

**SPECIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH & WESLEY FOUNDATION
SEPTEMBER 12, 2018**

ATTENDEES: Barb Barnett, Mark Doyle, Barb Duclos, Keith Duclos, Lindsay Fairman, Steve Falke, Dave Flick, Virginia Flick, Lou Geschwindner, Kelly Grimes, Jane Harris, Jim Korner, Becky McGee, Greg Milinovich, Brian Rater, Kevin Sikorski, Adam Smith, Alice Wambold, Jim Wambold, and Joan Zimmer

PURPOSE: The meeting was held for the sole purpose of voting on the recommendations of the Structure Task Force Report, which was presented to Church Council at its regularly scheduled meeting on August 22, 2018.

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

OPENING REMARKS: G. Milinovich thanked everyone for coming and expressed his gratitude to members of the Structure Task Force (STF) for their work. He reviewed the history that led to the creation of the STF and explained that each of the four recommendations would be read aloud and discussed individually.

RECOMMENDATION 1: Amend the by-laws so that elections to the Board of Trustees can be done in the same way as elections to other Boards and Committees in the church.

Regarding the statement that no other United Methodist Church elects its trustees the way St. Paul's does, L. Geschwindner asked if the other churches are incorporated. G. Milinovich replied that they are all incorporated and that their bylaws allow their trustees to be elected as proposed by the STF.

Concerning the issue of winners and losers that exists under our current election system, L. Geschwindner stated that we want our Trustees to be strong people who aren't afraid to lose an election. B. Rater noted that State College is a very transient town and that new people may fear rejection.

S. Falke stated that this would put more responsibility on the Nominations Committee with respect to candidate selection.

RECOMMENDATION 2: Change the name of the SPRC (Staff-Parish Relations Committee) to the PPRC (Pastor-Parish Relations Committee).

J. Wambold asked if this would make more work for the pastors. G. Milinovich replied that it would not because the pastors are already supervising the staff – the suggested name change simply reflects what is already happening.

K. Duclos asked what would happen if a staff person had an issue with a pastor. G. Milinovich responded that there would be no change in the way such matters are handled.

K. Duclos asked who would be responsible for creating job descriptions. G. Milinovich answered that job descriptions would be crafted with input from the interested parties as is done now, i.e., those who have knowledge of the duties/responsibilities required.

RECOMMENDATION 3: Reduce size of administrative committees to 7 elected members, all on three year terms.

Regarding the statement that reducing the number of elected members from 9 to 7 on the administrative committees would free 8 people for ministry work, L. Geschwindner asked how this this would be measured. M. Doyle noted that it will be hard to measure in the short term.

S. Falke asked what process would be put in place to move people into ministry work as they come off administrative committees. G. Milinovich replied that people will be asked "What's the next step for you?" as their administrative terms come to an end.

K. Duclos questioned what impact, if any, this recommendation would have at the subcommittee level.

RECOMMENDATION 4: Reshape the purpose and structure of the Church Council.

J. Wambold expressed concern that the recommended restructuring would give the pastors too much power. G. Milinovich explained that under the proposed plan, Church Council would be tasked with holding the pastors accountable to stated church goals.

B. Rater supported the proposed reduction in the number of Church Council members, noting that his attendance at Council meetings over that past year has been spotty because the group is large and he often feels he won't be missed. He believes fewer people on Council will increase accountability.

K. Duclos expressed concern that the reduced structure would lend itself to abuse in the future because there are only 11 spots to fill and the senior pastor chairs the Nominations and Leadership Committee.

L. Fairman responded that checks and balances are in place. B. McGee agreed, pointing out that nominations from the floor are permitted at Church Conference.

FINAL DISCUSSION: L. Geschwindner stated that he values the work of the STF and pastors in developing the recommendations, but he doesn't think they will accomplish what we want them to. G. Milinovich stated that he sees the restructuring recommendations as a first step in the change process. S. Falke noted that the structure we have now hasn't pushed us into change.

VOTE: A vote was then taken by a show of hands. The result was 11 votes in favor of moving forward with the recommendations, with 3 members abstaining from voting.

ADJOURNMENT: D. Flick adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Harris
Church Council Secretary