

Council minutes

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
Arlington, Massachusetts

7 February 2011

Council Members Present: Pastor Ross Goodman, Maile Hedlund, Mark Olson, Dana Ramish, Alison Roberts, Brian Sniffen, Wendy Stack, Chris Trost, George Wilson.

Also Present: Ken Heyda, Don Mitchell, Vicar C.J. Stratton.

Absent: Airin Cherian, Heather Sheridan.

Gathering

A quorum was gathered and we came together in God's name at 7:30PM. A candle was lit to remind us that Christ is present with us as we meet.

Check-In

We shared highlights of why and how we serve at St. Paul and our vocations in the world.

Agenda

The agenda was accepted.

Devotions

Alison Roberts then led a devotion on salt. Next month, Brian Sniffen will lead devotions.

Hymn

We sing *Goodness is stronger than evil* (721).

Word

Minutes

The minutes of January's council meeting were accepted as amended.

Financial Reports

The books from last year are closed, but we have no new reports from the Congregational meeting to review tonight. We'll review January and February's reports in March.

We apparently made an error in how we accounted for the mortgage payments and the Intern's salary. Our internal accounting of the running balance of the mortgage was off by one month's payments. We failed to properly report the housing allowance that we use for the intern.

Motion 1. *We agree to hire a tax consultant to help figure out how to minimize the impact to C.J. and to the church.*

MOVED, SECONDED, CARRIED.

New business

Election of officers

We nominate Mark Olson as President, Dana Ramish as Vice President, and Brian Sniffen as Secretary.

Motion 2. *The slate is moved.*

MOVED, SECONDED, CARRIED.

George Wilson volunteers to remain involved as chair of the Personnel committee.

Appointment of Treasurer

Motion 3. *We appoint Key Heyda as Treasurer.*

MOVED, SECONDED, CARRIED.

Motion 4. *We appoint Don Mitchell as Financial Secretary.*

MOVED, SECONDED, CARRIED.

Social ministry

Motion 5. *We approve the request of the Social Ministry to donate \$500 from account N7 to support the “Building with Haiti” initiative established by the Lutheran Campus Ministries in Boston-Cambridge.*

MOVED, SECONDED, CARRIED.

Next regular council meeting: 14 March 2011 at 7:30PM.

These minutes can be found online at <http://evenmere.org/~bts/Church/>.

Updates

AT&T would like a larger support footprint behind the main building. They're offering about \$5014 per year. We're working on how to plan to spend that money. Capital maintenance sounds awfully tempting.

Marilyn Waehler and Vicar Stratton have assembled the ministry fair for next week. Please invite members of the congregation to attend.

We discuss the management structure of the church: that we have no Finance committee, and that such might be the best way to handle our needs for continuity in treasurer and financial secretary staffing.

Don Mitchell explains the structure of the Financial Secretary's report.

Pastoral reports

Pastor Goodman asks quickly: what if we had a joint service for next year's annual meeting at 9AM, then a brunch, then an annual meeting? A few alternatives are suggested¹, then we move on to a poll about alternative bulletins.

Vicar Stratton reports that the Youth made \$169 from the jewelry sale. That was quite successful, so we'll try it again. The snow has canceled many things.

Meal

Pastor Goodman gathers us in prayer and leads communion at 9:21PM.

Respectfully submitted, Brian Sniffen

¹e.g., bring the meeting into the church, or have breakfast-meeting-10:15-service.