

St. Paul Lutheran Church
CONGREGATION MEETING MINUTES • June 19, 2018

Call to Order: Vice President Jim Marshall called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Mark Janzen

Secretary's Report - Minutes of April 17, 2018 Congregation Meeting: *A motion was made by Jeff Shircel and seconded by Sue Dicke to approve the Secretary's Report from the April 17, 2018 Congregation Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.*

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Donna Felch presented the May 2018 Treasurers Report. Giving to the general operating budget had a significant increase in the month of May, for a year to date increase of 5.6%. So far, the month of June seems to also have increased significantly over last year. It is evident that people are responding to our request to fund our expanding ministry and the Lord is blessing us. *A motion was made by Paul W. Ten Pas and seconded by Bob Mehre to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*

Constitution & Bylaw Project: The Church Council has determined there are a variety of things in the Constitution and Bylaws that we are no longer abiding by as a Congregation. A copy of the inconsistencies was distributed. The Council is recommending to the Congregation that a committee be formed to review and revised the Constitution & Bylaws, with the final documents to be presented and approved at a future Congregation meeting. *A motion was made by Dave DePagter and seconded by Jeff Shircel to authorize the Council to appoint a Committee to create a revision of the Constitution & Bylaws. Motion carried unanimously.*

2018-19 Budget: Church Administrator Stefanie Trakel presented the upcoming budget. There is a 16% increase over actual giving this year, in order to cover next year's expenses. 76% of the increase is due to our two new staff positions that began this year and will continue for a full year next year. There is a Ministry Development Dedicated Account in the amount of \$114,482, that was created a couple of years ago, where previous year surpluses have been placed. This was in anticipation of the new positions and potential deficits that may occur initially. This fund would be tapped in the event we have a deficit at year end. The five year Capital Improvement plan was shared. *A motion was made by Paul W. Ten Pas and seconded by Jane Marotz to approve the 2018-19 Budget as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*

Thank You: The Congregation extended their thanks to Christine Perronne, Church Council Member-at-Large and Jim Fasse, Head Elder for their years of service and dedication to the Congregation.

Congregation Concerns:

Is there an update on the safety concern in the garage that was mentioned at the last Congregation meeting? Brad Ten Pas and Jim Fasse met with staff and addressed the immediate need simply by cleaning out the garage and removing the winter snow equipment, since Spring has arrived. John Rische is also taking a look at what a potential expansion of the garage could look like, but at this point it is just an idea. No further steps have been taken.

There is a lot of repetition in the Weekly News and the Newsletter, seems like a waste of time and paper. Also why is the entire Saturday night service printed out? The staff have been discussing the repetition issue as well. Thomas Walkenhorst and Vicky Bramstedt are forming a committee to review all the areas of communication to try to make things more efficient, both through the use of paper as well as technology. In regards to the Saturday night service, that was an Elder Team decision. It was made because there are people that want to attend a traditional service but don't know how to follow the Hymnal. It is also good for visitors and some people prefer it because the bulletin is not as heavy as a Hymnal.

How many voting members do we have? 2,049 – these are confirmed members over the age of 18 years old.

How many of the ReVitality Surveys were returned? Pr Kyle reported that 305 surveys were returned. We just received the results last week and will begin to review them once Pr Tom returns. Our strengths are in the areas of family, viability and community. Discussions will then be held on what areas we need to focus on and what can be done to improve. A Congregation member expressed concern in two areas, noting he feels there is a strong need to improve these areas which are #41 – do we have an effective program for those not attending and #44 – do we routinely discuss how to reach unchurch people.

Pr Tom had reported that he was going to attend a Best Practice Conference. Did he get any idea from there on how to address some of our weaknesses that came from the surveys or when will we begin to see the results of what he learned? Stefanie Trakel reported that Pr Tom has begun to meet with staff, Church Council and the Elder Team in regards to some of the information he gathered. Everyone is in the process of reading a book that has a lot of these ideas in it, of whom Pr Tom had meet with the author at the conference. Strategic planning sessions are scheduled throughout the summer with staff, along with a plan for implementation. However it is a processes, so results will not be seen immediately.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Bob Mehre and seconded by Jim Fasse to adjourn the Congregation Meeting at 7:15 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Kyle Backhaus

Attendance: 27