

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
JUNE 15, 2016**

ATTENDEES: Matt Carlson, Barb Duclos, Dave Flick, Bob Forbes, Kelly Grimes, Jane Harris, Jeff Helffrich, Linda Heverly, Susan Johnson, Neal Lassinger, Amy Marshall, Phil Mohr, Ray Raker, Sue Rubba, Renae Schunk, Eric Shafer, Kevin Sikorski, Joan Stroemel, Jim Vogelsong, Jim Wambold, and Joan Zimmer

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

DEVOTION: E. Shafer led a devotion based on the last chapter of "Five Marks of a Methodist: The Fruit of a Living Faith" by Steve Harper.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes for the April 27, 2016, meeting were approved.

PASTORS' REPORTS:

Pastor Eric: E. Shafer noted that this would be his last Church Council meeting at St. Paul's. He stated that it has been a privilege to serve here for the past 11 years. He gave an update on the Christian Education Ministry Team, reporting that Debbie Harwell is serving as chair. Other members of the team include Kevin Harwell, Sam Dull, Phil Mohr, Dave Fisher, and Tori Von Leer. The team's responsibilities include curriculum counseling, placing orders for materials, teacher training, and communicating with staff, teachers, and the congregation about opportunities in Christian Education. Staff will refer questions about St. Paul's Christian Education ministry to Dave Fisher, who will consult with the team to get answers quickly.

Pastor Neal: N. Lassinger noted that this is also his last Church Council meeting at St. Paul's. Although he has only been here two years, he stated that he feels privileged to have been a small part of the long history of our church. He added that it has been a joy to work with E. Shafer and he looks forward to their continued friendship in the future.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT: S. Johnson read Bishop Park's statement about the special commission that will be assembled in response to the human sexuality issues that were tabled at the General Conference in May. She then reported the following: churches within the Conference will be fined on their shares of ministry if required reports are not submitted on time; the Conference is dealing with reduced giving, just as churches are; last year, 142 children committed themselves to Christ during the summer camping program; and 15 pallets of shoes were collected for Mission Central.

PRESCHOOL UPDATE: J. Stroemel reported that enrollment currently stands at 58 children in five classrooms. Fall enrollment is up to 68 children at this point, with only three spaces left in the entire building. In her 17 years at the preschool, this is the fullest they've ever been, but she noted that enrollment often fluctuates due to State College's transient population. The goal of the preschool is to provide high-quality childcare and Christian education in a safe environment. The preschool participates in state and federal programs, such as Keystone Stars. A large part of the job is developing relationships with parents. The preschool employees 13 full-time staff and a varying number of part-time Penn State student interns during the academic year. J. Helffrich asked if there are any challenges the preschool faces that Church Council can help with. J. Stroemel said one of their biggest challenges is developing a connectedness to the church. J. Wambold asked what percentage of the children enrolled are from St. Paul's families. J. Stroemel did not have that information with her but said she would email it.

MINISTRY MOMENT: L. Heverly discussed her role as Pastoral Administrative Assistant/Office Manager. She has worked at St. Paul's since 1997 and her goal is to serve others. Her duties and responsibilities include: managing the pastors' calendars; screening phone calls; scheduling home communion; scheduling group communion at local retirement communities; serving as the contact person for weddings and funerals; updating the College Avenue monitor; ordering supplies; interfacing with the church's IT consultant; acting as a sounding board; and many, many other tasks.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Finance: K. Uchneat was not able to attend, but provided a written report, which was made available to Council members.

K. Sikorski reported the following:

1. Total giving in April was \$79,323.
2. Total giving in May was \$89,097.
3. Expenditures are currently running slightly above the budgeted amount of \$95,000 per month.
4. The Pre-K Counts grant money for the preschool is starting to come in.
5. The operating cash reserve is currently negative (-\$20,404) due to the church's anticipated monthly shortfalls, but this is still expected to be made up before the end of the year.
6. The current balance in the Trustees' Major Maintenance Fund is \$154,000.

J. Zimmer asked what the possibility is that the preschool will break even or realize a profit by the end of this year. K. Sikorski believes it is high, based on the fall enrollment numbers.

Trustees: K. Grimes reported that installation of the new air conditioning system in the church building has been completed and paid for (the current balance in the Trustees' Major Maintenance Fund reflects this expense). Some "front-of-the-house" improvements are currently underway in Abba Java and will be completed before students return at the end of August. Work to be done due to turnover of both parsonages includes replacing appliances and painting (basement only) at Kay Street and painting at Park Hills Avenue. The carpet at Park Hills needs to be replaced, however, Pastor Becky asked that we postpone installation (she has an elderly cat with health issues). Money has been set aside for this purpose. P. Mohr asked what the long-range plans are for the Wesley Building. K. Grimes responded that the building will eventually need to be replaced.

Staff-Parish Relations: A. Marshall reported that feedback was good on the farewell celebration for our current pastors. The SPRC is now focused on welcoming our new senior pastor in July. Per his request, multiple open-house-style welcome events for groups of about 20 people will be held over three weekends at the parsonage. Sign-up sheets will be available. A. Marshall has been reviewing the recent changes to the Fair Labor Standards Act to determine the impact the new overtime pay regulations will have on St. Paul's. The SPRC will begin developing a formal staff evaluation process that addresses goals and expectations at their next meeting.

Nominations/Membership: D. Flick reported that total membership stands at 1,396 as of June 15, 2016. He further reported that the Nominations/Leadership Committee was nominating Alice Wambold as a member of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, Class of 2018.

Motion 1: The following motion was then made and seconded: That the nomination of Alice Wambold as a member of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, Class of 2018, be approved.

Discussion: There was no discussion.

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

Stewardship: B. Duclos reported that the goal for the Pentecost appeal letter is \$10,000. This number was based on the April shortfall. She then read a devotion based on Acts 2:1-12 to close the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: J. Helffrich announced that the "Growing Effective Churches" consultation has been scheduled for January 26-29, 2017.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Harris, Church Council Secretary