

St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Amityville
Consistory Meeting Minutes
October 6, 2021

Present – Joe Ceklosky, Gail Clifford, Marlene Dadey, Peter Dadey, Debbie Davis, Lori Falstich, William Falstich, Autumn Herbst, Jackie Hertzog, Michelle Kehoe, Judy Leister, Melissa Millard, Kay Nyman, Linda Okuniewski, Marsha Pingitore, Judy Reitz, Doug Reinert, Brian Riker, Connie Riker, Alan Ross, Michele Ross, Marlin Spotts, Carol Sterner, Randy Van Fleet, Kathy Weller, Kelly Yanos, Pastor Steven

President Alan Ross called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.
Devotions were given by Alan Ross.

Pastor's Report

- Report was emailed.
- Completed Clergy Annual Review Report for Covenant Association Committee on Ministry. Was asked to serve on Ethics Committee.

President's Report

Alan Ross, President

- Two correspondences received. One from Conference asking for commitment of giving. One from Pastor thanking everyone for all items giving for 30 years of service.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Approve September 2021 meeting minutes with correction.

MOTION BY: J. Hertzog

SECOND: J. Reitz

VOTE: All in favor

Correction to Christian Education Report – Chad Gaiser and Wendy Elser will be leading the Connect Class.

Endowment Report

- M. Spotts reported the Committee determined that the Moderate Balance Fund is appropriate given its composition of both equities and fixed income securities which provide offsetting risks and help insulate against market volatility.
- By deducting the principal of \$133,520.35 from the Fund's Market Value of \$280,438.91 as of June 30, 2021 per the UCF report, the appreciation amount is \$146,918.56.
- The Committee observed that a 0% factor was applied to the calculated appreciation in the 2020, 5% in 2019 and 0% in 2018.
- After much discussion the Committee decided to distribute 5% of appreciation given the significant fund growth in 2021. The committee noted significant market volatility as the fund balance surpassed pre Covid level, but recognizes the continued risk that comes from market volatility and will reassess in 2022.
- The Committee reviewed the proposed distribution calculation, confirming that the Fund income is \$2,614.54 and Fund appreciation amount to be included is \$7,215.20, resulting in a total proposed distribution of \$9,829.74 representing Fund income and 5% of fund appreciation.
- Recommended Motion for Consistory Action

MOTION: To accept the 2021 Endowment Fund income proceeds in the amount of \$9,829.74 as reported by the 2021 Endowment Fund Committee and to request proposals for expenditures as follows:

\$4,914.87 for capital improvements, debt reduction, and/or building programs, and

\$4,914.87 for mission outreach

MOTION BY: A. Herbst

SECOND BY: C. Sterner

VOTE: All in favor

Graveyard Committee Report

- Report given by Randy Van Fleet. He explained the Graveyard Committee and the Cemetery Company.

Cemetery Company responsible for two large cemeteries near church. Board consists of 6 members 3 from St. Paul's UCC and 3 from Lutheran Church. Warren Haas is no longer on board. Mahlon Boyer has volunteered to serve on Board.

MOTION: Approve appointed of Mahlon Boyer to Cemetery Company.

MOTION BY: D. Reinert **SECOND:** J. Leister **VOTE:** All in favor

- History of Cemetery Company – Church cemetery was filled in 1850's. 4 acres were purchased behind parsonage, plots were purchased in lots of 8.
- Prior to Board formation funds were mixed with church funds and there was no maintenance agreement. Plot owners would pay the sexton 10 cents to take care of plots.
- Eventually, more room was needed and 3 acres was purchased near Amity School. With this purchase a Board was formed to oversee the cemeteries (Cemetery Company) 10% of the plot sales was set aside for maintenance.
- Cemetery Maintenance this year cost \$9,000. Each church gives \$3,000 and the difference is made up from investment funds. In 2022, more funds and insurance will be needed.
- Consistory members discussed increasing Graveyard Fund budget. J. Hertzog will review.

Treasurer's Report

Peter Dadey, Treasurer

	<u>September 2021</u>	<u>2021 YTD</u>
Income	\$38,147.80	\$355,027.92
Expenses	\$34,557.76	\$322,312.94
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 3,590.04	\$ 32,714.98

Budget, Finance & Stewardship

Jackie Hertzog, Committee Chair

- J. Hertzog reported Committee met on September 30th.
- Audit will be completed later this month.
- Church received a check from Edie Galambos Estate for \$15,000. Committee Recommendation to give the funds to the Technology Committee.

MOTION: Approve designated funds to be given to Technology Committee.

