

St. Paul Lutheran Church
CONGREGATION MEETING MINUTES • April 17, 2018

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

Opening Prayer: Pastor Tom Gudmundson

Member in attendance asked about voter eligibility. Pastor Tom gave an explanation about communicant members having eligibility to vote; no need to sign constitution.

Secretary's Report - Minutes of December 18, 2017 Congregation Meeting: *A motion was made by Marvin TerMaat and seconded by Jerry Wilson to approve the Secretary's Report from the December 18, 2017 Congregation Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.*

Treasurer's Report: President Margaret Hand presented the financial report ending March 31, 2018, providing attendees with the Average Receipts Report for March 2018, 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.

Jim Fasse presented the portion of the Treasurer's Report related to the Endowment Fund managed by Lakeshore Community Foundation. All applications for grants have been received and Endowment Fund will give away \$15,000 to \$20,000 in the next month. Currently there are almost \$430,000 in endowment assets and generally approximately 5% is given away in grants, regardless of market trends. Average return is between 5% and 7%.

Margaret shared with the congregation the Capital Improvement Dedicated Fund 5 Year Projection Worksheet, explaining that the HVAC project has already been approved and that the congregation will vote on replacement of the worship center speakers and other components of the sound system after a presentation by Thomas Walkenhorst and Vicky Bramstedt. Margaret indicated that approximately \$6,000 per month is received each month for capital improvements and with three months left until the end of the fiscal year, that's another \$18,000. As of March 31, 2018, there was \$211,338 in the Capital Improvements Dedicated Fund. Anticipated expenses for 2017-2018 are \$166,000 (HVAC system upgrade - already approved) and proposed replacement of worship center speakers and other components (\$74,000.00). That leaves around \$63,000 at end of the year. If you look at the upcoming projects for 2018-2019, if we have \$6,000 x 12 months, that's another \$72,000, but there are anticipated expenses of \$119,000, 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. With the congregation being made fully aware of the upcoming needs, *a motion was made by Dave DePagter and seconded by Fay Risse to approve the Financial Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*

Election of Council and Endowment Committee Positions: A written ballot was taken to elect these positions. Results are: Council Vice President – Jim Marshall; Head Elder – Tim Allman; Council Members-at-Large – Michelle Bohm and John Rische; Endowment Committee – Jim Fasse, John Garland and Ben Klaas.

Endowment Team Bylaw Revision: Endowment Team Chairman Jim Fasse presented reasons for the requested change in the Endowment Committee bylaws. Request: to allow for an unlimited number of terms by committee members, as members' roles have changed due to Lakeshore Community Foundation now managing investments, with Endowment Team only taking and reviewing requests and awarding grants. Committee only meets a few times a year, so with a limit of only three terms, there is not a lot of time together; therefore, the Endowment Committee seeks a change to allow for the election of members in the same manner in which Church Council members are elected, so there would be an orderly election process. Moving money from Lakeshore Community Foundation to another financial institution would require Church Council and congregation approval. *A motion was made by Tom Bohm and seconded by David Scherer to approve the Endowment Team Bylaw Revision as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*

Worship Center Sound System: Worship Team Director Thomas Walkenhorst and Communications Director Vicky Bramstedt, after putting in a substantial amount of time into the proposed project (to replace what is about 23 years old) and gave a detailed presentation on the proposal for new worship center speakers and other components which are part of the sound system. Discussion was held. Jim Billmann summed it up by indicating that the team did their homework and that Thomas and Vicky gave an excellent presentation and were able to answer every question— job well done. Other members of the team include Mike Stubler, Gary Webers and Justin Gigstad. *A motion was made by Mark Risberg and seconded by Fay Risse to approve the Worship Center Sound System in the amount of \$74,000 to be paid from the Capital Improvement Fund. Motion carried unanimously.*

Congregation Concerns:

Fay Risse expressed a concern she has brought up previously. There is communion every week for the Thursday and Saturday evening services, but not every Sunday and she wondered why. Pastor Tom explained what communion was all about and stated that there is lower attendance on Thursdays and Saturdays, so communion is every week. On Sundays, due to the size of the church and things going, there is communion on the second and fourth Sundays. The first and third are for baptisms, etc. When there are over 300 people coming up for communion and kneeling and then if there is a baptism, the service would get to be too long. It is a time constraint issue.

Marv TerMaat asked whether anyone in attendance was part of the committee for the Highway 28 sign. Mark Buffington and Thomas Walkenhorst raised their hands. Marv asked whether there was a plan for landscaping around the sign and any plan for removal of the old sign. Mark Buffington informed him that there were no plans and that it would be left to the grounds team to decide what to do.

Marv TerMaat complimented TGP on all its good works and raised a concern about the safety of the garage where items for The Gathering Place (TGP) are stored and invited others to view just how unsafe it is. One needs a ladder to get things off a shelf and, according to Marv, it is unbelievably crowded and someone fell the other day due to this. Marv made a plea for the

council to check it out. Margaret Hand will put the concern on the agenda for the next Church Council meeting.

Jim Billmann asked about projection on the right side screen in the worship center, as it has been dim for quite a while. Vicky Bramstedt responded. She agreed it is dim and that it will be dim a little while longer. A new projector bulb was ordered; the bulb would not work on the right-hand side. Another was purchased and that bulb did not work either. The old one, however, works. The new bulbs were tested on the left side and they work with left-side projector. The projector on the right side is persnickety. We have ordered a new one, but it needs an adapter in order for it to work properly due to the distance from projector to screen. It will take approximately eight weeks to get the adapter. The plan until that time is to use the current bulb until the adapter arrives. Vicky thanked everyone for their patience.

William Dicke asked what could be done to get 9:15 a.m. people to church on time, as late arrivals have effect on Scrip, bell choir, pastors. General discussion among those in attendance was held that there was not a whole lot that could be done; at least those folks were coming to church; and some are likely late for everything.

Kay Lake inquired about a Sunday evening service for youth and other folks who may wish to attend on Sunday evening, now that we have a third pastor. Discussion was held that there are already five services scheduled and there may be other things going on.

Adjournment: *A motion was made by Jerry Wilson and seconded by Sue Dicke to adjourn the Congregation Meeting at 8 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.*

Closing Prayer: Pastor Kyle Backhaus

Attendance: 60