

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
 Tuesday, August 18, 2020

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

Excused: Brad Ten Pas

Guests: Thomas Walkenhorst

Topic	Discussion	Action	Responsible Party
Call to Order		President Margaret Hand called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.	
Opening Prayer		Pr Kyle opened with prayer.	
Welcome New Council Members	The Council welcomed Jeff Berg, member-at-large to the team. The Council also welcomed Mark Sbrocco, temporary Head Elder to the team.		
Worship Ministry Update	Thomas Walkenhorst updated the Council. All music ensembles are being adjusted to accommodate the pandemic restrictions as best as possible. A key issue is the need for servant volunteers including instrumentalists, ushers, soundboard and altar guild. The Weekly News has been redesigned to improve communication. This will be rolled out with the Fall kickoff. Thomas continues to assist The Gathering Place with monthly sign-alongs. He also manages the Outreach Display on highway 28.	Tom Splittgerber will put Thomas in touch with Matt Thiel, the band instructor at Lutheran High School, to see if students would be interested in volunteering along with assisting Thomas in creating a virtual choir. Church Council and Elders are willing to assist with last minute ushering when at services. Thomas will work with Sharon Roehrborn to develop a plan for how to “tap” an Elder or Council member when there is a shortage. The Church Council thanked Thomas for his continued efforts and adjustments during this difficult time.	Tom Splittgerber Thomas Walkenhorst & Sharon Roehrborn
July Secretary Reports		A motion was made by Margaret Hand via email on 7/23/20 to approve the July Secretary’s Report. John Rische seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.	

July Treasurer's Report	Stefanie will no longer be sending weekly offering totals to the Church Council. This isn't a very accurate number for tracking giving, as many individuals give online or through stock and prepaid donations. ECC enrollment for Fall looks very good, which should help their financial picture.	A motion was made by John Rische to approve the July Treasurer's Report. Michelle Bohm seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.	
Policy #38 – Building Fund	There is no policy in place for the use of the Building Fund, which has a significant balance. Discussion was held on the best use of the fund, looking at the intention of the givers as donations were given.	Stefanie will make the discussed changes and email to the Council for final approval.	Stefanie Trakel
Head Elder Position	Tim Allman has resigned from the Head Elder position and his membership at St. Paul. According to the bylaws, the Church Council needs to appoint an individual to finish the term, which will then be affirmed by the Congregation. Mark Sbrocco and Victor Cruz, both current Elders, are excellent candidates and willing to step into this role. Discussion was held and based on Mark's previous experience on the Church Council, it was felt he was the best candidate.	A motion was made by Margaret Hand to appoint Mark Sbrocco as Head Elder. John Rische seconded the motion. The appointment will be affirmed at the next congregational meeting.	
Elder Team Update	The Elder Team will be meeting next week.		Mark Sbrocco
Call Committee Update	Discussions are being held with several Pastors. Pr Kyle will also be requesting a new Call List from the district office.	The Elder Team and Council has agreed to pursue two tracks, both looking at Calling a Pastor and to look for a new seminary graduate. This will go to the Congregation for a vote at the next meeting.	Pr. Kyle
Senior Pastor Report	Pr Kyle has reviewed attendance since the reopening of worship services 11 weeks ago. About 33% of our active members have attended. The national average is about 25-40%. Many are still worshipping from home and uncomfortable attending in person. Others have gotten out of the habit or simply don't come often because it is summertime. There is a significant need for volunteers in various areas of ministry. The Pastors are focusing on	We will look at attendance again in November to determine who still has not returned to worship to see if we need to start making contact with those individuals to ensure they are staying connected. If Council members know of anyone willing to serve as a communion assistant, please put them in touch with	Church Council & Stefanie Trakel

	communion assistance, as we have lost a significant amount of them. A Congregation Meeting needs to be scheduled to discuss: • Affirm Tom Splittgerber as VP, Mark Sbrocco as Head Elder and Jeff Berg as Member-at-Large • Approve the second track of calling a Seminary Student to fill the Assistant Pastor role • Review financials Pr Kyle will be attending PLI virtually Sept 16-10.	a Pastor. Stefanie will send out the Communion Assistant Policy as a reference. The Congregation Meeting will be Tuesday, September 29 at 6:45 pm in the Worship Center. It will be live streamed as well. The Church Council Meeting will follow, in person. Church Council installation will be scheduled following the Congregation Meeting, when our new Council Members are affirmed by the Congregation.	Church Council, Pr Kyle & Stefanie Trakel Pr Kyle
Walk In Items	None		
Adjournment	The Congregation Meeting will be Tuesday, September 29 at 6:45pm. The Church Council Meeting will follow the Congregation meeting, in person. There will be no Council Meeting on September 15.	A motion was made by Mark Sbrocco to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 pm. Seconded by John Rische. Motion carried unanimously.	
Closing Prayer		Mark Sbrocco closed in prayer.	