our needs.

Pastor Drutchas led the assembled group in a prayer of opening at 7:38 p.m.

Roll Call was requested. Three members excused; twelve members present.

President Pam Lange asked if all members present had reviewed the minutes of November 8, 2016, in preparation for approval of the meeting minutes. Prior to a vote it was explained that the printed copy had an error that declared the day of the week for the next proposed Chocolate Social. If held in 2017 it should revert to a Thursday (not a Sunday as was incorrectly typed).

Motion made by Dave Lange seconded by Fred Miller to approve the minutes of Council Meeting held on October 18, 2016 (with corrections). Motion carried.

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

New Business: Suzanne Mrowka indicated her wish to resign from her remaining service as an Elder; effective 12/24/16.

John Smith requested Council approval of a Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast for February 12, 2017.

Fred Miller noted that he has a draft of the Letter to be sent out with the approved 2017 Budget. It is available this evening for anyone who may wish to see it.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Gary Peters gave the Financial Report for the weeks of November, 2016. Weekly donations were under budget for the past month (\$10,000). The Endowment Funding continues to be well above what we had asked for in the early stages. Income from the Initial Offering envelopes remains slightly under the amount we would like to have each year to pay for the Offering Envelopes. In all, we expect to receive additional income throughout the final month of this year. Expenses are holding steady and are well in control - hopefully, we will continue on that path and will find ourselves in a better place financially for the year ahead.

Gary also gave an overview of the now finalized Budget for 2017. A reduction of approximately \$2,000 has been made and this will be beneficial in helping to meet the costs we expect on a monthly basis.

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

Motion by Dave Lange seconded by John Smith to approve the finalized Budget for presentation to the Congregation. Motion carried

MINISTRY ADMINISTRATION:

Rev. Drutchas provided a printed report and also gave a brief overview of the many of the tasks he had undertaken in the last four weeks. Pastor reported there had been a large number of members experiencing ill health or having surgeries over the last few weeks; additionally he presided over one funeral and made

arrangements for another. It is clear the Pastor is always on duty; he visits the sick and the grieving, listens to the problems of everyone - young and old, and always finds time to share a smile or give a hug. We are a lucky congregation.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – No printed report was available for the meeting. Pastor Drutchas reported that the Family Fun Night which had taken a great deal of Pastor Schalm's time and effort turned out to be a great success, many came out to enjoy the evening.

HEALTH MINISTRY– Printed report received.

TRUSTEES and BUILDING AND GROUNDS REPORT – A printed report was received. Alice Clubb mentioned the repairs that have been completed for the upstairs bathroom

Alice Clubb voiced her concerns about becoming Head Trustee. She has not taken an active part in building repairs to date, and is somewhat uneasy about how to go forward. Gary Peters explained that she will not be asked to physically repair anything, but will need to stay informed about ongoing projects and with that knowledge she will be able to prepare brief reports as needed for Council meetings.

Gary Peters spoke to Council regarding offering envelopes and B.O.F. envelopes, etc. Changes will need to be considered and ultimately decided upon in order to utilize all the different envelopes effectively.

DEACONS:

A printed report of attendance numbers was provided. Thanksgiving eve service was held in a cafe style in the Fellowship Hall and it was very well attended. Suzanne had arranged for us to serve pie (purchased from Roberto's Bakery) as a treat at the cafe service. Pastor Drutchas and Aaron Johnson enacted a brief, comedic skit for entertainment.

ELDERS:

Arlene Felske reported the count of those who received communion during the past weeks: On December 4, at 9:00 a.m. we served 79, and at the 10:30 service we served 95. A volunteer sign-up sheet was circulated for Council volunteers to serve on Christmas Eve at both the 7:00 p.m. and the 11:00 p.m. services.

OLD BUSINESS: Nothing at this time.

NEW BUSINESS: Following is the volunteer list of candidates for 2017 Council

- Mark Ennis - Elder
- Michael Isaacs - Trustee
- Christie Caruso - Deacon
- Pam Lange - Second Vice President

The Annual Council Dinner will be held on January 22, 2017 at Pete's Place on Telegraph Road, in Taylor.

The Annual Council Retreat is to be held at the Allen Park Presbyterian Church on Saturday, February 4, 2017.

Motion by Candace Poet seconded by Fred Miller to approve the 2017 Schedule of Paid Holidays for 2017. Motion carried.

The Post Office has not delivered the combined November/December Newsletter and has not explained why there was no delivery. The mailing had been given to them before the end of November. The editing of upcoming newsletters will be done by Marjie Barnard even after her official retirement; it is a task she has volunteered to continue doing.

A member of the congregation has expressed the wish to have the Council minutes printed in the newsletter. Following discussion by Council, it will continue be the practice that Council Meeting Minutes will be posted to the website, but will not be printed in the newsletter.

Motion by Alice Clubb seconded by Gary Peters to accept the 2017 Master Event Calendar. Motion carried.

Dan Case has edited the proposed Staff Job Descriptions for the following: Sexton, Grounds Keeper, Organist, and Director of Music.

Motion by Gary Peters seconded by Dave Lange to approve the Staff Job Descriptions for Sexton, Grounds Keeper, Organist, and Director of Music as amended. Motion carried.

Due to an occurrence where the West Lobby Door was found open, every Council member is cautioned to ensure the complete closure of that door when leaving. The door stays locked until the automatic timer is either manually changed or when it becomes time for the door to be unlocked. When leaving by that door turn back and double check that the door has closed as it should, and no further problem is expected. Additionally, it is every member's responsibility to turn off any and all lights before they leave the building. The parlor and the lobbies have automatic lights that may turn on - or may turn off on their own.

On behalf of the Boy Scout Troop, John Smith asked for Council approval for the Troop to use the Kitchen and Fellowship Hall to host a Pancake Breakfast on February 12, 2017. Motion seconded by Fred Miller. Motion carried.

A discussion began concerning a perception of unwillingness on the part of Council Members for serving Pew communion and for ushering on the dates that offer Pew Communion. Council members are required to serve communion and to serve as ushers for all five scheduled Pew Communion dates each year. Following a lengthy discussion, clarification was agreed upon: If a Council Member is not able to serve for one of the Pew Communion dates, or unable to serve for one of the two services on that date, it becomes their responsibility to contact someone from a list of current and past Council Members and find a replacement for themselves. Once a replacement is found, the current Council Member is to contact the Senior Elder with the name of the person who has agreed to replace them.

Motion by Alice Clubb seconded by Bev Gunther to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m. with a unison recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverley Gunther

