



St. Paul Lutheran Church
CONGREGATION MEETING MINUTES • June 16, 2015

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

Opening Prayer: Pastor Mark Janzen

Quorum: According to our Constitution, we need to have 15 or more Congregation members present at any properly announced meeting.

Secretary's Report - Minutes of April 21, 2015 Congregation Meeting: *A motion was made by Paul W. Ten Pas and second by Faye Risse to approve the Secretary's Report from the April 21, 2015 Congregation Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.*

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Donna Felch presented the Financial Report ending May 31, 2015. *A motion was made by Bruce Kunert second by Margaret Hand to approve the Financial Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*

A Congregation Member asked if there are any plans for the building fund, as classroom space on Wednesday evenings is an issue. President Mark responded that once the building was paid off, it was decided to keep the account for future expansion. There were discussions in 2007 and 2008 to expand classroom space but then the recession hit, so plans were tabled. There is no current plan, but the Council will probably begin some strategic planning in regards to that fund in the near future.

2015-16 Budget: Treasurer Donna Felch presented the 2015-16 budget, which has been approved by the Church Council. Performance reviews were just completed on the staff to determine their merit increase, which is included in the budget. Six months of a third Pastor has also been included, which makes up 5.6% of the budget increase. The overall budget increase is 8.3%. Currently we are averaging a 3.2% increase over last year, so we will need a significant increase in giving to support the 8.3% increase. The third Pastor was approved at the April Congregation Meeting along with the support it will take to cover the expense.

The Early Childhood Center will need support from the Congregation next year at an estimate of \$29,000. The Gathering Place will be able to cover their estimated deficit with their dedicated account.

A motion was made by Bob Mehre second by Shelly Johnson to approve the 2015-16 budget as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Third Pastor Update: We have submitted our application and list of recommended Pastors to President Willie at the South Wisconsin District. We are now awaiting the Call list from him, which is expected in early July. At that point the Call Team will begin reviewing the list of Pastors and begin interviews.

Some have asked if the Pastors would come here to preach during a service, but that really isn't the practice for the LCMS. Instead we will send people to observe them preaching in their home church.

Congregation Concerns:

There is concern over the lack of attendance in worship services. Our membership is about 2500 people, yet weekend attendances averages 700-900 people. It is all of the congregation's responsibility as a church to encourage our neighbors and other members to attend worship.

There is a need for another ministry for seniors. An older lady joined our church several years ago and has mentioned that she doesn't know anyone in the congregation. Small groups are a great opportunity to get to know people, which will be a focus of the third Pastor. Informal small groups in the gathering area before and after services are also important, if members see someone standing alone, they should introduce themselves.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Faye Risse second by Rita Sadro to adjourn the Congregation Meeting at 7:10 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Closing Prayer: Head Elder Jim Fasse

Attendance: 19