

St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Board of Directors Meeting Minutes September 16, 2020 (via conference call)

2020 St. Paul's Board of Directors present:

Zac Huffman, Bernice Prescott, Diane Segelhorst, Pastor Teklu

Not present: Jen Houck, Cyndie Dixon, Tom Cook, Rick Wood

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. Pastor Teklu offered the opening prayer, thanking the Lord for His care over the congregation and seeking guidance that all we think, say and do is for the common good of the church and to the glory of His name.

The minutes of the September 1, 2020 BoD meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report - August, 2020

August Budget Status: income was at 67.27% of goal, down from July's level of 72.7%

- Offerings YTD: \$92,989.51; under goal **(\$45,252.25)**. Income is not moving in the right direction; the reasons are unknown but may indicate that persons who are not attending services are also not contributing.

- Expenses YTD: \$173,345.10; over budget **(\$17,934.17)**

- Overall YTD: (all income minus expenses) **(\$65,703.87)** The deficit has increased by \$10,000; the budget has been revised but that does not change the actual income and expenses.

- Revised 7/1/2020 Budget: Projected expenses are \$244,820.14, which is an increase of \$39,430.90 over 2019.

- The preliminary 2021 budget projects expenses of approximately \$190,000; the reduction reflects that many capital improvements have been completed.

Pastor's Report

1. Member/family visitation continues; Pastor Teklu has met with almost one-half of the family groups and plans to finish by the end of October. Some are contacting him to schedule their meetings and he is reaching out to others.
2. In-person or telephone visits continue with homebound members. In the future these may include lay visitors in cases where members/families agree.
3. Posting of daily Scriptures via e-mail continues. Pastor Teklu plans to survey the congregation as to what type of daily devotion they would like to receive.
4. Committee leaders and staff are meeting every two weeks. They are currently brainstorming ideas for inclusion in the strategic plan. The starting point may be to redefine the mission statement.
5. Pastor Teklu participated in the circuit meeting this week and requested anyone's assistance with strategic plan formats and their experiences. He hopes to have samples soon, maybe before the next BoD meeting.
6. Meetings with Zac Huffman and Pastor Dave are continuing.
7. The next ministry planning meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, September 23, 2020.

Open Items from Last Meeting

1. An update was provided on outside groups using the facilities. The quilters have requested to restart on October 1, via a request sent to the BoD. It was recommended and approved to allow this activity weekly on Tuesday, whenever they choose to begin. They will sanitize before and after each meeting. Dorothy Clark reported that probably fewer than 10 members are currently interested in meeting on site. No decision was made to invite AA to restart. Life Bridge has requested to begin using the fellowship hall; they report no COVID cases among their congregation. BoD approved this request, effective October 1, including allowing food to be brought in, but not prepared on-site, and with the provisions that all trash and food would be removed afterwards and the kitchen and coffee station would not be used. Zac Huffman will relay this approval and the restrictions to Pastor Juan in writing.
2. Policies review with Pastor Teklu took place on August 12. As agreed at that meeting, a five-year strategic plan will be prepared.
3. Training on use of the electronic sign is pending with Rick Wood.

Current Agenda Items

1. The reopening ad-hoc planning committee reported the results of a poll as to activities the congregation would like to resume in the fellowship hall, considering open windows, seating arrangements and food. Responders said they are not yet ready for common meals or indoor gatherings. It was agreed that, until our Sunday service numbers increase, we should not change our worship schedule or seating arrangement. At present the attendance is approximately 30 people, and the capacity is 30 to 48, depending on the make-up of the group. While we are not yet singing, due to the exposure to COVID spread, people do want to hear vocal music. It was reported that St. Paul's Girls may record some songs. The communion in the pews is working well. Two changes are being made to expedite the seating process. First, the greeter will have a list of regular attendees and will note as persons arrive, in lieu of asking each one to sign in. Second, persons who forget their name tags will not be asked to make a new one, as Pastor Teklu is becoming very familiar with attendees. It was noted that Anne Arundel County has not yet moved to Phase 3, but we should prepare for when that occurs.
2. Dorothy Clark is planning the quilt sale for November 5 to 8.
3. Zac Huffman reported that Michele Angeli has requested that St. Paul's cover the expenses associated with her attendance at the Camp Arcadia Women's Retreat. After discussion, the BoD voted to regretfully deny the request, because the current income stream does not warrant discretionary expenditures, the retreat is not related to her duties at St. Paul's, the State of Maryland is discouraging out-of-state travel and communal events, and the approval would set a poor

precedent for similar requests. Two BoD members not present had previously voiced support for whatever the group decided.

4. The next BoD meeting will be Wednesday, September 30, 2020, and will include a preliminary review of the proposed 2021 budget.

5. Service Views:
 - September 6: 58 total (25 in person, 10 live stream/19 later, 4 audio)
 - September 13: 60 total (30 in person, 18 live stream/8 later, 4 audio)

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bernice Prescott, Secretary