

ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
COUNCIL MINUTES FROM MEETING OF
Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Council Members Present: Pam Lange, Jane Dykowski, Tim Ruffner, Sue Mrowka, Teri Staffeld, Toni Hill, Michael Isaacs, Louise Stanek, Fred Miller, Jeannette Wackro, Mark Ennis, and Dan Case

Guests:

Worship/Music Planning, Organist, Music Director, Pastors, Sound Tech and Altar Guild representatives. (Aware of the unfilled positions.)

Meeting was called to order by President, Sue Mrowka, at 6:32 p.m. followed by opening prayer led by Tim Ruffner.

With no organist, music director, and the absence of the interim pastor, Sue Mrowka reported that Worship/Planning will meet Tuesday, September 17, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. She also reported for the Altar Guild. Because of fewer volunteers, everyone is doing extra duty in this area. Dan and Dorothy Evison are now keeping the pews in order. Sound tech, Eric Poet, was unable to attend.

Approval of the Minutes: Motion by Fred Miller, seconded by Toni Hill, to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2024 Council Meeting with one correction on page 3 (can to cannot). Motion carried. Motion by Jeannette Wackro, seconded by Michael Isaacs to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2024 Council meeting. Motion carried. It was noted that the written resignation was received from Tracy Hoffman.

Agenda Additions/Deletions: Tim Ruffner related he would be discussing the choir start up in the Roundtable.

REPORTS AND UPDATES

Treasurer's Report: Written report. Dan Case expanded on his report that July was a good month and August was the opposite. Donations (income) are supporting our current expenses. He circulated a pie chart which showed that utilities and salaries are our major expenses. There is not room for changes to these. Our situation will change when we have a settled pastor and consistent music personnel. There was some discussion of how we may reduce expenses such as lowering benevolence payments and reducing office hours. The music expenses are now for substitute musicians and not an organist salary. Motion by Fred Miller, seconded by Michael Isaacs, to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried. In order to provide the same pay for all substitute accompanists, there was a motion by Dan Case, seconded by Tim Ruffner, to establish the amount at \$150.00 for substitute accompanists. Motion carried.

Ministry Department:

Rev. Linda Anderson: No report. Rev. Anderson had a previous commitment and was not in attendance.

Trustees/Building and Grounds: Toni Hill reported that Heating & Cooling - \$941, Fire Suppression System in kitchen - \$1950, and Parking Lot spot repair and drains, - \$3900 have been completed. A repair on parsonage dormers is delayed. Sue Mrowka inquired about repair in family room being done prior to October and February weddings. Dan Case has made contacts to get this completed.

Trustees/Building and Grounds: (Continued)

The fire extinguisher training was well received and well attended.

Deacons: Teri Staffeld reported that our August attendance was greater than in 2023. The 2024 numbers are: June, 371; July, 280; August, 362. (The August number is reflective of Pastor Schalm's retirement service.)

Elders: Fred Miller reported communion numbers as follows: June, 67; July 57; August, 121; and September, 52. Communion was by tincture each month.

Search Team Update: Mark Ennis reported that the team is meeting with a candidate. He had questions regarding the health insurance options and salary offers. The money issues are negotiated with the trustees.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Fill Open Council Positions: There is a one-year trustee position and a 2-year deacon position open currently. There was discussion of how to encourage members to become a council member. Sue Mrowka will be doing a moment of concern about this. Louise Stanek related that we need to make a plea for help. Michael Isaacs related that a one-on-one visit is appropriate and effective.
2. Organist Search Update: Sue Mrowka reported that he has contacted Eileen Vernor about how it was done previously. He also said he was in contact with Romulus Schools music personnel. Jane Dykowski and Michael Isaacs are re-doing the letter sent out in the spring. The open position should be on the UCC Website also. At present we have two musicians able to provide help with worship services.
3. Staff Annual Reviews: Cindy Romas's review has been completed. Dan Case will be doing Lori Kuhn and Annette Thie. Harold Fick's review as groundskeeper and sexton is covered by the trustees, office manager, and pastor.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 2025 Council Candidates: This item was discussed under Old Business regarding the current open positions. Sue Mrowka indicated she plans to return as Second Vice President.
2. Status of Music Director Search: This item was discussed earlier in New Business under Organist Search Update.
3. Status of Director of Christian Education Search: Dan Case distributed a Tentative Director of Christian Education Job Description. There followed discussion that maybe this position will take a different direction since our members are smaller. Motion by Tim Ruffner, seconded by Toni Hill, to approve the Tentative Director of Christian Education Job Description. Motion carried. Dan Case will prepare the document but it will not yet be posted.
4. Start of 2025 Budget Process: Dan Case reported that letters have been sent to all organizations soliciting input for the budget. Nothing has come back to him at this time. The goal is to present the draft budget to Council at the October meeting.
5. Chaperones for Mission Trips/Youth Events: Eric and Candace Poet have requested clarification on their planning Mission Trips. In order to meet insurance requirements because they are related, a third unrelated chaperone must be present.
6. Coffee Hour Personnel: There are fewer groups and/or people to man the coffee hours. Also, the donations do not always cover the cost of donuts. The church has been buying the juice. Mark Ennis

6. Coffee Hour Personnel (continued)

suggested the church pick up the excess cost and ask church members to host. Motion by Tim Ruffner, seconded by Mark Ennis, to refer this item to Cabinet. Motion carried.

7. January Startup of Christnet: Sue Mrowka reported that in January Christnet housing will begin. The church will serve the guests dinner and sleeping space. They will be transported back to the center in the morning. No morning food will be served. Sue Mrowka will contact Cheryl Schalm and select a week. (January 19 – 25 and January 26 – February 1 were suggested.) As time nears, we will arrange meals and chaperones. Tim Ruffner suggested that be our mission outreach for that month.

ROUNDTABLE

Tim Ruffner and Mark Ennis related their plans to re-start the choir. They will try to contact people who have not recently participated. Tim Ruffner is preparing a job description. (At this writing, September 12, 2024, the posting has been done.)

Dan Case shared e-mail statistics. Fifty-one percent of our e-mails are opened. He also shared a rumor that money and food has been given to panhandlers at the church. This is a safety and security concern and should not be done.

Sue Mrowka shared a “penny” found message that Karen Hill wanted to distribute. Some were distributed at coffee on Sunday, September 8. There was no objection to her doing this.

Motion to adjourn by Michael Isaacs, seconded by Toni Hill, to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. followed by the Lord’s Prayer in unison.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane L. Dykowski
, Recording Secretary.