

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH & WESLEY FOUNDATION**  
**February 25, 2020**

**ATTENDANCE:**

- **Voting Members:** Jack Basiago, Sam Bonsall, Dave Flick, Alicia Grandey, Kelly Grimes, Jane Harris, Phil Mohr, Al Stewart, Darrin Thornton
- **Non-voting Members:** Becky McGee, Greg Milinovich
- **Attendees:** Debbie Harwell, Keith Harwell

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT:**

Following a reading of 1 Corinthians 13, G. Milinovich led a discussion focused on how it relates to the current division in the United Methodist Church.

**LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:**

Council members discussed an article titled "[7 Ways to Lead When the Way Ahead Is Unclear](#)" by Susan Beaumont, focusing on how it could guide our leadership during the current situation. Ways that resonated with members included the first, "Claim what is known about the situation," and the fourth, "Name the competing values."

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

The minutes of the December 10, 2019, meeting were approved.

**SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT:**

G. Milinovich reported on the following:

1. The Church Council retreat will be held this coming Saturday, February 29, at Hartman Center in Milroy.
2. The recently released "Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation" is not a "done deal" as portrayed by many news media outlets. It is an agreement to develop legislation, based on the negotiated terms, which will be presented for vote at the 2020 General Conference in May. It is noteworthy because it was signed by key UMC leaders representing both sides of the LGBTQ issue facing our denomination.

**TRUSTEES' MOTION:**

Rental income from Building 4 is currently allocated to St. Paul's Growth Fund, which was established in 2010 to raise money for the retirement of Building 4 debt and to hold additional funds in support of future property development.

In December 2019, B. McGee, speaking on behalf of the Finance Committee, asked the Board of Trustees to allocate the "balance" of this monthly rent to the Operating Fund, instead of St. Paul's Growth Fund, for 2020.

The Board of Trustees approved this request on December 11, 2019, and presented the following motion to Church Council:

**Motion:** That the "balance" of the monthly rent from Building 4 be allocated to the Operating Fund instead of the St. Paul's Growth Fund for the 2020 calendar year. The "balance" will be the monthly rental income of \$5,500 minus the cost incurred from the IT project minus any cost incurred from Building 4. The projected monthly "balance" to be allocated to the Operating Fund is \$4,080.

**Discussion:** The history of St. Paul's acquisition of Building 4 was discussed briefly. It was noted that the debt on Building 4 has been retired.

**Vote:** The motion passed unanimously.

#### **2020 BUDGET:**

S. Bonsall and B. McGee presented the final balanced budget for approval. Income for 2020 is projected to be \$1,075,460; expenses have been reduced through recent staff cuts and other measures in order to balance the budget.

S. Bonsall and B. McGee also presented a recap of 2019 expenses and the 2020 budget in a narrative, pie-chart format, which will be shared with the congregation.

The discussion that followed focused on the difference between pledged vs. non-pledged giving, specifically that setting up online giving to be repeated monthly is not counted as a pledge unless a commitment card has been filled out. It was noted that this may be a common misunderstanding among those who routinely give online and that it should be addressed during the next stewardship campaign.

The following motion was then made and seconded:

**Motion:** That the final balanced budget for 2020 be approved.

**Discussion:** There was no further discussion.

**Vote:** The motion passed unanimously.

#### **CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY - NEXT STEPS:**

Council Members reviewed a document titled "[Building an Inclusive Church](#)" prior to the meeting, focusing specifically on page 23, which outlines the process for becoming a welcoming church. The pace of the process is based on the score from a congregational assessment survey, which Council Members completed prior to the meeting. B. McGee shared the results of the survey, which suggested a cautious to moderate pace would be best for St. Paul's.

The discussion that followed focused on whether or not Church Council should recommend that St. Paul's move forward with the welcoming process. A. Stewart expressed concern that those leading the effort represent a small minority, which would alienate many members. G. Milinovich explained that there is no predetermined outcome. The process would focus on small group conversations about what it means to be a welcoming church, followed at some point by a congregation-wide vote.

By consensus, Church Council agreed to move forward with the welcoming process and gave G. Milinovich permission to set up a task force of about six people to delineate next steps.

**NOMINATIONS/LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE:**

G. Milinovich presented the following motion from the Nominations/Leadership Committee:

**Motion:** That Jeff Hellfrich be appointed to the Nominations/Leadership Committee.

**Discussion:** There was no discussion.

**Vote:** The motion passed unanimously.

**WRITTEN REPORTS:**

There were no questions about the written reports.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

D. Flick adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Harris, Church Council Secretary