

St. Paul Lutheran Church
CONGREGATION MEETING MINUTES • June 16, 2020

Call to Order: Treasurer Donna Felch called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Kyle Backhaus

Secretary's Report - Minutes of January 21, 2020 Congregation Meeting: *A motion was made by Shelly Strains and seconded by Deb Hand to approve the Secretary's Report from the January 21, 2020 Congregation Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.*

May 2020 Treasurer's Report: Donna Felch presented the financial reports. Stefanie Trakel explained the Payroll Protection Program Loan the church received in response to the pandemic. A \$238,000 loan was received for use on payroll, health insurance premiums and utilities. As long as the money is used for these specific purposes, the loan will be forgiven. It was an 8-week loan, but the federal government just extended the forgiveness period to 24 weeks instead. Therefore, the church will easily be able to spend the entire \$238,000 as intended and the entire amount is expected to be forgiven.

The Sustenance Fund, which was established in response to the Pandemic, as a way for our Congregation to help our neighbors, has a current balance of \$35,347. We have helped 4 people so far. If anyone knows of someone struggling right now, please have them call the church office to speak with a Pastor.

A motion was made by Katrina Martin and seconded by Bill Schultz to approve the May 2020 Treasurer's Report. Motion carried unanimously.

2020-21 Budget: Stefanie Trakel presented the budget that was prepared by the staff and approved by the Church Council. The budget includes a 6.3% increase in actual giving to the general operating budget in order to cover anticipated expenses. *A motion was made by Bill Schultz and seconded by Katrina Martin to approve the 2020-21 budget as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*

Congregation Concerns:

Call Committee Update? Pr Kyle reported that all churches were asked to hold on Calling a Pastor during the pandemic. That has now been lifted and the team recently interviewed an individual, but he is not ready to accept a Call right now. The team is interviewing another candidate later this week from Thorp, Wisconsin and they are working to schedule an interview with another Pastor. Another Call List has also been requested.

Have we looked at other health insurance plans? A couple of years ago we did do comparison shopping. Our health plan is competitive with others available. One of Concordia's advantages is that they bundle their products, providing life insurance, disability and retirement plans. Another advantage is that the Concordia plan is transferable, making it easy for pastors to maintain their coverages when they move from one church to another. This is especially important since we are in the process of Calling a Pastor. So, we have chosen to stay with Concordia as have the vast majority of LCMS churches.

Pr Hasse shared that as of Saturday he's been in the ministry for 55 years and has had Concordia Plans the entire time and is very thankful for the retirement packages available.

It would be nice if the Ministry Directors would attend Congregation Meetings so they can respond to any questions that come up in their areas. Pr Kyle will consider this for future meetings.

Thank you: Pr Hasse thanked Pr Kyle for his leadership during this very difficult situation. God has been good to us.

Thank you: Thank you to Jim Marshall for serving as our Congregation Vice President for the past 14 years. His passion and dedication to the church is admirable.

Adjournment: *A motion was made by Bill Schultz and seconded by Deb Hand to adjourn the Congregation Meeting at 7:11 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.*

Closing Prayer: Pastor Kyle Backhaus

Attendance: 17 in person and 17 via live stream