

ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
COUNCIL MINUTES FROM MEETING OF  
Tuesday, April 9, 2024

**Council Members Present:** Pam Lange, Jane Dykowski, Tim Ruffner, Dan Case, Sue Mrowka, Teri Staffeld, Toni Hill, Michael Isaacs, Louise Stanek, Fred Miller, Mark Ennis, Pastor Cheryl Schalm, and Rev. Linda Anderson.

Excused: Jeannette Wackro

**Guests:** Michelle Matney for Girl Scouts, Pastor Schalm for Christian Education Ministry and Debbie Case, Christian Education Committee Chairperson

Meeting was called to order by President, Sue Mrowka, at 6:40 p.m. followed by opening prayer led by Rev. Anderson.

Michelle Matney, Girl Scout Leader, reported on the Scout Troop activities. They meet on Monday nights at the church. The Scout Sunday was very well received. They have worked for World Thinking Badges by preparing different country's foods. May 17, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. is the Scout dinner and we are invited to join. The group has 22 registered members and attendance is usually about 15. Uniforms are not emphasized as some members' means are limited. Cookie sales are down, but they will be selling at a Yack Arena event on this coming Sunday. Religion is not emphasized, but they were excited about Scout Sunday. The adult who read (on short notice) is willing to do it again as per Rev. Anderson. They are planning a trip in July, but are unsure about location. The overnights in the Mall have become too expensive. Fred Miller suggested checking on Lovett Hall at Greenfield Village. Sue Mrowka inquired about the items to be used at the Every Daughter Banquet and the need for help. The banquet will feature raffles, gift baskets, etc. and, of course, food. Jane Dykowski reported how glad we were to be able to have the scouts and their families coming to the church picnic on July 28.

Pastor Schalm and Debbie Case then talked about the many activities under the Christian Education umbrella. They try to have many activities on Sunday morning as returning at other times does not work well. The Christian Education Ministry tries to meet once a month. They are always looking for new ideas. Plans going ahead now are: Spring Fling, Mission Trip (June 23-28) to Cass Social Services, VBS (July 23 -25) with finale via a grant to Meto Park, and Brownstown splash pad in August. The Youth group tries to have 2 activities per month—Christnet lunch for one.

The guests were thanked for coming to the meeting, sharing their information, and for their dedication to youth guidance.

**Approval of the Minutes:** Motion by Dan Case, seconded by Toni Hill, to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2024 Council Meeting. Motion carried.

**Agenda Additions/Deletions:** There were no additions or deletions.

#### **REPORTS AND UPDATES**

**Treasurer's Report:** Dan Case reported that March was a good month--\$35,639. However, income is still \$10,977 below budget. Expenses are under because a new pastor is not in place. The General Fund

**Treasurer's Report (Continued)**

has risen to c. \$30,000 from c. \$13,000. Passing the plate is a good idea, but should be planned ahead and not a spur of the moment decision. Music is over budget because of weekly pianist payment. We pay Tracy Hoffman when John is not here. Motion by Toni Hill, seconded by Michael Isaacs, to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Dan Case then asked that we approve a new check signing policy since most payments are done electronically. Motion by Dan Case, seconded by Tim Ruffner, to require only one signature for checks under \$5000. Motion carried. The signees are: treasurer, trustee, or immediate past treasurer. Using the credit card has generated approximately \$1700 rewards money. Dan Case also related that he is attempting to reduce the number of funds. For instance, with the approval of the prior BOF members, that fund balance of \$3621.42 was divided to \$525 to Memorial Fund for engraving and \$3121.42 to Facilities Improvement.

**Rev. Linda Anderson:** Reported that she has had conversations about worship policies that are liked and disliked. We need to address changes as they arise. She feels our organization chart needs to be simplified. We should be able to get four people to do collection just by asking when in the church. There was discussion about fee for pulpit supply. Rev. Brown wanted more than what we had been providing--\$150. Rev. Anderson related that \$250 is UCC recommendation. There was agreement that we would pay \$200 plus 65.5 cents per mile. Tim Ruffner asked if this needed Council approval. That is not necessary, but Cindy Romas and Lori Kuhn should know so payment is ready on arrival of the supply pastor. Rev. Anderson asked permission to hold a meeting of UCC pastors at the church on Monday, May 10, 2024. There is no problem with that.

