

St. Paul Lutheran Church
CONGREGATION MEETING MINUTES • April 16, 2019

Call to Order: President Margaret Hand called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Tom Gudmundson

Secretary's Report - Minutes of June 19, 2018 Congregation Meeting: *A motion was made by Jeff Shircel and seconded by Bob Mehre to approve the Secretary's Report from the June 19, 2019 Congregation Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.*

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Donna Felch presented the financial report ending March 31, 2019, providing attendees with the Average Receipts Report for March 2019, Income and Expense Report, Dedicated Funds Recap and pie chart with a breakdown of what makes up the dedicated accounts. She also provided a detailed explanation of each report.

Donna also presented the portion of the Treasurer's Report related to the Endowment Fund managed by Lakeshore Community Foundation. Applications for grants are currently being taken and the Endowment Fund will award the grants next month.

A motion was made by Jim Weber and seconded by Katrina Martin to approve the Financial Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Capital Improvement Fund Review: Administrator Stefanie Trakel shared with the congregation the Capital Improvement Dedicated Fund 5 Year Projection Worksheet, explaining that the HVAC project has already been approved. She reviewed expected upcoming expenses over the next fiscal year. Stefanie indicated that approximately \$6,188 per month is received each month for capital improvements and with three months left until the end of the fiscal year, that's another \$18,564. As of March 31, 2019, there was \$130,952 in the Capital Improvements Dedicated Fund. Another \$70,000 has been allotted to the HVAC project, leaving about \$79,516 in the account for year end. If you look at the upcoming projects for 2019-2020, if we have \$6,188 x 12 months, that's another \$74,256, but there are anticipated expenses of \$118,000, so as we go on you will see that the numbers do not look as friendly given the upcoming needs of the building which is at a point where things need to be replaced, as some items have been here for almost 25 years. Funds to replace and repair items in the future will need to come from capital improvements fund.

Election of Council and Endowment Committee Positions: A written ballot was taken to elect these positions. Results are: Council President – Margaret Hand; Council Members-at-Large – Jane Marotz, Tom Splittgerber and Brad Ten Pas; Endowment Committee – Tom Leibham and Rita Ten Pas.

Congregation Concerns:

A concern was raised regarding how the Senior Choir takes communion. Currently they only use half of the rail, which slows the flow for the left side pews. It was asked if the Senior Choir

could go first and use the entire rail so that the pews flow evenly. This was an excellent suggestion which will be shared with Thomas Walkenhorst, our Director of Worship Ministries.

A concern was raised regarding the low attendance at the Congregation Meeting, given the size of our membership. It was suggested that a robo-call be used to invite all members. The church does have this capability, at a cost, which is currently used for changes in worship service times and other important messages. This will be considered for the future, along with the texting option, which is a free service, but members need to sign themselves up to receive the message.

It was asked if follow up is being done with members that have been disconnected for an extended period of time. The Elder Team has begun addressing this issue. Letters are being sent to individuals that haven't attended in at least a year to help reconnect them. The Elder Team is also doing personal visits with new members, a couple months after they have been accepted into membership.

An update from the Call Committee was requested. President Margaret Hand reported that there is a great candidate currently being interviewed. The Elder Team and Church Council will be meeting Wednesday, April 17 to review the candidate. A Congregation Meeting will then be called, if it is the recommendation from these teams to extend a Divine Call.

Finally, it was announced that Pr Mark Janzen has set his last day of employment as April 30, 2019.

Adjournment: *A motion was made by Tim Allman and seconded by Melissa Geisthardt to adjourn the Congregation Meeting at 7:08 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.*

Closing Prayer: Pastor Kyle Backhaus

Attendance: 55