

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND WESLEY FOUNDATION
DECEMBER 13, 2017**

ATTENDEES: Barb Barnett, Matt Carlson, Hayden Davidson, Joe Davidson, Barb Duclos, Keith Duclos, Sandy Elbin, Steve Elbin, Lindsay Fairman, Dave Flick, Virginia Flick, Lou Geschwindner, Jen Gruendler, Jane Harris, Becky McGee, Greg Milinovich, Olivia Perdeu, Ray Raker, Brian Rater, Kevin Sikorski, Kelly Uchneat, Alice Wambold, Jim Wambold, and Joan Zimmer

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

DEVOTION: H. Davidson shared a devotion based on Isaiah 40: 31 from the Boy Scouts' trail worship book "Eagles Soaring High."

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes for the October 25, 2017, meeting were approved.

SENIOR PASTOR: G. Milinovich called attention to the 2018 leadership list that was approved at the November 12 Church Council and thanked V. Flick for her assistance in filling the various positions. He noted that J. Helffrich and K. Uchneat are stepping down from their leadership roles in 2018 and thanked them for their service. He stated that 2017 has been a fantastic year at St. Paul's and shared that he is excited to see what God has in store for us in 2018.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: B. McGee reported that approximately 20 percent of St. Paul's active worshippers have set up their user profiles in St. Paul's Hub. The Hub will be rolled out to the entire congregation in January, and she is looking for volunteers to help people who need assistance setting up their profiles on January 14 and 21.

J. Zimmer shared her concern that the Hub will be confused with the Hetzel Union Building (i.e., the HUB) on campus. G. Milinovich responded that the name "St. Paul's Hub" was chosen to reflect the idea of a virtual gathering space, similar to the way the HUB on campus is an actual gathering place.

CAMPUS MINISTRY: J. Gruendler reported on two goals she had established for 2017: increasing fund raising and cutting spending. Due to continued support from the congregation and the Susquehanna Conference, as well as gifts from Wesley alumni, she has not had to focus much on fundraising yet. However, this will likely become an issue in the future in order to sustain growth. She stated that spending has been reduced by partnering with the State College Foodbank and switching to a new coffee supplier.

FINANCE: K. Sikorski reported that giving through the end of November is ahead of where it was for the same time period in 2016 and expenses have been as expected. The Preschool deficit is approximately \$25,000, however, there are still some grant funds outstanding. D. Flick asked if the deficit is expected to be eliminated next year. K. Duclos stated that it probably wouldn't be, but we'll have a clearer picture of what's going on with Preschool expenses once the church's new accounting software is fully implemented. K. Duclos stated that a 5 percent tuition increase will go into effect in June 2018.

K. Uchneat presented the proposed 2018 funding plan approved by the Finance Committee. She highlighted the following key points:

1. A salary increase for staff is a top priority.
2. The allocation to the Trustees' Major Maintenance Fund has been increased to get back to the \$10,000 level.

3. The debt on Building 4 will be paid off this month.
4. If there is a surplus of funds above net expenses in the 2017 budget, the Finance Committee will present a recommendation for how the surplus is to be allocated at the February 2018 Church Council Meeting.

L. Geschwindner asked if the staff bonus previously approved by Church Council had been distributed. K. Uchneat responded that it had. J. Zimmer asked why the 2018 apportionment was so much lower than the 2017 apportionment. B. McGee explained that the 2017 apportionment was miscalculated and that we had overpaid, but unfortunately we will not be getting a refund. The 2018 apportionment has been calculated correctly.

The motion from the Finance Committee to approve the proposed 2018 funding plan was then seconded. A vote was taken by a show of hands. The motion passed unanimously.

B. McGee distributed the proposed 2018 Campus Ministry budget. Total funding and spending in the proposed plan are budgeted at \$66,060 each.

A motion to approve the proposed 2018 Campus Ministry budget was then made and seconded. A vote was taken; the motion passed unanimously.

K. Duclos reported that the 2018 Preschool budget was not yet complete. He reiterated that he doesn't think the Preschool will "break even" this year, i.e., the deficit will not be eliminated.

The discussion that followed focused on whether or not we are operating the Preschool as a business, in which case it makes sense to refer to the shortfall as a deficit, or as a ministry, in which case we should treat it like any other ministry and include funds to cover the anticipated shortfall in the general budget.

TRUSTEES: K. Uchneat announced that an independent financial audit will be performed by Mickey Catalano in March 2018.

MEMBERSHIP: V. Flick stated that total membership stands at 1,379 as of December 10, 2017.

BOY SCOUTS: J. Davidson reported that Troop 31's annual charter has been renewed for 2018. There are 59 youth and 47 adults in the troop. Two scouts have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in 2017, and he expects two to three more by the end of the year. Troop 31 has been awarded gold level status by the Council under the 2017 Journey to Excellence recognition program.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: D. Flick thanked members going off Church Council in 2018 for their service. He announced that the next Council meeting will be held on February 28.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Harris, Church Council Secretary