

**St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Amityville
Consistory Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2024**

Present – Brian Casner, Curt Clifford, Marlene Dadey, Peter Dadey, Lori Falstich, Brenda Haas, Autumn Herbst, Jackie Hertzog, John Johnson, Judy Leister, Susan Lincoln, Kay Nyman, Heidi Pennypacker, Marsha Pingitore, Doug Reinert, Marianne Reinert, Judy Reitz, Alan Ross, Michele Ross, Martha Sitrler, Kathy Weller, Rich Zuber, Pastor Steven
Devotions were given by Marianne Reinert.

President Curt Clifford called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed Pastor Steven back following his sabbatical. Quorum established.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Approve meeting minutes of August 7, 2024, as presented.

MOTION BY: Brenda Haas **SECOND:** Judy Leister **VOTE:** All in favor

Pastor's Report

Pastor Steven Simpson

- Pastor Steven reported that he was glad to be back and is feeling refreshed and grateful for all who stepped up to preach and carry on the work of the church during his absence.
- He has developed a program on the influence of African American spirituals on worship and is anxious to present it to the congregation.

Secretary's Report/ Correspondence

Martha Sitrler. Secretary

- No report

Treasurer's Report

Peter Dadey, Treasurer

	<u>August 2024</u>	<u>Full Year 2024</u>
Income	\$ 45,253	356,286
Expenses	56,949	367,384
Surplus/(Deficit)	(11,696)	(11,098)

Even with the income from the Peach Festival, we are running a deficit for the month (a 3-payroll month) and for the year. This is not unusual in late summer but is still concerning, considering our financial commitments for several major building repairs as well as the HVAC campaign.

President's Report

Curt Clifford, President

- No report

High Priority Business

- President Clifford suggested that Consistory establish a process for repaying the \$65,000 HVAC loan from the Endowment Fund. Discussion on how a previous loan had been managed ensued. The issue was referred to the Budget and Finance Committee to set up a repayment strategy.
- President Clifford also suggested that Consistory take action to designate half of this year's Endowment Fund distribution toward repayment of debt, as provided by the Church By-laws. Some discussion ensued but action was deferred to the Budget and Finance Committee's report on repayment strategy.

Committee Reports

Budget, Finance & Stewardship

Alan Ross, Committee Chair

- Alan stated that all committees should receive budget worksheets in the coming week and are due back by the end of September. Curt asked to be notified of the committee's next meeting date as he plans to attend.

Capital Campaign

Richard Zuber, Committee Chair

- Rich reported that the committee will meet in the next thirty days to assess the financial position of the HVAC campaign and to find ways to “tell the story” of what is needed to complete Phase 3 of the project.

Christian Education

Judy Reitz, Committee Chair

- Report emailed.
- Judy reported that the committee met by Zoom on August 20. \$500 collected at VBS was donated to the Daniel Boone Caring Closet to assist needy students.
- Sunday School classes resumed on September 8. A few more teachers are still needed.
- The Fall Festival will be held on October 27 following worship.

Church and Ministry

Richard Zuber, Committee Chair

- Interviewed and hired two cleaning people – one for the lower level including the SPLASH rooms, and one who will keep the upstairs, FLMC and sanctuary clean.
- Pastor Steven will include photos and an introduction of each in next Sunday’s bulletin.

Evangelism

Linda Okuniewski, Heidi Pennypacker Committee Co-Chairs

- Report emailed.
- Heidi stated that the committee will meet on October 3 to finalize plans for our participation in the Amity Township’s Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 19.
- She also reported that the committee gave out cookies at the Peach Festival and collected \$150 in donations for the Wish Tree.

Facilities

Brian Casner, Committee Chair

- Doug Reinert reported that the roof over the lower entrance to the Sunday School wing was still structurally sound, so only the outside roofing had to be replaced. The rubber roofing over the ramp door was also not as bad as it appeared and has also been repaired.
- All the shrubbery at the front entrance has been removed and half of the lower wall has been pressure-washed. The rest will be completed before the new steps are built.
- Rear driveway entrance paving will be put off until spring.
- Brian reported that CJ Diirner and Sons Roofing found significant cracks in the base of the steeple and cosmetic damage to the cupola on the Chapel. Discussion focused on the need to proceed with the steeple repairs as soon as possible to avoid possible injuries and further damage to the steeple. It was decided that the cupola repair could wait.

MOTION: To contract with C.J. Diirner to proceed with repairs to the steeple at an estimated cost of \$37,850 and to seek funding to cover the expense.

MOTION BY: Doug Reinert

SECOND: Brenda Haas

VOTE: All in favor

Fellowship

Judy Leister, Committee Chair

- Report emailed
- Committee hosted a Welcome Back party for the Pastor following worship on September 8 and will be working on the Fall Fest and the Annual Meeting luncheon.

