

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting
Minutes
June 9, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 10:45 a.m. by BoD President Zac Huffman and was opened with prayer by Pastor Mentz. The roster of attendees is attached to the end of the minutes. In preparation for the meeting, the following documents had been sent via email to all members:

- Agenda for June 9, 2024 congregation meeting
- Minutes from December 10, 2023 congregation meeting
- May 2024 Financial Report
- Preliminary Investment Policy Statement
- Nominating Committee Member Request
- Policy Based Governance Policies Manual

It was requested that any new members of St. Paul's sign the church's constitution; no new members were present. It was announced that a new members' reception would be held on June 23 after the service.

Zac Huffman asked for any questions concerning the minutes of the December 10, 2023 Congregational Meeting and then requested approval. Motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded; motion was approved by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report as of May, 2024 was reviewed and the following comments were highlighted for the attendees:

- 2024 Budget projected expenses of \$232,124.25, which requires income of \$4,463.93 per week
- Through the month of May, income achieved is 81.72% of goal through May
- Offerings year-to-date totaled \$79,035.08, which is \$17,683.37 under the goal
- Expenses year-to-date totaled \$41,935.16 which is \$54,783.24 under budget
- Overall year-to-date income has exceeded expenses by \$37,099.87

The 2024 budget was reviewed for any desired or needed changes. It was noted that expenses have been under budget only because of the pastoral vacancy. The pastoral salary was budgeted for a full twelve months in the year because it was not and is not known when it will be put to use. The budget is not being reduced to reflect that the permanent pastoral position is vacant, because we must adjust to the full expense under normal conditions.

It was noted that the financial report reflects assets of almost \$1,000,000. It was reported that the church recently spent approximately \$30,000 for necessary repairs to the HVAC systems, and that this expense was covered by the recent major gift received from Lorraine Clow. It was noted that assets still include Pastor Teklu's memorial funds because the scholarship award is made annually. It was reported that the school year for the first recipient has just ended and the church is awaiting a report from the student.

Zac Huffman requested approval of the financial reports. A motion was made and seconded; the motion was approved by voice vote.

Preliminary Investment Policy

The preliminary Investment Policy drafted by the Finance team was reviewed. Heretofore, St. Paul's has not had a written investment policy, but it was explained that one is needed in order to ensure accountability for and protection of financial assets. As background, the various current investments and their rates of return and the amount maintained in a checking account were reviewed. Discussion of the preliminary policy included the level of risk the church is willing to undertake and the types of investment accounts available, including commercial accounts and the Lutheran Church Investment Fund. The team identified the financial consultants that have been contacted, and it was recommended to also contact Thrivent. Zac Huffman noted that the policy is a work-in-progress.

Old Business

The Ad-Hoc Nominating Committee procedures were reviewed. Congregants were encouraged to volunteer to serve on this ad-hoc committee or to be nominated for the Board of Directors. Further information on the process and the positions was available from Zac Huffman, Judy Tribby and Cyndie Dixon. In response to a question, it was advised that a person must have served on the Board for one term in order to be nominated for President or Vice President.

New Business

Diane Segelhorst provided an update on the work of the Call Committee. To date we have exhausted three lists of candidates received from the Southeastern District. Candidate lists were reviewed to identify potential pastors for interview, numerous pastors were reviewed and one call has been issued and declined. A fourth call list has been requested. The Call Committee will meet after this congregational meeting to discuss efforts and any concerns with our Circuit Visitor, Rev. Matt Hilpert. It was noted that two of the important issues we carefully review are the candidates' views or requirements concerning service by women and communion practices.

Standing Team Reports were presented as follows, some orally and all in writing. The complete reports are made a part of these minutes by attachment hereto:

Altar Guild:	Bernice Prescott
Education:	Cyndie Dixon
Fellowship:	Jen Houck
Outreach:	Bernice Prescott
Property:	Zac Huffman
Safety:	Ruth Hakulin
Sunday School:	Erin Mitchell
Tech:	Diane Segelhorst
Web Site:	Patrice Jenstrom
Worship:	Jane Felsentreger
Youth Group:	Andrea & Chad Muntz

The ad-hoc Hospitality team, led by Marj and Jerry Kane, is currently inactive.

Pastor Stephen Mentz was requested to give the congregation his comments and observations on his past one year of service. In addition to written notes, Pastor Mentz discussed that our lack of visitors and return visitors is a matter of concern and recommended we conduct some attractive activities outside the church building and explore method of advertising St. Paul's and what we offer families and individuals.

2024 Attendance Statistics to date were provided:

Jan Avg: 67 total (45 in person, 22 via stream)

Feb Avg: 66 total (49 in person, 17 via stream)

Mar Avg: 83 total (61 in person, 22 via stream)

Apr Avg: 67 total (46 in person, 21 via stream)

May Avg: 64 total (45 in person, 19 via stream)

1st Q Avg: 72 total (52 in person, 20 via stream)

Apr/May Avg: 66 total (46 in person, 20 via stream)

2024 Avg to Date: 69 total (49 in person, 20 via stream)

2023 Jan - Dec Avg: 74 total (48 in person, 26 via stream)

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bernice Prescott

Attendees (in-person and via Zoom)

Zac Huffman

Linda Huffman

Pastor Stephen Mentz

Cary Willingham

Donna Willingham

Ruth Hakulin

MaDonna Howard

Dana Brown

Jaxon Brown

Gary Wolford

Betsy Wolford

Diane Segelhorst

Del Jenstrom

Sadie Becoate

Linda Craig

Erin Mitchell
Kate Hausner
Ron Hausner
Ben Dugan
Jane Felsentreger
Judy Parker
Penny Courtney
Cyndie Dixon
Bill Crowin
Sandy Corwin
Amanda Sturgeon
David Sturgeon
Bernice Prescott