



St. Paul Lutheran Church
CONGREGATION MEETING MINUTES • February 10, 2015

Call to Order: President Mark Buffington called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Tom Gudmundson

Secretary's Report - Minutes of November 18, 2014 Congregation Meeting: *A motion was made by Jim Marshall and second by Shelly Johnson to approve the Secretary's Report from the November 18, 2014 Congregation Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.*

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Donna Felch presented the Financial Report ending December 31, 2014. *A motion was made by Margaret Hand second by Brad Vollbrecht to approve the Financial Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*

The Gathering Place (TGP) Expansion: TGP Director Leah Zehel presented the proposal to expand to Cedar Grove Reformed Church (CG). They approached us last Spring about expanding to their site, as they have recognized a significant need in their community for this ministry. This would become a satellite of our current program, managed and owned by St. Paul. The program would be held there on Wednesdays, which is a day we are closed at St. Paul. CG would provide the space and a financial contribution to the ministry. A contract has been developed by a lawyer, which will be reviewed annually. This is currently in CG's hands and we hope to have it signed by both parties by the end of February. Several leaders of St. Paul will be attending the CG Consistory Meeting next week.

The estimated opening date is June 10, 2015. However we must have a minimum of 4 participants and 8 volunteers before we will open. If we do not meet these minimums, the start date will be pushed back. The maximum number of participants will be 20, as it is at St. Paul.

Financially, CG will make a monthly ministry contribution of \$1,000 to offset expenses at their site that are not covered with participant fees. Once 6 participants are enrolled, all the CG site expenses will be covered. There will also be an annual fixed cost of approximately \$10,500 to St. Paul TGP for increased staff benefits. Once 9 participants are enrolled, expenses at both locations should be covered. Until that point the TGP Dedicated Account will cover the cost.

It was asked if opening a day in CG would prevent TGP from expanding at St. Paul. It was noted that TGP is no longer able to expand within St. Paul, there simply isn't space. There are too many other activities going on in the building on the opposite days to expand here. Therefore the only way to grow is to look at other sites.

It was asked if the name, The Gathering Place, has been trademarked and if not, do we indicate in the contract that if in the future St. Paul and CG part ways, that they cannot keep the name The Gathering Place. The name has not been trademarked, but we will look into that. It also is not in the contract, but will be added.

It was asked if there is concern over having enough volunteers, especially male volunteers to assist in the bathrooms. Leah indicated that while they would love to have more male volunteers, they are ok if they don't have them. Participants must be able to toilet themselves to attend our program. If an incident were to occur, our staff would then assist. Our staff will work with CG to find volunteers from within their Congregation and their community, similar to St. Paul. Currently about half our volunteers are members of our congregation and the rest are from outside of our church. It also is possible that there will be shifting of some volunteers from one site or the other.

It was asked if we feel we may end up competing for grants with CG. At this time it is all one program, so we are not competing with each other. If in the future we were to split apart then yes, that could be possible.

Staffing was asked about. Leah will be spending some of her time at the new site, along with our current cook Mark. We will then look to hire a Program Assistant to run the day in CG.

The type of facilities were asked about in CG. Leah explained that they have a beautiful facility with more space available than TGP has here at St. Paul. They also have a very large commercial kitchen for them to work out of. There is an elevator, storage space, plus an outside park with trails. They also have a daycare onsite, which will allow more intergenerational activities, like we have here.

A motion was made by Paul W. Ten Pas second by Pat Pool to approve the TGP Expansion as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Congregation Concerns:

When will the church directory be available? They will be shipped from the company on February 22, so we should have them in early March. We apologize for the delay.

Adjournment: *A motion was made by Brad Vollbrecht second by Ron Kalk to adjourn the Congregation Meeting at 7:00 pm. Motion carried unanimously.*

Closing Prayer: Pastor Tom Gudmundson

Attendance: 37