

**ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATION COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES**  
**September 24, 2018**

**Present:** Greta Blegvad, Mark Finck, Kerrill Foster, Lindsay Freytag, Matt Hummel, Mandy John, John Jordan, Charlie Laidlaw-Smith, Don Miller, Jim Rengert, Pastor Betsy Williams

**Absent:** Anne Daly, Jean Hovland

Mandy John, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.  
Pastor Betsy Williams offered devotions and prayer.

Note: Council members met briefly after church on September 16 to discuss the Listening Posts Report. The next step will be to review it at the Council Retreat with Pastor Abrams.

There is a new item on the agenda, "Listening to Concerns of the Congregation". Thelma Trainor attended this portion of the meeting to present a written report of her ideas for St. Paul's to grow the church and become more of a serving church with an outward focus. She proposes two committees. One would be an idea committee and the other would promote ideas/activities.

Council members are very appreciative of this proposal, and would like to discuss it further at the Council retreat in November with Pastor Bob Abrams. Pastor Betsy will communicate to Thelma that the ideas will be reviewed again in November with Pastor Abrams. Pastor Abrams will receive a copy of the ideas before the retreat.

The minutes of the August 27 meeting were reviewed. Pastor Betsy asked that the words "older children" under the Education Committee report be changed to "youth". A motion was made by Kerrill Foster and seconded by Matt Hummel to approve the minutes with the above change. The motion was approved.

### **Committee Reports**

Congregational Care: Elsie Mills and Ginny Baker were visited. Elsie received altar flowers and was visited again. Lois Lovelady and Wanda Cooperrider were visited. Flowers were taken to Betty and Cliff Neighbarger at Middleton in Granville. Betty called to say how much she appreciated them.

Education: No report

Evangelism: A banner is now hanging from the bell tower, inviting others to attend. Thanks to John Jordan and Russ Hovland for putting it up quickly after it was received.

Four Church Farm: The balance in the Four Church Farm account is \$12,800. A work day will be held September 26. October 7 will be the pork roast with the other churches. Those attending should bring a side dish or dessert of their choice. Mark Finck is now the secretary for the Four Church Farm since Kristen Santiago has resigned her position at Christ Lutheran. She has decided to go back into pastoral care of hospice patients.

Mutual Ministry: Greta Blegvad will discuss with Pastor Betsy.

Property: Painting estimates will be obtained for the sanctuary and the arch at the north transept. A recommendation and proposal to mitigate the bat problem was received from Buckeye Wildlife Solutions. The cost is quite high, so Russ Hovland and John Jordan will try to do some of the recommendations themselves. A de-humidifier has been added to Pastor Betsy's office to alleviate the humidity/mold problem.

Rental: All is well.

Technology/Website: Greta Blegvad reported that the domain name for the St. Paul's website has been renewed. A link is now available for reservations at the Four Church Farm.

WELCA: WELCA will not have a dinner the first Sunday in November. December 1 at 11:30 will be the next WELCA meeting at the Olive Garden. Matt Hummel suggested a reception after the service on either Mecklenburg Sunday or Reformation. WELCA will be consulted.

Worship: On Mecklenburg Sunday, October 21, Pastor Rauch will give the sermon. On Saturday, October 6 after the 4:00 service there will be a blessing of pets. The youth choir has combined with the adult choir and rehearsals changed to Wednesday evenings.

Youth Ministry: There are five youths who participate. They will meet the first Wednesday of the month for dinner and a business meeting. It was proposed to bring two of the game tables downstairs from the youth room. Placement of the tables is still being discussed. Youth breakfasts are on hold due to time constraints, but will resume.

A motion was made by Kerrill Foster and seconded by John Jordan to accept the committee reports. The motion was approved.

**Treasurer's Report**: Kerrill Foster reviewed the August financial report with Council. The budget committee including Kerrill, Fred Freytag, Marty Altmaier, Diane Ganz and Steve Wiersma will meet in the near future. The costs associated with altar flowers will soon become an expense since not enough people are signing up to donate flowers each week. Alternative florists are being considered. Amber has been cleaning about 20 hours per week. Pastor Betsy reports that her son is no longer on her insurance plan.

A motion was made by Matt Hummel and seconded by Charlie Laidlaw-Smith to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion carried.

**Pastor's Report**: David and Linda Katai have expressed interest in participating at St. Paul's. The Third Thirties group has started meeting. The writing group begins Thursday, September 27. Pastor Betsy would like to form a small team to re-work the Forward newsletter. The Advent Dinners which support those in shelters were discussed. Last year there were three dinners. It is unclear whether Holy Trinity is willing to help again this year. Council is considering reducing the number of dinners to one. It was decided to ask the Congregation to vote on whether to continue with the dinners and if yes, how many. Pastor Kristen Santiago has asked to use space at our church for her spiritual leadership program, approximately once a week, but only when it doesn't conflict with St. Paul's calendar. It would be a small group, probably in the lounge. In exchange she will serve as supply pastor as needed. A motion was made by Greta Blegvad, seconded by Kerrill Foster to let Pastor Santiago use a space at St. Paul's as needed in exchange for serving as supply pastor. The motion was approved.

### **Old Business**

The Council Leadership Retreat with Pastor Bob Abrams will be November 10 from 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM.

A motion was made by John Jordan and seconded by Don Miller to provide a \$100 donation to the Humane Society in honor of Jackie Sainsbury as a thank you for her years as sexton at St. Paul's. Kerrill Foster reported that Jackie does not wish to have a reception.

God's Work, Our Hands work day has been re-scheduled for October 13 at 9:00 AM.

Council Minutes  
September 24, 2018

Greta Blegvad reported her progress in updating the St. Paul's handbook. She has made format changes. An updated list of Council members will be added. The financial secretary and office secretary jobs will be separated. The Constitution will be compared to the new ELCA model.

A sign up sheet will be available in the hallway to form a committee to plan the Mecklenburg visit in 2020. Pastor Betsy reported that a Lutheran church in New Albany has formed a partnership with another church in Mecklenburg.

As asked at the last Council meeting, Jodie Nichols provided quotes for a new folding machine for the office. A motion was made by Kerrill Foster and seconded by Charlie Laidlaw-Smith to purchase the folding machine at a cost no more than \$500. The motion was approved. Kerrill will order the machine.

**New Business**

LOMO Day Camp vs. Vacation Bible School for 2019 was discussed. The costs will be compared before deciding.

Council members who will not be eligible to serve next year due to term limits are Don Miller and Lindsay Freytag. Members who are eligible for re-election are Mandy John, John Jordan and Kerrill Foster. John Jordan has decided not to run again. Pastor Betsy asked each Council member to approach one member of the Congregation and ask them to run for Council and report back at the next meeting. In the past Alice Beamer and Denise Crews have expressed interest in running. One female and two males are needed to serve.

Employee raises were discussed .

**Roundtable**

No discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM and closed with prayer.

The next meeting will be Monday, October 29, 2018 (fifth Monday of the month) at 7:00 PM in Danford Hall.

Respectfully Submitted  
Lindsay Freytag  
Council Secretary