

ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
COUNCIL MINUTES FROM MEETING OF
Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Council Members Present: Pam Lange, Jane Dykowski, Tim Ruffner, Sue Mrowka, Teri Staffeld, Michael Isaacs, Louise Stanek, Toni Hill, Fred Miller, and Dan Case. Also present: Rev. Anderson.

Excused: Jeannette Wackro, Mark Ennis

Guests: Dee Salsbury regarding ERT

Meeting was called to order by President, Sue Mrowka, at 6:33 p.m. followed by opening prayer led by Jane Dykowski

Council guest, Dee Salsbury, from the Emergency Response Team, requested time to discuss the need for council members being knowledgeable of procedures for evacuation. She also addressed the evaluation of the recent fire drill. As a council member each should be familiar with the evacuation routes. These are posted in various areas of the facility. The entire team is not always in attendance so our support is needed. During the recent drill, those needing assistance (walkers, wheelchairs, etc.) were not accommodated quickly, much talking on the exist, and not moving quickly to the designated gathering spaces were noted. The time for the current drill was 2 minutes, 30 seconds. The best time is 1 minute, 45 seconds. There followed discussion about how to set off the alarm so not to be anticipated. The goal is to have it a total surprise. Also, driveways and parking lot should not be used while the drill is in session as those could be routes of emergency vehicles in a real emergency. It is easier when we have only 40 people to evacuate. Knowing the process would make evacuating larger groups more efficient. Dee Salsbury was thanked for her concerns, service, and dedication and excused.

Approval of the Minutes: Motion by Dan Case, seconded by Toni Hill, to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2024 Council Meeting with one correction. (The correction was that Sue Mrowka worked with Barb Schultz earlier and Rev. Linda Anderson was preparing the letter for the congregation.) Motion carried.

Agenda Additions/Deletions: There were none.

REPORTS AND UPDATES

Treasurer's Report: Written report. Dan Case expanded on the written report. Our income and expenses for last month resulted in a \$2172 negative. Previously we have been pretty much covering monthly expenses with the monthly income. Indications are that less money is coming in. Hopefully November and December there will be increased income and we'll be positive by year's end. The operating fund has decreased from \$24,000 to \$21,960. Motion by Toni Hill, seconded by Fred Miller, to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried
Dan also reported that the quarterly endowment fund was up 11.50% for the year.

Ministry Department: Once again, Rev. Anderson reported that things were going well. She has committed to an additional 6-month contract. (Thankfulness was expressed by council members.) She reported there are new people in Bible study. Dan Case advised Rev. Anderson to park in the west parking area as there is evidence of homeless people activity in the door well on the east side.

Trustees/Building and Grounds: Toni Hill reported that the kitchen suppression system was still not done. But, the person working on this can also do the family room repairs. Dan Case related that some smoke/fire detection systems may need to be replaced because current ones are old and cannot be updated. Michael Isaacs reported they have been working on health care/salary options for prospective pastoral candidate.

Deacons: Teri Staffeld reported that 321 was October's attendance in person and on Facebook. The trend is lower each year. Rev. Anderson asked how we can get contact information from people showing up. Sue Mrowka is going to prepare the sign in books to be distributed in an attempt to collect this information. The offering plate has been available at the worship closing in the narthex. However, it has not been used. Starting in December we will attempt passing the plate. Deacons should ask for volunteers at the beginning of the service for their assistance.

Elders: Fred Miller reported that 75 people participated in communion on November 3, 2024 (Totenfest). It was by tincture at the altar steps. Fred also noted he would be out of town for 3 weeks.

Search Team Update: Tim Ruffner reported the team is continuing dialogue with a candidate and are working on possible compensation packages. Rev. Anderson again stressed the importance of a couple people seeing him in his current church to observe his relationship with the congregation.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Status of Council Candidates: There were no possible candidates identified. Dan Case related that not having candidates at this time of year is not unusual. Louise Stanek suggested we invite people to visit a council meeting. Using people as ushers is an avenue to get people involved.

2. Music Director Search Update: Tim Ruffner reported that he has not received return calls from 4 prospects. Thursday next, he has a zoom interview with one candidate. Mark Ennis will be joining him in this interview. Dan Case inquired about progress with activating the choir. Accompaniment is needed for them to practice. There followed discussion regarding how Facebook can cut us off when suspect of using music that may be copyrighted. Do we take the chance?

3. Second Presentation of 2025 Budget: Dan Case related that Budget and Finance will be meeting on November 22, 2024. He has reduced the current budget by \$9481. The final budget will be presented at the December council meeting. Relative to expenses, a letter from Harold Fick was discussed. This item is under advisement as current church finances and budget are being prepared. Dan Case will reply to him by letter.

4. Staff Annual Reviews: Reviews yet to be completed are: Eric Poet and Harold Fick.

5. Schedule date for Council Christmas Eve training: It was decided to practice the Christmas Eve protocol after the December council meeting. The service will be at 7:00 p.m. That is a Tuesday. Rev. Anderson felt the Blue Christmas service should be later than scheduled, but will leave as scheduled.

6. ChristNet Update: After a lengthy discussion, the consensus was that we may not have the resources to host ChristNet. We still need clarification about the check in at the center. They are also requesting we change our date to a February date which conflicts with the Wild Game Dinner. Tim Ruffner suggested that we invite a ChristNet person to our December meeting. Rev. Anderson suggested maybe working with another church. At this point, we would recommend not participating this year.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Annual Organizational/Ministry report forms for Annual Meeting: These reports have gone out to the various groups.

ROUNDTABLE

Dan Case related that he and Rev. Anderson have met to redesign our organization chart. There still needs to be a place for outreach and missions.

Tim Ruffner asked for clarification on choir decorating the sanctuary.

Sue Mrowka related that some things would not be done for Christmas decorating because Charlie and Margie Barnard did much on their own. The next Cabinet meeting will prepare the decorating schedule.

Rev. Anderson related that the Girl Scouts will be participating in the children's Christmas program.

Jane Dykowski shared that the Christmas Gift Sale is underway and publicity is out there. Everyone is encouraged to advertise it and invite friends to attend. She had a signup sheet for those wishing to help during the sale. .

Motion by Toni Hill, seconded by Fred Miller, to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. followed by the Lord's Prayer in unison.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane L. Dykowski
Recording Secretary.