

St. Paul Lutheran Church
CONGREGATION MEETING MINUTES • October 20, 2015

Call to Order: President Mark Buffington called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Tom Gudmundson

Secretary's Report - Minutes of June 16, 2015 Congregation Meeting: *A motion was made by Pat Pool and second by Shelly Toutenhoofd to approve the Secretary's Report from the June 16, 2015 Congregation Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.*

Treasurer's Report: Director of Church Administration Stefanie Trakel presented the Financial Report ending September 30, 2015. *A motion was made by Paul W. TenPas second by Holly Kuester to approve the Financial Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*

Calling New Associate Pastor: A copy of the job description was shared with everyone in attendance. This position would be the Associate Pastor - Director of Spiritual Formation.

President Mark Buffington shared the members of the Call Team, the timeline and Pastor Mark McCrory's Biography along with his strengths. The Call Team and Church Council have made a recommendation to the Congregation that they extend a Call to Pastor Mark McCrory.

Many questions were asked by the members in attendance. Pastor McCrory is originally from Memphis, Tennessee. He is open to coming here. Since starting in his current church six years ago, the worship attendance has doubled. He is not opposed to Contemporary Worship in any way, his current church has about 300 people, so they don't have as many opportunities for Contemporary Worship. He does not have experience leading a large congregation, but has a great deal of leadership experience from his prior career, working in the Government. He does have experience working with multiple staff. Interestingly, the church Pastor Tom came to us from had a very similar sized Congregation.

Pastor McCrory's strength is preaching and he did have some concerns with sharing that task. If he were to accept the Call, he would preach 45% of the time, Pastor Tom would preach 45% of the time and Pastor Mark would preach 10% of the time. He will also focus on Faith@Home.

He has been a generalist his entire ministerial career, so doesn't have specific areas of focus. However he is a big picture thinker and has experience with small group ministry. Pastor McCrory has a passion for outreach. At his current church he launched an effort to make their church more known in the community by doing a tremendous amount of serving. He has a great ability to make things happen.

He does have another Call to a church in Scottsdale, AZ. He is aware he is our top candidate and he plans to work with God to determine which direction he is being Called. If we extend the Call to him tonight, he would then plan to come here for a visit. He wouldn't preach, but we would have an opportunity to meet him. If he accepts the Call, he probably wouldn't be here until January at the earliest. If he declines the Call, the team would reconvene and look at additional candidates.

A motion was made by Brad Vollbrecht to Call Pastor Mark McCrory. Motion carried unanimously.

Hispanic Ministry Status and Funding: The Hispanic population makes up 6% of the population in Sheboygan County and currently we have nothing for them, so we need to reach out to them. This effort would not be to expand our Congregation but to expand God's Kingdom. The Church Council has recommended that St. Paul fund the Hispanic Ministry in the amount of \$15,000 annually for the next 5 years, to be reviewed annually. The funding would not come from the general operating budget, but rather through missions, Thrivent Choice Dollars, the Scrip Program, Endowment Funds Grants, etc.

Rev. Peter Pietsch, our Circuit Visitor, was present for this discussion. He works with Congregations in our Circuit as a liaison between them and the District Office. He has been involved in the Hispanic Ministry discussions. He feels there is a great need for a Hispanic Ministry in Sheboygan County and all 21 Churches in the County will be working together to help develop and support this ministry.

A video introducing David Blas, was shown. Mr. Blas is the individual that would work to begin this ministry in the County as a vicar. Once his vicarage is complete, he would be ready to accept a Call for the ministry.

Several questions were asked amongst those in attendance. The ministry would most likely not physically be held at St. Paul's as we do not have a large concentration of Hispanics in this area. There will be opportunities to volunteer, especially those with language skills. Other LCMS Churches in the area are being asked to commit financial support as well. The LCMS does have experience beginning Hispanic Ministries and will assist Mr. Blas in this endeavor.

A motion was made by Lee Geisthardt second by Larry Hinkleman to support the Hispanic Ministry in the amount of \$15,000 per year, to be reviewed annually by the Church Council. Motion carried unanimously.

Congregation Concerns:

Feed My Starving Children Update: A big thank you to everyone who was involved with FMSC, either by volunteering, contributing financially or through prayer. The event was a huge success. We had 750 volunteers pack 203,000 meals which will feed 555 children for one year. We needed to raise \$38,500, but unfortunately came up short by \$1602.88. Later tonight the Church Council will address how to cover the shortage.

Adjournment: *A motion was made by Lee Geisthardt second by Margaret Hand to adjourn the Congregation Meeting at 8:05pm. Motion carried unanimously.*

Closing Prayer: Pastor Mark Janzen

Attendance: 78