

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FEBRUARY 24, 2016**

ATTENDEES: Matt Carlson, Barb Duclos, Keith Duclos, Steve Falke, Brooke Fecko, Dave Flick, Lou Geschwindner, Kelly Grimes, Jane Harris, Jeff Helffrich, Linda Heverly, Gene Johnson, Susan Johnson, Bill Justice, Neal Lassinger, Jeff Lauer, Amy Marshall, Phil Mohr, Ray Raker, Renae Schunk, Eric Shafer Darrin Thornton, Kelly Uchneat, Tori Von Leer, Alice Wambold, Jim Wambold, John Young, and Joan Zimmer

CALL TO ORDER: Co-chairman Dave Flick called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM.

DEVOTION: Jeff Lauer led a devotion focused on the importance of spending quality time in prayer.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes for the December 16, 2015, meeting were approved.

PASTORS' REPORTS:

Pastor Eric: Pastor Eric Shafer reported the following regarding the new staffing plan:

1. He has been meeting with Tori Von Leer and Dave Fisher. Curriculum for children and youth is planned through May. VBS, the Mountain TOP mission trip, and other summer plans are underway.
2. Tori Von Leer, Dave Fisher, and he have been meeting with Phil Mohr, Sam Dull, and Debbie and Kevin Harwell. The purpose of these meetings is to coordinate the congregation's Christian education efforts in the absence of a Christian Education Director and to reinvigorate a simple process for discipleship that has clarity, movement, alignment, and focus. Preliminary thoughts include creating a relational system of intake that would help more people move from worship into a more intimate fellowship group, nurturing more small group leaders, and encouraging more engagement with the world through service evangelism.
3. Some new groups that are being developed include a group for families with children under 10 that will meet this coming Friday for the first time, a group led by Debbie and Kevin Harwell that met last Wednesday for the first time, and Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University, which begins on March 13.
4. He will continue to meet with Donna Snyder as we transition into the new staffing plan. He is very grateful for the help she has given us as we discern how to proceed.

In other areas, he is helping lead the Pastoral Leadership Development I class and begins a peer mentoring group tomorrow in preparation for a Matthew 28 consultation at one of the churches he will be serving. The first Confirmation Retreat is coming up in March with approximately 12 youth from St. Paul's and possibly two from Park Forest Community UMC.

Pastor Neal: Pastor Neal Lassinger discussed the Matthew 28: Growing Effective Churches consultation, scheduled for April 28-May 1. A trained team will conduct interviews with church leaders and staff, then prepare a report that lists things we are doing well, things that need to be improved, and recommendations for addressing those concerns.

CAMPUS MINISTRY REPORT: Jen Gruendler reported the following:

1. Leadership consultant Rev. Ron Bell visited in early February and provided assistance with visioning and strategic plan development.

2. Wesley's spring break trip will be to DOOR Ministries in Miami, FL.
3. "Blessing of the Graduates" will be held on Sunday, April 24.

MINISTRY MOMENT: Renae Schunk spoke about her role as St. Paul's Director of Congregational Based Health Ministries. As such, she oversees activities that support and assist members, constituents, clergy, and the community with activities related to health education, prevention, and wellness to promote spiritual, emotional, physical, and social wholeness. Some of the many programs she supports are the hospital visitation team, the home visitation team, the home communion team, the parish nursing ministry, the Good Sam Fund, and Out of the Cold. The biggest part of her job, Monday through Friday, is assessing the needs of walk-ins and helping them find assistance.

LAY LEADERS REPORT: Darrin Thornton recapped the steps that were taken to communicate the staff restructuring plan to the congregation. He provided a summary of the feedback received during the January 24 town hall meetings and stated that the need for effective communication was a common theme. Going forward, the plan is to hold town hall meetings on a quarterly basis.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Finance: Kelly Uchneat and Kevin Sikorski reported the following:

1. We finished 2015 with a small cash reserve. December gifts and offerings totaled \$175,000.
2. The 2015 year-end audit is underway and is due to the Conference by March 15.
3. January gifts and offerings were more than \$102,000, well above our monthly average goal of \$90,000. Total contributions for February are projected to be just over \$80,000.
4. Total expenditures in January came to a little over \$100,000. February expenses are expected to be much less due to the staff reductions implemented in late January.

Stewardship: Barb Duclos shared two scriptures, Colossians 3:12-13 and Jeremiah 29:11-13. She reminded us that stewardship and discipleship are the same thing, and challenged each of us to pray about our personal discipleship.

Staff-Parish Relations: Amy Marshall stated that she fielded many questions about the staff cuts during January. Notes from the Bishop's Response Team visit on February 13 are being compiled and will be made available when complete. Rev. Greg Milinovich, who will become St. Paul's senior pastor in July, met with the SPRC last week and will meet with staff next week.

Board of Trustees: Kelly Grimes reported that the Endowment Fund decreased by 2.57 percent in 2015, ending the year with a balance of \$1,171,065. The Endowment Investment Committee has recommended a 2 percent distribution for 2016, for a total distribution of \$24,523. The Board of Trustees approved this recommendation at their meeting on January 21, 2016.

Motion 1: The following motion was then made and seconded: That the Endowment Investment Committee's recommendation of a 2 percent distribution for 2016 be approved.

Discussion: There was no discussion.

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

Kelly announced that as the end of 2015, \$150,000 of the \$185,000 loaned to the Building Committee has been paid back. This was possible due to people choosing to redirect their building campaign pledges to this purpose. Others chose to redirect their pledges to the Major Maintenance Fund, for a total of \$65,000. Of this, \$19,600 has been spent so far.

Nominations/Membership: Virginia Flick reported that total membership stands at 1,391 as of February 24, 2016. On behalf of the Nominations/Leadership Committee, she nominated Terry Deveney as a member of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee.

Motion 2: The following motion was then made and seconded: That the nomination of Terry Deveney as a member of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee be approved.

Discussion: There was no discussion.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS: This year's Summer Musical Camp will present "It's Cool in the Furnace," a musical about Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. The camp will run July 11-15 with a performance on Friday evening.

ADJOURNMENT: Dave Flick adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Harris, Church Council Secretary