HVAC

- Leibold has been out several times to address issues with the relays that control the amperage in the outside compressor unit for Stage 2 and to remove some kinked drain hose that was causing a leak in the wall.
- Baseboard heat will be installed this fall to provide back-up heat for rooms in the Sunday School wing.
- The date for the replacement of the Gym unit is October 14. Conrad Electric is determining if we need new wiring or breakers / an electrical permit.
- Dates will be determined for the installation or movement of dampers and thermostats in the Lower Level FLMC – completing Phase 3 of the HVAC Project.
- The total budget for Phase 3 is \$85,000, but the completed work is expected to greatly reduce our utility expenses on both levels of the FLMC.

Missions

Brenda Haas and Marsha Pingitore, Committee Co-Chairs

- Report emailed
- Brenda reported that the committee met on August 28.
- The next work day for Antietam Flood Relief is Saturday, September 21. There will also be a meeting on September 22 for volunteers from St. Paul's who would be interested in undertaking a home repair project of our own.
- CROP Walk is scheduled for 10/13. Rob and Kendra Hettel will coordinate our church team.
- The Committee is looking to place a Blessing Box stocked with non-perishable foods, basic toiletries, baby supplies, etc. The best location for the box is to be determined.
- A Craft/ Vendor/ Soup and Bake Sale is scheduled for October 12. Proceeds to benefit the Wish Tree.
- We are already planning to reprise our Live Nativity following the Tree Lighting at the Middle School on December 7

Sabbatical

Judy Leister, Committee Chair

- The Sabbatical Committee will meet with Pastor Steven on Monday, September 23 at 5:30 p.m.

SPLASH

Marianne Reinert, Committee Chair

- Marianne reported that the Fall term is running smoothly.

Technology Committee

Kay Nyman, Committee Chair

- Report emailed.
- Joe will be updating the firewall and operating system on our computers.
- We are currently evaluating what equipment we can re-use from the Chapel and what needs to be purchased.
- The Live Stream Schedule has been completed through November, but we are always seeking additional volunteers to join the team.

Worship and Music

Michele Ross, Committee Chair

- Will meet Monday, September 16.

Youth Committee

Lori Falstich, Committee Chair

- Report emailed.
- Lori reported that the Committee met on August 5 and September 9.
- Youth Group kick-off was 8/28. After losing a large group of seniors, we have a much younger group – mostly 5th graders. All ages will meet weekly.
- Bob Lenz/ Dignity Evolution is expected to be at Daniel Boone schools on October 23 or 24. Volunteers are needed.

Deacons

- .Deacons have been visiting shut-ins, sending cards, and assisting members.

Elders/ Spiritual Council

- The Spiritual Council will meet on September 25.

Other Committee Reports

Nominating Committee

- Jackie Hertzog reported that the Nominating Committee has met and is making progress with filling the available church leadership positions.

Old Business

Curt Clifford reminded us that we need to set a date this fall for a Fire Drill to be held at the close of worship.

MOTION: To schedule a Fire Drill for Sunday, September 29.

MOTION BY: Michele Ross **SECOND:** John Johnson **VOTE:** All in favor

New Business

- President Curt explained that he spent some time this week studying the guidelines for applying for the Energy Rebates available to organizations that installed newer, more efficient heating or cooling systems. Before beginning the application for the church, we must pre-register by designating an authorized individual to complete the paperwork on our behalf.

MOTION: To authorize Curtis Clifford to file the preregistration application on behalf of St. Paul's United Church of Christ for an Energy Rebate through the Inflation Reduction Act.

MOTION BY: Kay Nyman **SECOND:** Alan Ross **VOTE:** All in favor

- **The next meeting will be changed to Wednesday, October 30. Note: We will combine the October and November meetings to facilitate the completion of the 2024 Annual Report in time for the Annual Congregational meeting on November 17.**

MOTION: To reschedule the next meeting of the Consistory to Wednesday, October 30 at 7:00 p.m. in lieu of the regular October and November meeting dates

MOTION BY: Lori Falstich **SECOND:** Susan Lincoln **VOTE:** All in favor

- **Devotions** – for that meeting will be given by Autumn Herbst.

Expenditure Motions – (Unbudgeted or >\$500)

MOTION: to approve the following non-budgeted expenses or payments exceeding \$500.

- **Request from SPLASH to pay Quigley Bus Service up to \$5000 for summer transportation.**
- **Request from Youth Committee to donate \$1000 to Dignity Evolution to help with their local school outreach programs.**

MOTION BY: Rich Zuber **SECOND:** Autumn Herbst **VOTE:** All in favor

Adjournment:

- At 8:47 pm.

MOTION BY: Rich Zuber **SECOND:** Autumn Herbst **VOTE:** All in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Sitler, Secretary