MOTION BY: D. Reinert **SECOND:** K. Weller **VOTE:** All in favor

2022 Budget Discussion

- A. Ross reviewed the 2022 proposed budget.
- He stated a recommendation of a 3% increase to staff salaries is being made.
- G. Clifford asked about the carryover balance in checking. P. Dadey stated funds are a combination of amounts from different places. G. Clifford asked to adjust funds in checking to show where the funds are from.
- A. Ross suggested increasing the Graveyard Maintenance amount from \$3,000 to \$4,000. Budget committee will review changes before presenting Draft budget.

MOTION: To present the proposed 2022 budget to congregation at Annual Meeting.

MOTION BY: D. Reinert **SECOND:** K. Weller **VOTE:** All in favor

Christian Education

Judy Reitz, Committee Chair

- Rally Day on 9/12 was a success with 120 in worship and 13 students in Sunday School.
- The children are dismissed after Pastor Steven's children's message which introduces the lesson. It was previously reported that the children would be divided into 2 age groups, however that is not happening due to the attendance. The children range from pre-kindergarten to grade 5. Marlene has established 4 teams of 2 teachers each - each team teaching once a month. The teachers try to end the lesson about the time the church service is ending. On 11/21 - the annual meeting- the children will have their regular lesson and be returned to their parents in the sanctuary.
- There are 3 adult classes being held each Sunday.

- Connect is meeting each Sunday after church services. As I mentioned in the correction to the minutes the group is led by Chad Gaiser and Wendy Elser.
- The pre-confirmation class led by Marlene with 5 students meets in the Social Room after the service. Pastor Steven leads the Confirmation class of 9 students after the service in Room 8. At last month's consistory meeting I reported that these classes would be meeting via Zoom. They are now in person right after the church service and not Sunday afternoon.
- Children between the ages of 2 and 12 are asked to wear masks. Children over 12 and not vaccinated are asked to wear masks. This policy will be reviewed when younger children are eligible to be vaccinated.
- New acolytes will be trained on October 17.
- Marlene is planning a play with readings and acting for the Christmas Eve children's service - just as she usually does.
- Again this year the Wish Tree recipients will receive a Goodie bag, book and activity ideas with their gifts from the congregation.
- Next Meeting November 30th.

Church and Ministry

Richard Zuber, Committee Chair

- A. Ross reported and committee met and discussed employee evaluations and budget.

Evangelism

Linda Okuniewski, Kay Nyman Co-Committee Chairs

- K. Nyman reported Committee met on September 22.
- Missions Committee offered the first ever Community Supper. Since both committees were meeting the same evening, we planned that both groups would join in a meal together once the last of the meals were served to the community. After sharing our meal, we broke into separate groups to conduct individual committee business, but before leaving, both committees met together to discuss ways we can help one another.
- "Welcome to the Community" bags and the Amity Harvest Festival on Oct 9, 2021. We have already obtained The majority of items we wish to include in our bags. In addition, we have drafted a Welcome letter to be included; but we still need a current brochure introducing St. Paul's UCC and all we have to offer. With the help of Pastor's New Member Program and Emily 's offers to help us using her Canvapro program, we are hoping to create a multi-purpose brochure that others may be able to use as well. Kay and I set a date to meet with Emily and Pastor if he is available October 22nd to work on it.
- Amity Harvest Festival. We will be representing St. Paul's UCC on Saturday, Oct. 9th. Our plan is to sell hot dogs and water as we did last year. This year we will be handing out hand sanitizers labeled with St. Paul's info to the community.
- Next meeting is scheduled for Weds. November 17th at 6:30 p.m.

Facilities

Doug Reinert, Ed Merkel, Committee Co-Chairs

- D. Reinert reported back ordered LED bulbs finally came for the pastor's and Marlene's office.
 - Joe Ceklosky found instructions how to open the sign to access the WIFI to sync to the church. We will finally be able to open now to utilize again.
 - \$600 Repair and replace basement window in Social Room storage area. \$4,900 Remove and replace awning and railing at lower entrance of the original Sunday School building.
 - Signed a two-year snow plow contract with Solid Rock Landscaping located across from the chapel.
- MOTION:** To spend 2021 Endowment Funds on replacing the awning and fixing basement windows.

MOTION BY: D. Reinert **SECOND:** G. Clifford **VOTE:** All in favor

Fellowship

Melissa Millard, Beth Krause, Committee Co-Chairs

- M. Millard reported Rally Day went well. She suggested a change from the Peach Pavilion.
- Committee working on a breakfast/brunch for Ned Farnsworth.

