

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
DECEMBER 14, 2016**

ATTENDEES: Matt Carlson, Hayden Davidson, Joe Davidson, Barb Duclos, Keith Duclos, Lindsay Fairman, Steve Falke, Dave Flick, Virginia Flick, Lou Geschwindner, Jen Gruendler, Jane Harris, Jeff Lauer, Greg Milinovich, Phil Mohr, Ray Raker, Sue Rubba, Renae Schunk, Kevin Sikorski, Adam Smith, and Kelly Uchneat

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

DEVOTION: D. Flick shared a reading from *Guideposts* titled "The Message of the Snow Globe."

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes for the October 26, 2016, meeting were approved.

SENIOR PASTOR: G. Milinovich reported the following:

1. A new worship planning method will begin in January, consisting of bi-annual meetings open to anyone with an interest in worship planning. The first of these will be held on January 3 at 7 p.m. in the Social Room and will focus on worship for the seasons of Lent through Ordinary Time.
2. The assessment for the "Growing Effective Churches" consultation is complete and the Readiness 360 Survey is underway. The Prayer Team, led by Jeff Lauer, has been covering the consultation in prayer.

CONSULTATION PRAYER TEAM: J. Lauer reported that the Prayer Team has been meeting regularly for the past 4-5 months. The team has focused on the question, "What is God's will for St. Paul's?" and the answer that has come back is unity: one mind, one body, one spirit.

CAMPUS MINISTRY: J. Gruendler reported the following:

1. Abba Java has seen a large increase in the number of visitors this semester. While growth is a good thing, it presents a few challenges, such as how to cover the cost of increased coffee consumption, being able to recruit enough volunteers, and finding time to build and maintain relationships with students.
2. Wesley's Closet is off to a good start, having given away 75 coats this semester.
3. Funds from the Lilly endowment will cover the cost of a consultant in January who will help leadership develop a plan for dealing with the challenges that come from growth.

STAFF MINISTRY MOMENT: J. Gruendler discussed her role as the Director of Campus Ministry, explaining that the job has five sub-roles:

1. Campus Minister: Includes providing spiritual care for students and programs for spiritual growth for college students; managing the student leadership team; and advising Wesley PSU on campus.

2. Wesley Foundation Director: Includes leading visioning and overall ministry of the Wesley Foundation; overseeing campus ministry finances; directing campus ministry communications; supervising part-time staff and student interns/workers; and more.
3. St. Paul's UMC Staff Member: Includes attending staff and other church meetings as requested; preaching and leading worship as requested; advocating for campus ministry within the congregation; working with Church Council, Finance, Trustees, and others on behalf of the Wesley Foundation; and more.
4. Penn State Liaison (Penn State Affiliate Staff Member): Includes attending affiliate staff meetings/training sessions on campus; supporting campus initiatives; serving as Wesley PSU adviser; collaborating with other campus ministers; and more.
5. Abba Java Coffeehouse Director: Includes supporting Abba Java's vision and mission; assisting coffeehouse manager with training, support, and care of congregation and student volunteers; building relations with students and planning programs to support Abba Java's mission; assisting coffeehouse manager with budget/inventory; and more.

K. Uchneat asked about the frequency of interfaith communications. J. Gruendler responded that she meets regularly with an ecumenical group of campus ministry leaders from churches in the downtown area (Lutheran, Mennonite, Methodist, and Presbyterian). She occasionally meets with Penn State Hillel and the Muslim Student Association.

D. Flick asked if there is any interaction between Wesley and students at branch campuses. J. Gruendler responded that there is none.

FINANCE: K. Sikorski reported the following:

1. We are well in line to reach our projected income for 2016 based on total gifts and offerings to date.
2. Total expenditures for 2016 are also tracking in line with our projection.
3. An email blast was sent out today with a link that allows people to make their 2017 financial commitments online; three responses have already been received.
4. The loose plate offering total has increased due to increased attendance at worship services.

K. Uchneat highlighted the following key points in the proposed 2017 funding plan:

1. Total Operating Income for 2017 is budgeted at \$1,150,000.
2. Total Operating Expense for 2017 is budgeted at \$1,150,000.
3. These amounts represent a \$10,000 decrease in both income and expenses compared to what was budgeted in 2016.

B. Duclos asked for clarification of the "Total Other Income" and "Total Supplemental Income" categories listed in the proposed funding plan. K. Sikorski stated that "Other" includes interest income, parking lot rental income, etc. He stated that "Supplemental" includes income from designated gifts and grants. L. Geschwindner asked why total supplemental income—which was budgeted at \$10,000 in 2016—had been budgeted at zero in the proposed 2017 funding plan. Following a discussion that focused on allocation of individual designated gifts under this scenario, D. Flick proposed a friendly

amendment to the proposed 2017 funding plan that \$10,000 in supplemental income be included, which would increase total operating income to \$1,160,000 while total operating expense would remain at \$1,150,000. The amendment was called to question, a vote was taken, and it passed unanimously.

Motion 1: The following motion was then made and seconded: That the proposed 2017 funding plan be approved as amended.

Discussion: There was no discussion.

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

K. Uchneat submitted a proposal prepared by the Finance Committee which stated "In the event of a surplus of funds above net expenses in the 2016 budget, we, the Finance Committee of St. Paul's United Methodist Church, propose that Church Council visit such surplus at the February 2017 meeting in order to discuss whether program ministries, reserve-building, action items of the Growing Effective Churches Consultation, or a combination thereof would be well served to receive a portion of such surplus."

Motion 2: The following motion was then made and seconded: That the proposal prepared by the Finance Committee be accepted.

Discussion: The question was raised as to whether or not the proposal would limit the use of any surplus funds to the three items listed therein. K. Uchneat replied that it would not, rather it was meant to raise up a suggestion.

Vote: A vote was taken on Motion 2; the motion passed unanimously.

STEWARDSHIP: B. Duclos reported that 206 pledge cards (25 percent of St. Paul's households) have been returned. The total commitment to date for 2017 is \$730,000.

MEMBERSHIP/NOMINATIONS: V. Flick reported that total membership stands at 1,383 as of December 14, 2016. She stated that the Nominations and Leadership Development Committee was nominating Keith Duclos for church treasurer for 2017. The nomination was called to question, a vote was taken, and it passed unanimously. V. Flick announced that the 2017 Trustees Election will be held on January 15. Voting will take place after each worship service. Proxy ballots are available in the church office. V. Flick also announced that installation of 2017 leaders will take place during worship services on January 8.

BOY SCOUTS: J. Davidson reported that rechartering activities for Troop 31 are currently underway; this will be the 103rd year of continually chartering a troop at St. Paul's. Seven scouts attained the rank of Eagle Scout this year. Venturing Crew 31 is not being rechartered due to leadership issues. The troop is looking to buy a cargo trailer; the cost will be about \$2,500 to \$3,000. Donations are welcome. The trailer could also be used by church groups such as the Mountain T.O.P. mission team.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The next Church Council meeting is on February 22, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT: D. Flick adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Harris, Church Council Secretary