

St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2020 (via audio conference)

DIAL IN: 605-472-5577

ACCESS: 494369#

2020 St. Paul's Board of Directors:

Present: Zac Huffman, Tom Cook, Bernice Prescott, Cyndie Dixon, Jen Houck, Diane Segelhorst, Pastor Dave

Not Present: Rick Wood

Meeting called to order at 5:35 pm.

Devotional and Opening Prayer offered by Pastor Dave, based on Ephesians 3: "I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ..."

Minutes of the BoD meeting of April 13, 2020 were approved.

Treasurer's Report - March 2020

- March Budget Status: 75.33% of goal achieved
- Offerings YTD: \$38,679.13; under goal: **(\$7,408.52)**
- Expenses YTD: \$50,024.09; under budget \$10,622.17. This will change, based on the cost of painting the fellowship hall and the final BGE invoice for the lighting project completed.
- Overall YTD: (all income minus expenses) **(\$4,872.77)**. Deficit is not as bad as expected thru March, but this may change once April offerings and expenses are calculated.
- 2020 Budget: \$205,389.24; decrease of \$1,363.54 over 2019

Open Items from Last Meeting:

1. Weekly mail delivery continues
2. Lower level flooring replacement - letter sent to congregation on April 14, 2020, requesting a Yes/No vote by April 24; some responses received to date.
3. Rick Wood is testing sign panels - ongoing
4. Rick Wood is setting up the live streaming capability - ongoing
5. Sunday School Director - pending
6. Options for Lay Deacons in case of emergency - Pastor Dave provided an update: Clarifying the report from the last meeting, participation by women in the lay deacons' training is not yet officially approved, but will be.

7. Cares Act - SBA Payroll Protection Plan. St. Paul's submission has been confirmed. Acceptance is pending. This means the application has not been rejected but also not approved. Program is awaiting additional Congressional funding, but we do not know if our application will be funded.
8. Cover All "deep" cleaning: Company has been contacted, but there has been no definitive response.
9. Member/Voting Member list is 99% complete. There are 97 +/- voting members. A new directory (roster) of voting members will be finalized.

Current Agenda Items:

1. Shut in update: Either Pastor Dave or Penny Courtney is staying in touch with every shut-in; good responses received.
2. Review of Teklu Ketema interview and discussion of next step(s). Most BoD members had listened to the Call Committee's interview. Zac stated that he needs to understand the BoD's thoughts as to how to proceed. It was noted that we should voice our opinion but the next step decision is the responsibility of the Call Committee. Considerable discussion ensued, with comments summarized below:
 - a. The biggest overall concern was that the questions posed to Teklu were not specific enough and therefore did not enable us to learn enough about him and his ministry approach.
 - b. Teklu's answers to the questions seemed largely theoretical and vague. While he is a student and may not have much experience, we would have appreciated better discussion of what he would do in various aspects of the ministry.
 - c. Teklu will be a great pastor somewhere, but in general members were not convinced he was ready to take on the challenge of St. Paul's at this time.
 - d. The interview was formal and we would like to have gained a better sense of Teklu as a person to be able to better assess how he would connect with our people.
 - e. Teklu seems to be an outstanding individual, caring, spiritual, and fully devoted to the Lord. He is personal and energetic and would probably draw in people of different backgrounds, leading to growth, even though there would likely be the loss of some current members.
 - f. Teklu was very impressed and delighted with the mentoring he received during his vicarage and relished being part of a ministry team. Does he have the desire and is he ready to assume a sole pastorate, in our setting (North American, suburban, and largely homogeneous)?
 - g. Although we did not hear very much from Tsion, it appears she would be a very positive aspect of his ministry.

Zac talked about the process, indicating that the congregation must decide shortly whether to continue this process. The Call Committee was favorable after the interview and will meet again tonight. The CC received the information Friday on the candidates from the most recent list provided. There are six candidates in total and the CC thinks

there are two who could fit our needs; it has not yet been determined if they are available. If we do not move ahead with any candidate, then the call process suspends again. If the CC votes to proceed with Teklu, a congregational vote must take place relatively soon. The CC still has the opportunity to present additional questions to Teklu, and he is eager to answer. It was noted that President Denninger has promised to provide coaching if Teklu is selected. The consensus of the BoD was to provide the concerns to the CC, which Zac will do.

3. Diane Segelhorst provided to the BoD a reference to a document titled "24 Questions Before People Return," citing the considerations a church must make before re-opening for services and activities. It is found at: <https://kenbraddy.com/2020/04/18/20-questions-your-church-should-answer-before-people-return/?fbclid=IwAR0tUTwU6LyCyzzJPNi0hIFHu2NTae8QZisyyVYlkoitwf6IHpAvLDABhyg>
Zac requested that the BoD review this document.
4. Michelle Angeli's equipment funding request: Zac has spoken to her and she has provided details about the use of the items requested. The multi digital card is needed to get the audio from the soundboard into the streaming system that Rick is putting together. The cost is approximately \$600.00. The 'Pro Presenter 7' program will make Rick's streaming of service and sharing the lyrics and screen capture easier and help in post-production of a service." The one-time cost is approximately \$1600. The BoD approved the expenditures, as this technology will be critical to move forward with streaming. Zac will notify Michelle.
5. Service views
 - March 29: 118 April 9, Maundy Thursday: 40
 - April 1: 29 April 10, Good Friday: 37
 - April 5: 104 April 12, Easter: 42
 - April 19: 52
6. This coming Sunday, April 26, there will be two service opportunities. The regular services can be viewed at any time. At 11:00 a.m., there will be a communion service for members only. Members will provide their own bread and wine or juice at home and Pastor Dave will consecrate these elements during the service. This service will be on the web but will be deleted once it is finished. Details will be provided to the congregation via email in advance.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bernice Prescott, Secretary