

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
JUNE 28, 2017**

ATTENDEES: Barb Barnett, Matt Carlson, Hayden Davidson, Lindsay Fairman, Caitlin Fisher, Dave Flick, Virginia Flick, Robert Forbes, Lou Geschwindner, Jen Gruendler, Jane Harris, Jeff Helffrich, Susan Johnson, Bill Justice, Amy Marshall, Becky McGee, Greg Milinovich, Phil Mohr, Ray Raker, Sue Rubba, Kevin Sikorski, Adam Smith, Darrin Thornton, Kelly Uchneat, Betsy Wiser, and Joan Zimmer

CALL TO ORDER: D. Flick called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

DEVOTION: M. Carlson led a devotion based on a reading from "The Chronicles of Narnia" by C. S. Lewis.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes for the April 26, 2017, meeting were approved.

SENIOR PASTOR: G. Milinovich reported the following:

1. He has been at St. Paul's for a full year. During that time, we've transitioned a new team of pastors, had a church-wide consultation, undertaken a new church directory, purchased new church management software, and much more.
2. He and church staff have begun rethinking how the church's day-to-day business operations are handled.
3. He is pushing to get us to focus beyond ourselves through his current sermon series titled "The Church" and his "40 Days of Prayer" emails, both of which began on Pentecost Sunday.
4. Migration to our new church management software is underway. This is a huge undertaking, and he appreciates everyone's understanding and patience as the new system is brought online.

D. Flick asked if there had been any reactions to the June 25 sermon. G. Milinovich shared that he had received positive feedback. L. Fairman asked for an update on the consultation recommendations. G. Milinovich stated that a staff visioning retreat was held recently; he and B. McGee will be meeting with lay leaders to continue the visioning discussion. Ed Wilson and Debbie Harwell are conducting the prescribed hardware audit.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: B. McGee reported that she is putting her previous experience as a data analyst to good use by assisting with the transition to the new church management software. She thanked Council for approving the purchase of the software and thanked K. Uchneat for her work on the project. She also thanked V. Flick and K. Sikorski for their work on the preparing the membership and financial data, respectively, for migration.

CAMPUS MINISTRY: J. Gruendler reported the following:

1. Thanks to Bill Zimmer, Abba Java is now a partner of the Central Pennsylvania Foodbank, which allows the coffeehouse to buy food at a lower cost and get healthier choices.
2. Fair trade coffee is now being purchased from a new supplier, Standing Stone Coffee of Huntingdon, at a significant savings – \$8 a pound instead of \$11 a pound.
3. She will attend the United Methodist Wesley Foundation Conference in Oklahoma City in July.

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE: A. Marshall reported that the SPRC recently approached the Finance Committee about allocating \$8,000 of the 2016 budget surplus to the SPRC for the purpose of providing a one-time cash bonus to non-appointed pastoral staff. She noted that due to budget constraints, the SPRC was not able to give raises this year. She stressed that the bonus would be a one-time thank you to staff for their hard work and commitment to St. Paul's and noted that it would not be performance-based. She stated that a motion to approve the bonuses was forthcoming from the Finance Committee. She announced that staff performance evaluations are being conducted this summer.

S. Rubba asked how many staff would be eligible for the bonus. A. Marshall responded that the total number of staff is about 45 (includes the preschool staff). L. Geschwindner asked when the bonuses would be distributed. A. Marshall stated that the bonuses, if approved, would be given immediately.

FINANCE: K. Sikorski reported the following:

1. Year-to-date gifts and offerings have exceeded our projected total by \$35,000. Year-to-date expenses have exceeded our budgeted total by \$20,000. When designated funding is factored in, however, the total is \$7,000. These factors combine to a net income year-to-date of \$6,000.
2. The Operating Cash Reserve balance was \$19,280 at the beginning of 2017. The combined shortfall to date is \$22,627, which results in a current balance of -\$3,400. However, this is less than the current balance of prepaid pledges (\$6,125) remaining to be allocated over the rest of 2017.

Concern was raised that year-to-date expenses for the preschool stand at \$309K when the total amount budgeted for the year is \$448K. G. Milinovich stated that strategizing on ways to cut personnel costs is currently underway. J. Zimmer asked how much of the year-to-date deficit (\$28.5K) will be covered by grant funding that has not yet been received. K. Sikorski responded that \$40K in grant income has not yet been allocated.

K. Uchneat presented the following motion:

Upon consideration of the financial data and rationale presented to Church Council, and in light of the request from SPRC to the Finance Committee, the Finance Committee of St. Paul's requests the Church Council approve a total allocation of \$8,000 of the 2016 budget surplus to SPRC for the purpose of a one-time bonus to the non-appointed staff. The allocation of these funds toward this purpose and its disbursement to the staff will occur within the 2017 budget year.

There was no additional discussion. A vote was taken; the motion passed with D. Flick abstaining.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE: P. Mohr reported on the 2017 Susquehanna Annual Conference, held at the Hershey Lodge in May. This year's theme was "Better Together: Make Us One," and the scripture focus was John 17. St. Paul's other lay members were Jean Chirpas, Susan Johnson, and Sue Winck. Kristopher Sledge, a former St. Paul's intern, delivered the message at the service honoring retiring pastors, and Karen Weiss, a member of St. Paul's, was ordained as a deacon.

MINISTRY MOMENT: C. Fisher discussed her role as Administrative Assistant for Communications. As such, she is responsible for gathering and editing information, as well as graphic design/layout for the Sunday bulletin, the Weekly, and the Messenger newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP: V. Flick reported that total membership stands at 1,390 as of June 28, 2017.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Because the UMW will be using the Social Room to set up their garage sale, the August 23 meeting of Church Council will be held on the third floor of the Education Center.

ADJOURNMENT: D. Flick adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Harris, Church Council Secretary