

**St. Paul Lutheran Church**  
**Council Meeting Minutes**  
Tuesday, January 19, 2021

Attendees: Donna Felch, Margaret Hand, Tom Splittgerber, Michelle Bohm, Jeff Berg, Mark Sbrocco, Stefanie Trakel, Jane Marotz & Pr Kyle Backhaus

Excused: Brad TenPas & John Rische

Guest: Leah Zehel

Topic	Discussion	Action	Responsible Party
Call to Order		Vice President Tom Splittgerber called the meeting to order at 7:45 pm.	
Opening Prayer		Jeff Berg opened with prayer.	
The Gathering Place Ministry Update	<p>Leah reported that their census is down as they lost a few participants over the holidays, which is typical. There is currently no wait list. Several participants from nursing homes plan to return once vaccinated.</p> <p>Only half the volunteers have returned since reopening, volunteers are in great demand for all organizations.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the majority of speaking engagements and marketing opportunities have been canceled for this year.</p> <p>The November Giving Campaign raised about \$12k more than last year, amazing financial support from the community.</p> <p>The Soup Cook off will be March 7, but as a drive through with commercial kitchens from the community supplying the soup.</p>	The Council thanked Leah for continued efforts to maintain a safe program for our participants and volunteers.	
November Secretary Report		A motion was made by Margaret Hand via email on 11/18/20 to approve the November Secretary's Report. Michele Bohm seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.	
November & December Treasurer's Report		A detailed review of the Dedicated Accounts will be postponed until the February meeting.	

		A motion was made by Margaret Hand via email on 1/13/21 to approve the November & December Treasurer Reports. John Rische seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.	
Education Office Workroom Copier	<p>A new copier is needed for the Education Office Workroom. The current machine is 6 years old and needs significant repairs to function properly. It is more cost effective to purchase a new machine.</p> <p>Tom Splittgerber is working with James Imaging on a possible collaborative pricing arrangement through Lutheran High with local churches through a lease, which should be better pricing than what was originally quoted.</p>	<p>Tom will contact his James Imaging rep to determine how quickly pricing will be available. Stefanie will then compare both options to determine the most cost effective path forward.</p> <p>A motion was made by Donna Felch to approve the purchase of a copy machine not to exceed \$6,500 to be funded by the Capital Improvement Fund. Tom Splittgerber seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.</p>	Tom Splittgerber & Stefanie Trakel
Nominating Team	Margaret Hand has appointed the following to the Nominating Team for 2021: Donna Felch (Chairman), Glen Kohlhausen, Beth Jens & Lisa Huehns. Stefanie Trakel and Pr Kyle serve as advisors.	A motion was made by Margaret Hand via email on 1/11/21 to approve the Nominating Team appointments as presented. Michele Bohm seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.	
Constitution & Bylaw Project Policies	The Church Council reviewed the policies that were created based on the newly adopted Constitution and Bylaws.	A motion was made by Donna Felch to approve policies 46-51 & 53 as presented. Mark Sbrocco seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.	
Call Team Update	One member of the Call Team stepped down. Pr Kyle is looking for additional people to observe the upcoming interviews.	Pr Kyle will send the interview dates/times/links to Jeff Berg & Tom Splittgerber to view as able.	Pr Kyle
Elder Team Update	<p>The Elder Team reached out to all regular attenders that are no longer attending, through phone calls to let them know we are thinking of them. They were able to talk with about half the families. Most people say they are watching online and are still cautious through the pandemic. This will be reassessed after the pandemic to see who doesn't return.</p> <p>The Elders are continuing to build up small groups. They have reached out to all new members with information on our current groups. There will also be a promotional campaign in February. The use of a Congregation wide book study was also suggested as a way to regain energy for small groups.</p>		

Senior Pastor Report	<p>Pastor Kyle reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pr Tom is now preaching once a month or twice in 5 Sunday months, therefore Pr Kyle is doing the majority of the preaching</li> <li>• Christmas services went well given the circumstances, staff have debriefed and started plans for Easter</li> <li>• Pr Kyle continues making shut in visits and holding counseling sessions</li> <li>• There are 7 weddings on the schedule for 2021, he is working to schedule counseling for most of these</li> <li>• He did a funeral and has another next week</li> <li>• Pr Tom has taken over the Baptism class</li> <li>• AIM has started, there are 4 couples in the class. Whomever isn't preaching on Sunday teaches the class.</li> <li>• PLI is planned for March 18-20 in Houston</li> <li>• The Circuit Forum to elect a circuit visitor is Jan 31. Pr Tom will attend, Pr Kyle will decline if elected.</li> <li>• The Synod Convention is scheduled for 2022. There is discussion about potentially delaying everything a year due to Covid, which includes all elected positions remaining in office for an additional year. The Synod will lose \$300,000 to over a million dollars by delaying, which means synodical dues will go up to cover that expense and the new convention. Pr Kyle is not recommending a delay.</li> </ul>		
		<p>A motion was made by Margaret Hand to vote against delaying the Synod Convention. Donna Felch seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.</p> <p>The Church Council has asked Pr Kyle to handle submitting the Congregation ballot for Synodical positions.</p>	<p>Pr Kyle</p> <p>Pr Kyle</p>
Walk In Items	None		
Adjournment	The Church Council Meeting will be Tuesday, February 16 at 6:30 pm.	A motion was made by Jane Marotz to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm. Seconded by Jeff Berg. Motion carried unanimously.	
Closing Prayer		Pr Kyle closed in prayer.	