

# CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

November 3, 2019

Church Council: (X = Present): X Justin Arndt, X Larry Ballwahn, X Steve Brandau, Marcus Buchholz, Rachel Conner, X Tim Deichler; X Angie Gruen, X Bud Osteboe, X Pastor Cathleen Morris.  
Also, Nalani Bever

The meeting was called to order by President Elect (P.E.) Justin Arndt 11:20 am.

Operation Oversight: The October 6, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes were clarified by Bud Osteboe and then moved for approval by Tim Deichler; Second, Steve Brandau. MC.

Motion made by Larry Ballwahn, seconded by Steve Brandau: During the 2019 church year, we have required an average of \$1400 a month from the church's reserves to pay monthly bills; the Finance Committee, or an ad hoc committee named by them, is asked to examine the financial future of the church and provide a report at the annual meeting. Will St. Paul's continue to be financially viable into the future? Must some action be taken, or can we continue as we are? MC

A motion to approve the financial report and authorize bill payment was made by Tim Deichler and seconded by Angie Gruen. MC.

Opening Prayer: offered By Pastor Morris

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Morris shared a news article regarding declining church attendance from the October 28, 2019 LaCrosse Tribune. It is a state-wide problem. We know from other sources, nation-wide. -The Thanksgiving eve ecumenical service is being planned with Norwalk Methodist and our confirmation students. Bud Osteboe asked that other local churches be invited to attend and that an advertisement be placed in the County Line. -Pastor also shared her reasoning regarding Birthday/Anniversary Sunday. The tradition will continue on the third Sunday of the month but prior to the service. A conversation ensued regarding making church attendance at St. Paul's more inviting. This will now be a work in progress. -Pastor Morris will be on vacation from Christmas day to New Years. By consensus, the ensuing church service will be handled locally.

Steve Brandau, Property: A sump pump has been purchased for the water meter area. Steve will install it when he has electricity there. The exterminator will be on site tomorrow. Steve has some different examples of basement lighting up and is looking for feedback.

Bud Osteboe, of the Social Ministry Committee: Every Member Conversation will be planned in November and December and undertaken in January. Bud suggests that when Christmas & Easter services are completed, the flowers be delivered to area shut-ins unless the persons who purchased them wish to use them. There are always some remaining. Suggestion adopted by consensus.

Bud asked the Council to consider the following resolution:

Whereas the purpose of St. Paul's Scholarship Fund is to show continued support and encouragement to members of our congregation beyond their high school years,

Therefore, be it resolved, during years in which there are sufficient funds in the scholarship fund, the provisions of "Article II. Selection Process, Section B. Selection Committee," and "Article III. A. Two \$500 scholarships..." shall be set aside, and all qualified applicants in any given year are to be awarded a \$500 scholarship.

Be It Further Resolved, Church Council shall do selection and awarding of recipients annually.

Adopted by consensus.

Old Business:

Church steps/remodel – no new developments

Church Constitution Update; will have something for the next Council meeting; anticipate revision in time for the Annual meeting.

Scholarship Program: see Social Ministry

New Business:

Election of Council President: Consensus choice; President Elect Justin Arndt

Church Constitution: C12.03. Should a member's place on the Congregation Council be declared vacant, the Congregation Council shall elect, by majority vote, a successor until the next annual meeting.

-Does this mean that Justin is only President until the next Annual Meeting? Would both a President and President Elect be chosen? For new business next meeting; Justin make a proposal. LB

Motion; Bud Osteboe, second, Larry Ballwahn buy the new snowblower that Steve has for \$500 so the Church has its own snowblower. MC

Needed; someone to do the Church snow removal as early in the morning as practicable. Suggestions welcome, applications even more so.

Other Business: The next meeting will be December 15 after Church.

The meeting concluded with Lord's Prayer. Tim Deichler moved adjournment; second Angie Gruen. M.C. Meeting concluded at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted; Larry Ballwahn, Council Secretary