**Pastor Cheryl Schalm:** Pastor Schalm reported that the 30-Hour Famine, ARC Dance, and Easter Egg Hunt were well received. There is need to give young parents what they want. We need to stay grounded and not fearful of change. Louise Stanek related her experience at a church she attended. Everything was more casual and young people participated. The question of music again emerged. Sue Mrowka again related that she would talk with Tracy Hoffman about the organist search. Rev. Anderson related that she has given him a supplemental hymnal used by other churches.

At his point the meeting deviated from the agenda. Jane Dykowski distributed a letter she prepared along with our organist/pianist job description. She is willing to prepare these items for a mailing to schools, music stores, etc. in the area. She was referred to the Worship/Planning meeting. (She attended that meeting and shall be preparing such a mailing.) Fred Miller related information about holding concerts in church with a minimal admission fee.

Going back to the agenda order, Pastor Schalm reported how busy her part-time schedule is with added pastoral activities—visitations, funerals, weddings, etc.

**Trustee/Building and Grounds:** Toni Hill reported that the garage roof had been replaced for under \$5000. There are other large projects that need funding. The family room window needs repair again and we need to keep an eye on it. That room is a good addition in spite of the issues. Dan Case reported that the lawn mowers are out for maintenance and no cutting will be done until they are returned.

**Deacons:** Teri Staffeld reported that March attendance was 719—Easter and 5 Sundays. Passing the offering plate should be delayed until fall. Sue Mrowka said people should be lined up for this duty before the date. Toni Hill felt the people in attendance liked passing the plate better.

**Elders:** Pam Lange reported that there were 121 communicants Easter Sunday. It was suggested we have communion kits available for those in the balcony.

**Search Team Update:** Mark Ennis reported that they are in detailed discussion with a candidate. The need to have 90% acceptance of candidate is vital for that person to be likely to succeed. There was some discussion of the process when a person is called.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Review and approve revised Organizational Chart: Motion by Michael Isaacs, seconded by Fred Miller, to table until it is refined as suggested by Rev. Anderson. Motion carried.
2. Review continuation of Pew Collection: This was discussed earlier under the Deacon's report.
3. Acolyte Volunteers for May and forward: Sue Mrowka volunteered to acolyte during May. Again there was discussion of the ability to keep the light lit.
4. Organist Search Update: Discussed during Pastor Schalm's report earlier in the meeting.
5. Room use requested by Downriver Homeschoolers: Toni Hill contacted the group leader, invited them to make a presentation of their needs at this meeting. They did not respond.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Delegate for the DMA Spring Meeting on April 20, 9:00 – 12:30 at Grosse Pointe Congregational Church UCC (in person and Zoom). Pre-registration required.: Michael Isaacs said he could do zoom presence at the April 20 meeting.
2. Review and approve updated Key Policy: Dan Case reported that the Key Policy had not been updated since 2012. New guidelines were reviewed as to who has what access. Motion by Michael Isaacs, seconded by Tim Ruffner, to approve the new Key Policy. Motion carried.
3. Review and approve updated Building and Grounds Roles and Responsibilities: The role of the Building and Grounds Committee has not been reviewed since 1992. Michael Isaacs felt the job description was too detailed. After review, motion by Toni Hill, seconded by Fred Miller, to approve the Roles and Responsibilities of the Building and Grounds Committee. Motion carried.
4. Consideration of empty Council positions: Everyone should be seeking persons to fill the one Deacon position and the one Trustee positions.
5. Reminder of building usage protocol: The executive committee approved adding this item to the agenda, but it was somehow removed. Michael Isaacs suggested this should be addressed at the cabinet meeting if building usage protocol is an issue.

### **ROUNDTABLE**

Dan Case shared some interesting demographics of the congregation's makeup such as where they live and age groups. He also showed the new ERT badges to replace the arm bands. Sue Mrowka expressed disappointment that Charlie and Marjie Barnard have resigned positions and have become inactive church members. Their helping hands will be sorely missed. Gary Peters and Dan Case will be doing the Tidings. Tim Ruffner will be managing the sign. Pastor Schalm related that we have to treat and acknowledge others in a loving way. The church is not the building; it is the people. Several others

**ROUNDTABLE** (Continued)

commented on church happenings, rumors, encouraging others, following guidelines, giving credit where credit is due, asking others to help and avoiding an accumulation of incidents that create a crisis. Sue Mrowka will be including something relative to the situation in a president's letter. Rev Anderson suggested she do a president's letter every month. She declined the suggestion.

Motion to adjourn by Michael Isaacs, seconded by Pam Lange. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m. followed by the Lord's Prayer in unison.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane L. Dykowski, Recording Secretary.