

ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST ~ COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

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

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

Council members absent: Kevin Kittendorf

Council members excused: Candace Poet

Council Guests - September: Music Ministry; Sally Sigman

Meeting called to order by Council President Pam Lange at 7:30 p.m. Meeting opened with prayer led by Head Trustee Julius Enesey.

Motion made by Julius Enesey seconded by John Smith to approve the minutes of Council Meeting held on June 14, 2016. Motion carried.

Additions, deletions, or corrections to the Agenda:

Update on Vision Team - Dave Lange

GUESTS OF COUNCIL: Sally Sigman had been delayed in arriving, her report is shown somewhat later in the meeting.)

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Gary Peters provided a printed report covering the summer months. He relayed to council that those months had been difficult for the budget. Over the last several months our income has been beneath the amount we had hoped for; the only saving factor has been that our expenses have been held down enough to enable us to temporarily carry on. As we head into Autumn, we must make every effort to increase our weekly/monthly giving in order to keep our budget stable. The repayment of the loan taken from the Endowment Fund began well for this year, but this is a ten year commitment, and we cannot fall short on any of our regular giving. It was mentioned that some members may have diverted dollars usually given in weekly offering envelopes to the Endowment Fund repayment. Gary allowed this may be the case, but there is no way to be certain of it. Discussions will revolve around this issue in preparation for setting our budget numbers for next year.

Motion made by Dave Lange seconded by Suzanne Mrowka to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

MINISTRY ADMINISTRATION:

Pastor Drutchas provided a printed report and also shared a verbal overview of the past weeks. He noted that we held a successful dedication for the new Room with a View, and that the picnic was well attended. Five young people will be part of the new Confirmation Class. Pastor mentioned that he had visited a number of other churches during August and has gathered many thoughts about ways to keep our worship pleasing to both regular members and young people. Pastor Drutchas will serve as the leader for our week of ChristNet hosting (but would most happily step aside if another volunteer comes forward!). New members are expected to join with us in the next month.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Printed report received. It was noted that Pastor Schalm had a very busy summer with the young people of this church which included a mission trip.

HEALTH MINISTRY– Printed report received; including details of June, July, and August activities.

TRUSTEES and BUILDING AND GROUNDS REPORT – A printed report was received. Julius Enesey reported he is to meet with the plumber within a day or so and that repairs on the basement leak(s) will be

done. Everyone who is able is asked to come to the church this week to help with emptying the storage from the basement in order for work to be done. Approval is needed for a change in our printed forms that will explain that bridal parties will now be paying the fee of \$100 for use of the Room with a View and are not expected to use the parlor.

Motion made by Julius Enesey to amend the printed Use of the Building Form for Weddings to show this change of room name (Room with a View a.k.a., Bride's Room) and to include the \$100 cost of its use (today's date will be used on all wedding forms); Seconded by Fred Miller. Motion carried.

Julius reported that Dan Case has been working on updating a printed Job Description for each Employee and Volunteer Position as well as for each Council Position. Julius made a motion to accept the newly revised job descriptions for Council and a second was heard. However, there were a number of issues with this motion and it was decided to table the vote until later in the meeting, so that Council could fully discuss the proposed changes.

Motion was made by Julius Enesey seconded by Gary Peters to table the motion until later in the meeting. Motion carried.

Julius reported that a motion detector switch has now been installed in the West Lobby. This will turn on when someone walks into the Lobby and off if no motion is detected for thirty minutes. If another person walks through, the timer will continue to re-set until a period of thirty minutes has passed.

A water leak occurred in the area of the stained glass window in the new Room with a View. The oversight was caused by an area around the window that the electrician had failed to caulk. Julius has repaired and replaced one tile that had been damaged by the leak.

Julius reported the church has received monetary refunds from the HVAC company and from J.S. Vig on their billing for final work. The labor donated by church members, particularly by Julius Enesey has saved the congregation an amount somewhat over \$22,000.00. J.S. Vig Corporation has provided us with a concrete plaque which shows the church's address, as required by the Post Office.

GUEST OF COUNCIL: Sally Sigman representing the Music Ministry

Pastor Drutchas offered his appreciation and thanks to Sally as part of an introduction of her visit to Council. Sally has given this church her devotion and her best service for many years. He also noted that Sally will be having knee replacement surgery in January of 2017 and shared with us that she put off her surgery until after the very hectic Christmas season. We are deeply grateful to her for this.

Dave Lange mentioned that the focus groups have been hearing from the membership that our Music Ministry needs to stay upbeat and vital as part of the worship service.

Sally responded that the church may want to bring in outside guest musicians. It was reported that this is quite costly and a change will be very necessary to the budget in order to afford the cost of guest musicians.

An open discussion of possible changes, as well as a number of different thoughts concerning music as part of the worship, were presented. Any person with musical talent is sought and we need these friends and members to step forward willingly to help the church with just a little of their time.

Pastor thanked Sally for visiting the Council Meeting and for sharing her thoughts and information on the Music Ministry.

DEACONS:

Printed report received.

Motion made by Julius Enesey seconded by Fred Miller to accept the Deacon's Report. Motion carried.

ELDERS:

Printed report received. Arlene Felske reported the actual number of those who received communion during the summer services.

Council volunteers were asked to help serve communion in October. The volunteer list had been passed and the service appears to be covered.

REPORT OF THE VISION TEAM:

The Report of the Vision Team will be presented to the congregation following each worship service on October 2, 2016.

The Focus Group reports a number of issues beyond the Music Ministry. It was also noted that there is too much whispering/talking in the back of the church; and most of this seems to be negative. It was suggested that we speak more positively about the church and about what we are trying to do. Usher training would also be very helpful for our volunteers, and it was mentioned that perhaps twice per year we should spend a little time with re-training as a brief refresher.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

Discussion was called for on the Job Descriptions - tabled from earlier in the meeting:

Under Bookkeeper/Office Manager a question was raised concerning tasks listed under Finance, #2; prepare reports, etc. Following shared explanations this issue was approved as shown.

Also questioned was #6 under Special duties, the ordering of the tent and the tables for the picnic. The specificity of the details included seemed to be too strictly written.

Line P "assist with money, etc." - The Bookkeeper should not be shown as required to deal with this. This line must be removed; and was agreed to by all present.

A strongly voiced objection was raised to the wording that (for each job description) "each" is responsible for a large number of (so called) related duties. It is very unclear. Unless it is changed, no one will know that EVERY church member and every office holder is to share in these duties - it is not a solo obligation. It was suggested that on each job description, following the statement that is being objected to, an inclusion needs to be added that states . . . "along with others, as needed."

Motion by John Smith seconded by Fred Miller to amend each job description to say, "Staff and Council are responsible for sharing these duties". (Ultimately, no vote was taken on this motion.)

Julius Enesey suggested instead, that council should not vote on this one line; not go through each of the job descriptions at this time, but instead we need to table this discussion, and hold a separate meeting to work through necessary changes with Dan Case and then change those things needed.

Motion by Al Gunther seconded by Fred Miller to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m. with a prayer led by Pastor Drutchas followed by a unison recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverley Gunther