

ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST ~ COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 10, 2016, 7:30 p.m.

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

Council member(s) excused: Alice Clubb, Arlene Felske, Kevin Kittendorf, Frederick Miller, and Candace Poet

Council Guests: Cindy Romas and Marjie Barnard

Meeting called to order by Council President Pam Lange at 7:31 p.m. Meeting opened with prayer led by Rev. Drutchas.

Motion made by David Lange seconded by John Smith to approve the minutes of Council Meeting held on April 12, 2016. Motion carried.

Although a request for additions/deletions to the printed Agenda was called for, conversation from the floor overrode the directive. Guests of Council discussion began at this point in time.

GUESTS OF COUNCIL: Office Ministry - Rev. Drutchas, Cindy Romas, and Marjie Barnard.

Rev. Drutchas began the report from the Office Ministry Group with his sincere thanks and his heartfelt appreciation to the staff and also to the volunteers who take on the various daily duties of keeping the Church Office running smoothly.

Cindy and Marjie discussed the need for a plaque to be mounted by the outside doorbells, that asks for patience on the part of those who ask for admittance. Far too often the bell will be rung repeatedly, and sadly, with little or no regard for the fact that our staff may be in the middle of consoling someone just bereaved or anyone who may be facing one of life's real emergencies. Please bear this in mind when next you ring the doorbell.

Extra rolls of toilet paper and access to hand toweling has been undertaken and it is hoped that this will make use of the bathrooms easier for everyone.

With regard to the by-passed additions/deletions to the meeting's printed Agenda: The topic of acquiring a Postage Meter will be added to Old Business. Added to New Business is a topic concerning Name Tags: also added to New Business was the topic of Summer Worship Service.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Printed Report received. Gary Peters gave a verbal overview of the past month's income and expenses. Initial Offering Envelopes has finally reached the level where the cost of the envelopes has been met. With most of the other specially marked envelopes we are nearly in the same position. Remaining for this year will be the special envelopes for Thanksgiving and for Christmas. The weekly giving (Plate offerings) remain good and we are staying "close" to our expected budget numbers. Early donations made to repayment of the Endowment Fund loan have been good so far. Gary suggested we might consider refreshing our approach to the Newsletter report on our finances. We need to keep everyone's interest on this topic.

Motion made by Julius Enesey seconded by David Lange to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

MINISTRY ADMINISTRATION:

Printed Report received. Pastor Drutchas also gave a verbal report of activities which took place during the past number of weeks. We will all need to make our best efforts to be as inclusive and welcoming to younger families as we can be. This is the demographic group, Moms, Dads, and children that we are seeking to help in carrying on the tasks of maintaining and building this congregation for the future.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Printed Report received.

HEALTH MINISTRY – Printed report received.

TRUSTEES and BUILDING AND GROUNDS REPORT – Printed report received. Julius reported bids have been received on work for the addition. Repairs have been completed on the heating system/boiler and valves that are part of it. Drywall will soon be up in the addition; and iron railings will soon be placed on the new ramp.

Pastor spoke concerning the planned use for the addition; and there has been some concern voiced about the low height of the windows in the new room and the safety factor for children who may be in that room. Some additional thought may need to be focused on the best way to utilize this new space.

DEACONS:

No report received.

Pastor reported there is to be a Bell Ringers Class on Sunday, June 5, 2016 following the morning worship.

ELDERS:

Suzanne Mrowka reported the communion count for the 9:00 service on May 1, 2016 as 47; the number at 10:30 was 74. Volunteers were asked for Communion and ushering for Pentecost Sunday.

OLD BUSINESS:

Pastor Drutchas was asked about setting up a schedule for Acolytes so that the Deacons will have some idea of who will be responsible for this task. Some discussion concerning our current and former confirmands continuing to play some small part in helping with the worship services was held.

Suzanne Mrowka spoke regarding the possibility of the church acquiring an automated Postage Meter. The cost would be at approximately \$40 per month. Marjie has gotten stamps to use for the second ounce of postage, but we need a better system than individual stamps. The current scale is set for first class postage priced at 32 cents on the first ounce and that makes guessing difficult; an accurate new scale is needed now (Dan Case will be asked if there is a way to get a new scale through him). A count will be made by the office on the number of usual mailing pieces we send out per month - and a decision on other improvements to how we mail is tabled until the September Council Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

There is to be a Cabinet Meeting on June 7, following the Executive Committee Meeting, to discuss the details for the Church Picnic. The B.O.F. Committee has met and discussed the plans for that special weekend. There is to be a Steak Fry held on the Friday (7/29), a family night on Saturday (7/30) with Sloppy Joes and Hot Dogs, and then the Picnic and the planned dedication for the Room With a View for Sunday (7/31) a Pig Roast is thought to be done for Sunday.

The Council is to host three Sunday Coffee Hours in June (not on Father's Day). We need help for set up and for clean up afterward.

A printed page of Coffee Hour set up instructions was passed with a request to fill in any missing details. Until now, we have not had a printed plan for how everything is done.

Pastor discussed the possibility of holding a special celebration on the final Sunday in June to honor three of our members who this year, will be 99 years of age. If this is done, we will want to hold back on the usual 5 or 6 dozen donuts if a large cake is also available.

Al Gunther reported a member had reported a missing name tag from the storage area in the Narthex. A member of Council volunteered to pay for a replacement name tag for this member who was certain they had not taken their name tag home. Several ideas for promoting the wearing of name tags was suggested. We need to wear our tags!

Dave Lange spoke regarding the possibility of holding a mid-week worship service. Many young and not so young families are regularly away on weekends, and there is some thought that we might help with worship attendance by at least inquiring if these younger families might appreciate this option.

Motion made by Julius Enesey seconded by John Smith to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m., with a unison recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverley Gunther