

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING  
ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
APRIL 26, 2017**

**ATTENDEES:** Barb Barnett, Matt Carlson, Jean Chirpas, Hayden Davidson, Keith Duclos, Lindsay Fairman, Dave Fisher, Dave Flick, Virginia Flick, Lou Geschwindner, Jen Gruendler, Jane Harris, Becky McGee, Greg Milinovich, Phil Mohr, Jeff Mugridge, Ray Raker, Brian Rater, Sue Rubba, Renae Schunk, Kevin Sikorski, Adam Smith, Kelly Uchneat, Betsy Wisner, and Joan Zimmer

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

**DEVOTION:** L. Geschwindner shared a devotion based on a passage from a book by Patrick Morley titled "The Man in the Mirror."

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** The minutes for the February 22, 2017, meeting were approved.

**MINISTRY MOMENT:** D. Fisher discussed his role as Director of Youth Ministry. His goal is to develop relationships with youth and their parents so that they can grow in faith together. Responsibilities include directing/leading/organizing:

1. St. Paul's Youth Fellowship (SPYF) meetings, held on Sunday evenings at a member's home; meetings include dinner, a lesson, and game time
2. SPYF Update weekly email
3. Special events/fun activities that promote fellowship and serve as an entry point for new youth
4. Weekend retreats
5. Confirmation class
6. Mountain T.O.P. mission trip

D. Flick asked how many youth attend SPYF activities. D. Fisher stated that 20-25 attend weekly, but there are 72 names on his list.

P. Mohr asked why youth programming was moved from Sunday morning to Sunday evening. D. Fisher explained that the Sunday evening format lets youth attend worship with their families on Sunday morning and allows for longer meetings on Sunday evening that include fun activities to help build relationships.

L. Geschwindner asked if anything is being done to reach the 50+ youth that don't attend SPYF activities on a regular basis. D. Fisher stated that he has sent snail mail postcards to youth in the past with good results; he said that he needs to be more diligent in reaching out this way.

**SENIOR PASTOR:** G. Milinovich reported the following:

1. The affirmative vote on the Growing Effective Churches prescriptions by a large majority demonstrated strong support among members.
2. We had a meaningful Lenten season that included some new expressions in worship. Attendance on Easter was more than 1,000.

3. We have begun work to fulfill the Growing Effective Churches prescriptions: have attended a seminar on structure, Fresh Expressions, had two prayer groups during Lent, are planning our Pentecost sermon series and prayer focus, have a staff vision retreat planned, have planned a de-cluttering day, are working on online giving and technology upgrades, and beginning the path to discipleship.
4. We are in the process of producing a new church directory.

**CAMPUS MINISTRY:** J. Gruendler shared a copy of the Wesley Foundation's Statement of Identify, approved by the Wesley Foundation Leadership Team on April 6, 2017. She also reported the following:

1. Average weekly attendance at Abba Java during the 2016-2017 academic year was approximately 800 students. This is a 20% increase over last year.
2. Abba Java hours will be reduced over the summer. Her focus will be to get ready for fall semester.
3. Six interns have been hired for fall.

**CONSENT AGENDA PRESENTATION:** K. Duclos introduced for discussion the possibility of putting a consent agenda in place for Church Council meetings as detailed in a handout shared with Council members by email. All reports, as available, would be emailed to Council members before Council meetings. The reports would be accompanied by a cover page that would give each member two options for each report: accept as presented (the default choice) or question (choosing this option would inform the Church Council chairs that one or more members want this report brought before the Council for discussion). The goal would be to reduce the time spent reporting to one another and create time in our meetings to focus on the important tasks in front of us.

L. Geschwindner noted that, by definition, a consent agenda is used for items that require a vote or approval, not routine reports. K. Duclos acknowledged that L. Geschwindner was correct, but asked if anything is gained by listening to reports. D. Flick questioned if we were trying to solve a problem we don't have. M. Carlson expressed concern that most people would not read the reports. Several Council members stated that they like hearing the verbal reports. J. Gruendler suggested that the agenda be flipped so that action items are addressed first. D. Flick responded that G. Milinovich, J. Helffrich, and he would take that suggestion under consideration when preparing future agendas.

**FINANCE:** K. Sikorski reported the following:

1. We exceeded our quarterly gifts and offerings goal in the first quarter, although March's total was less than \$90,000 monthly expectation.
2. Worship attendance has increased to the point where 500 is considered a typical Sunday. However, giving has not seen the same growth curve.
3. Expenses have been running near expectations. One notable exception is staff health insurance costs, which are about \$1,000 a month higher than budgeted.

K. Uchneat presented a proposal for recommended upgrades to St. Paul's technology. The proposal is divided into two phases. The first phase covers updates to St. Paul's church life software; the second phase covers network upgrades.

The specifics of Phase 1 are:

1. Scope: Replace four separate software packages currently used at St. Paul's – Service U, Church Teams, Shelby Member Module, and Shelby Financials – with Church Community Builder and Quickbooks.
2. Reasons Why Replacement Recommended: Better communication, connectedness, and effectiveness; cloud-based; secure data (SSL); interactive (secure logon, unique to member); real-time website integration (e.g., autogive); mobile capabilities
3. Advantages of Church Community Builder: Pricing is attendance based (not user based); total integration in one package for church life and giving; best in class service, 15 years in the making; distributive model for leading and equipping; updates and enhancements included; more than a tool set – a “smart distributor cap” for our ministries and vision; friendly to use and customizable fields and reports
4. Advantages of Quickbooks: Small business and non-profit accounting standard; easy interface and export into other software (e.g., Excel) for customizable reporting functions; easy integration with Church Community Building and general ledger functions; Recurrently cited by churches for general ledger functions
5. Timeframe: April-September 2017
6. Initial Capital Cost: \$19,350
7. Annual Operating Cost: \$4,560 (we're currently paying \$4,569 for Shelby, ServiceU, and Church Teams)

The specifics of Phase 2 are:

1. Scope: Implement network upgrades; present quotes for network support; present quotes for hardware and software service options
2. Timeframe: May 2017-February 2018

K. Uchneat presented several options for funding the initial capital cost of Phase 1:

1. Church Council Endowment Distribution
2. Endowment Fund Undesignated Bequest
3. Operating Budget
4. Designated Donor Gifts
5. Trustees Major Maintenance-Capital Fund

Following K. Uchneat's presentation and considerable favorable discussion, the recommendation to accept Phase 1 of the proposal was called to question. A vote was then taken; acceptance of Phase 1 was unanimous.

The following motion was then made and seconded: That the Church Council Endowment Distribution funds be used to cover the initial capital cost of Phase 1. A vote was taken; the motion passed unanimously.

**MEMBERSHIP:** V. Flick reported that total membership stands at 1,381 as of April 26, 2017.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** There were no announcements.

**ADJOURNMENT:** D. Flick adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Harris, Church Council Secretary