

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FEBRUARY 22, 2017**

ATTENDEES: Barb Barnett, Joanna Carlson, Matt Carlson, Jean Chirpas, Hayden Davidson, Keith Duclos, Steve Falke, Dave Flick, Virginia Flick, Jen Gruendler, Jane Harris, Jeff Helffrich, Amy Marshall, Becky McGee, Greg Milinovich, Steve Morgan, Olivia Perdew, Ray Raker, Brian Rater, Sue Rubba, Kevin Sikorski, Adam Smith, Kelly Uchneat, Alice Wambold, Jim Wambold, John Young, and Joan Zimmer

CALL TO ORDER: J. Helffrich called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

DEVOTION: S. Falke shared a reading from a blog post by Karl Vaters titled “Five Massive Changes Coming to Your Church (If They’re Not Here Already).”

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes for the December 14, 2016, meeting were approved.

SENIOR PASTOR: G. Milinovich reported the following:

1. The “Growing Effective Churches” consultation process went well.
2. Two Q&A sessions on the consultation report have already been held; the final session will take place on February 23 at 7 p.m. in the Social Room.
3. Voting on whether or not to accept the consultation team’s recommendations will take place at a church conference on February 27. J. Wambold questioned whether or not District Superintendent Lori Steffensen should conduct the church conference, since she is one of the authors of the consultation team’s report. G. Milinovich explained that the Q&A sessions were held for the purpose of discussion and that there will be no further discussion at the church conference—the recommendations will simply be called to question and a vote taken—and thus there will be no conflict of interest.
4. Regardless of the outcome of the church conference vote, our mission is to make disciples of Christ. If the vote is yes, the path forward is clear. If the vote is not, we still need to develop a plan for fulfilling our mission.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: B. McGee shared a chart showing the number of new members received annually at St. Paul’s from 2009 to 2016 on profession of faith—one of five “vital signs” the Susquehanna Conference uses to measure the health of churches. She explained that this includes confirmands and adults who are professing their faith in Christ for the first time. She stated that there are now two generations of people in our community who haven’t grown up in the church and encouraged us to develop a heart for those who aren’t here yet. M. Carlson asked if students who come to Christ through the Wesley Foundation are included in the vital signs data. G. Milinovich responded that the vital signs profession-of-faith total is a measurement of the number of new members, so it includes only those who have joined St. Paul’s.

CAMPUS MINISTRY: J. Gruendler reported the following:

1. A leadership retreat was held in January to discuss strategies for dealing with Wesley’s growth.

2. Wesley recently co-sponsored the documentary "Of Many" with other campus faith groups. The film was followed by a panel discussion that included Christians, Jews, and Muslims.
3. The Muslim Student Association invited Wesley students to join them for free pizza at their "First Friday" gatherings on campus.
4. Advertising/interviewing for next year's student interns will begin soon.
5. Wesley students will participate in a service project at the Steinbruck Center in Washington, DC, over spring break.

MINISTRY MOMENT: J. Carlson discussed her role as Coordinator of Children's Music Ministry. Her responsibilities in this part-time position include directing the Angelus and Cherub Choirs; leading the children in music during Sunday School gathering time; assisting with the music component of Vacation Bible School; and coordinating/directing St. Paul's Summer Musical Camp. She shared that she has a love for children's music and has set two goals for herself. First, she wants children to learn how to worship God through song; second, she wants children to learn about their God-given abilities.

FINANCE: K. Uchneat reported the following:

1. Per the friendly amendment proposed and passed at the December 2016 church council meeting, \$10,000 in supplemental income was added to the 2017 funding plan, bringing the total operating income to \$1,160,000.

K. Sikorski reported the following:

1. Total income for 2016 exceeded total operating expenses by \$43,735.
2. Total gifts and offerings received in January were approximately \$112,000, well above the budgeted target of \$90,000.
3. He is working with K. Duclos and J. Stroemel to develop an accounting process that better reflects the preschool's financial status. K. Duclos commented that there is no way to show the grant money that has not yet been received using St. Paul's current accounting software.

J. Wambold asked about the status of the Building 4 loan. K. Sikorski stated that the balance due is approximately \$40,000, which will be paid off in 2017 using rental income. J. Wambold asked how the rental income will be allocated once the loan is paid off. K. Sikorski responded that the Trustees will make that decision.

J. Zimmer asked if council members could be given a copy of the financial report. K. Sikorski stated that he would distribute it.

TRUSTEES: S. Morgan reported the following:

1. Bids have been received for replacement of the large boiler. Nittany Oil Company has been awarded the contract with a bid of approximately \$13,000. Installation of the new boiler is scheduled for March.
2. The Endowment Fund increased by 7.25 percent in 2016, ending the year with a balance of \$1,237,522. The Endowment Investment Committee has recommended a 5 percent distribution

for 2017, for a total distribution of \$61,000. The Board of Trustees has approved this recommendation.

Motion 1: The following motion was then made and seconded: That the Endowment Investment Committee's recommendation of a 5 percent distribution for 2017 be approved.

Discussion: There was no discussion.

Vote: A vote was then taken on Motion 1; the motion passed unanimously.

MEMBERSHIP: V. Flick reported that total membership stands at 1,377 as of February 17, 2017. She noted that seven new members had joined St. Paul's on February 19 and two more will join on February 26.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: V. Flick announced that sign-up sheets will be available soon for the UMW's Salad Luncheon on March 19. The luncheon will be followed by a talk by Dr. Jonathan Brockopp titled "What Christians Need to Know About the Qur'an."

S. Rubba reported that the UMW has decided not to hold its fall marketplace/auction fundraiser this year. Instead, they will hold a yard sale at the church on August 26.

K. Uchneat reported that a cost proposal has been received for installation and training of the Church Community Builder product. This will be discussed at the next church council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: J. Helffrich adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Harris, Church Council Secretary