Missions

Marsha Pingitore, Brenda Haas, Committee Co-Chairs

- M. Pingitore reported committee met on September 22.
- Community Meal - served a total of 103 meals in 1 hour and 15. The portable Food Pantry was a hit. Received \$70 in donations from the community. Will discuss plans for our next event at our Oct meeting
- Open House at Mary's Shelter – Friday 10/8 from 10-6. The Open House is an invitation for the public to visit the newly renovated lower level, which will house their youth STRONG Program.
- Birdsboro Community Meal October 26th. Due to change in meal delivery time, confirmation class is unable to prepare the meal. Missions/Evangelism members will prepare the meal.
- Crop Walk – Coordinator is Tammy Naus – October 17th at St. Marks
- Ned Farnsworth Visit – November 14th. We are planning an after-worship reception for Ned and his family. Pastor Steven will check with all the Sunday school classes to see if they can change their normal class events and instead join in FH for a brunch and presentation from Ned.
- St. Paul's Families - On behalf of the Mission Committee Marsha sent a Succulent arrangement/card to Dee. Evangelism had their meeting the same night so at the conclusion of both our meetings we gathered together to share in what both committees discussed.
- Next Meeting will be October 27th @ 7:00 Room 8

SPLASH

Gail Clifford, Committee Chair

- G. Clifford reported SPLASH is closed this week (October 4 – 8, 2021) due to two positive COVID cases reported on October 1, 2021. The children who tested positive are siblings. All of our afternoon children are required to quarantine from school. The parents of each child were notified over the weekend via email and a personal phone call. Marlene reported to the Department of Health, Office of Child Development, and Early Learning Center.
- We are pleased to share that we have two new families that were to start SPLASH this week (we will see them next week) and an additional family that plans to join us in November.
- M. Dadey stated SPLASH received another grant for \$48,000.

Technology Committee

Joe Ceklosky, Committee Chair

- J. Ceklosky reported committee met to review the 2022 proposed budget.
- Website updates are being made. They will include a Giving Menu, changes to the youth group section, links to YouTube video channels, and an admin ability to do weekly stream and bulletin postings.
- Next meeting Monday, October 18th.

Worship and Music

Michele Ross, Committee Chair

- M. Ross reported next meeting on October 18th.

Youth Ministry

Lori Falstich, Committee Chair

- L. Falstich reported committee met September 13.
- Youth groups were held September 8th (10 in attendance) and 22nd (15 in attendance).
- We hosted a family movie night 9/25 with low attendance. We will be re-evaluating the plan for future movie nights.
- October youth groups are scheduled for 10/6 & 10/20.
- Youth Group will be serving at Hope Rescue on October 13.
- We will host a youth/family event at Wilcox Corn Maze on October 24 at 3:00 pm.
- We are looking into an Applebee's fundraiser for November.
- We will also be selling youth group t-shirts as a fundraiser in the near future. Our t-shirts will feature this year's youth group theme: "align" which comes from Proverbs 3:5-6: "trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

- We are suspending the Giant/Redners gift cards due to lack of volunteers to properly run the program. We will certainly revisit the idea in the future if we have some volunteers.
- Youth Ministry Committee will meet again October 11.

Deacons

- No Report

Elders

- No Report

Other Committee Reports

Fundraising Committee

- M. Ross reported No Cook Sundays will continue in January. Sold 150 Apple Dumplings.

Old Business

New Business

- Devotions – Kathy Weller

Nominating Committee

- A. Ross reported working on filling positions.

Expenditure Approvals

- **MOTION:** Approve SPLASH payment request as follows:
Up to \$500 – Supplies
- **MOTION:** Approve CE payment requests as follows:
Up to \$100 – Materials for SS
\$59.30 – Pre-confirmation Curriculum
Up to \$300 – Christmas Eve supplies
- **MOTION:** Approve Facility payment request as follows:
\$600.00 – Repair and Replace Basement Window in Social Room
\$4,900 – Remove and Replace Awning and Railing in Lower entrance of original building
- **MOTION:** Approve Missions Committee payment request as follows:
\$1000.00 – Hope Rescue Missions
\$250.00 – Hope Love
\$250.00 – Amity Fire Company
\$250.00 – Monarch Fire Company
\$50.00 – The Truth Collective (Sara Racine)
\$50.00 – On Common Ground Kerry Kuhn Street Ministry (Monthly)]
- **MOTION:** Approve Evangelism payment request as follows:
Up to \$150 – Welcome to the Community Bags
Up to \$300 – Welcome to the Community Bags
- **MOTION:** Approve Technology payment request as follows:
\$119.40 – Web Hosting Fee
- **MOTION:** Approve Custodial payment request as follows:
\$340.00 – Supplies

MOTION BY: G. Clifford

SECOND: M. Ross

VOTE: All in favor

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:42pm.

- Next Consistory meeting was set for November 3 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Kehoe
Secretary