

# CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 15, 2019

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

The meeting was called to order by President Justin Arndt 11:20 am.

Opening Prayer: offered By Pastor Morris.

Operation Oversight: The November 3, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes were moved for approval by Tim Deichler; Second, Steve Brandau. MC.

Nalani Bever offered some explanation of the financial reports saying that she was in the process of account consolidation. There will be more clarity after the first of the year.

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

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Morris discussed the upcoming Bishop election. Council members were asked to get the synod questionnaire from the narthex and offer responses at the next council meeting. - "A Yearlong Devotional Journey through the Epistles" is going to be recommended to the congregation with perhaps some group follow-up if an appropriate time can be found. - The Worship Committee has recommended that the memorial gift for William (Bill) Howard be used toward a wheelchair to be available when needed in the Church. Council agreed by consensus. - Synod Assembly voting members are asked to attend Bishop selection meetings. St. Paul's selection of voting members happens before those meetings are scheduled. - Pastor handed out an article on the closing of St. Paul's in LaCrosse; it is available upon request. - The East Conference Text Study is at St. Paul's in Wilton in January. - Pastor Morris has been asked to officiate at a friend of the family's wedding in Florida in May 2020. She will take a week's vacation.

Committee Reports:

The Finance Committee will examine the financial future of the church early next year. Will St. Paul's continue to be financially viable into the future? Must some action be taken, or can we continue as we are?

Steve Brandau, Property: Florescent light tubes for the basement, like the ones being tested there, are much more economical to order online. Marcus Buchholz moved that Steve proceed on that; Rachel Connor seconded. MC. Bill Seekamp has been hired for snow removal @ \$25 an hour. Operation of the thermostats will be left as is for the time being.

The Council reviewed a quote regarding a needed repair on the organ. Action on this was deferred until next month when more information will be available.

Social Ministry Committee recommendations for the EMC invite letter and survey were approved on a motion by Steve Brandau, second Tim Deichler. MC. Nalani will have the letter ready to go Monday; a follow up card will be mailed on the 30<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup>.

Old Business:

Church steps/remodel – no new developments pending additional information.

Church Constitution Update; The church constitution has been updated to include the 2019 Amendments to the Model constitution from the 2019 Churchwide Assembly. It will be on the Church website for review this week. Changes, additions are in red.

New Business:

Annual Meeting: The Congregation will be asked to approve the updated constitution. Justin will discuss the possibility of moving up some of the back pews. Council election: Rachel Connor and Marcus Buchholz are completing their second term; Steve Brandau is completing a first term. There is a vacancy for President Elect due to Justin Arndt moving to the presidency.

Other Business: Christmas Eve service is December 24 @ 6 pm. - Every Member Visit (EMV) meeting January 5, after Church. -The next meeting will be January 12, 2020 after Church.

After the Lord's Prayer, the meeting concluded at 12:40 by consensus

Respectfully Submitted; Larry Ballwahn, Council Secretary