

St. Mark's Council Meeting Minutes

December 18, 2014 at 4:30 pm

Attending Council Members: Joanne Christ, Warren Maas, Paul Schelin, Dennis Christian, Linda Brandt, Betsy Hsiao, Jim Huber, Sarah Nowlin, Minnie Steele, George Ewing, Kathleen Murphy, Christine Slater, Christopher Williams, Veronica Guevara, John Nuechterlein,
Guest: Brian Myers
Attending Clergy: Rev. Paul Lebens-Englund, Rev Lowell Johnson
Attending Staff: Pat Betsinger
Clerk: Iris Key

Joanne Christ calls the meeting to order at 4:30pm.

Minutes

Iris Key presents minutes from previous two Council meetings. MOTION to approve minutes from Council meeting on November 20, 2014, with a correction: remove sentence relating to minutes from the section on Sound and Lighting projects. M/S Sarah, Kathleen. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer's Report

Paul Schelin presents report. MOTION to approve treasurer's report. M/S Veronica, Sarah. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Warden's Reports

- a. Bill Donovan's gift: Joanne Christ reports that Gift Acceptance Committee determined that an endowed honorarium will begin thanks to a revised gift from Bill Donovan. A guest sermoner will be paid for every other year from a fund provided by his gift.
- b. An addition to the Council rules: Joanne reads the Resolution for Clergy Housing Allowance for actual expenses for owning or renting a home; the allowance is not taxable. MOTION to accept the resolution. M/S Sarah, Veronica. Approved by unanimous voice vote.
- c. Thank-yous: Warren discusses a system for thank-you letters. They are to be drafted by a Spiritual Life Committee member, prepared by Clerk, and signed by appropriate stakeholder. Input on this system is required from a Spiritual Life Committee member.
- d. New Council members: Warren suggests that outgoing Council members share a luncheon with incoming Council members.

Bishop's Report: ECMN Council: Minnie Steele reports that 14 people were nominated for the ECMN Council. She reports that meeting of elected bodies will meet January 10, and the Chapter will meet on January 13. Family Fun Night on February 6.

Dean's Office Report: Father Paul reports on plans for the Council retreat at Shattuck-St. Mary's on February 13 and 14. Father Paul has met with Reverend Justin P. Chapman, of Faribault's Cathedral of our Merciful Savior, to discuss sharing missions by raising funds in their respective communities and

through ECMN.

Commission Reports

- a. Outreach: Veronica Guevara reports that the Outreach Commission will meet with Father Paul about the committee's mission and outreach, including ECMN goals and potential fundraising.
- b. Dean's Welcoming Center Task Force: Linda Brandt reports on this Task Force, created to discuss signage, entrances, and other issues relating to improving reception of newcomers. A six-month exploratory phase will explore issues, and find some short-term solutions.
- c. Communications: Betsy Hsiao reports on website traffic.
- d. Cathedral Life: Sarah Nowlin reports that Annual Meeting on January 25 will take place at 9 or 9:15am in the Nave; results will be ready before the end of the 10:30am service. January 18th: Coffee with the Dean will be devoted to the Council candidates.

Council Committee Reports

- a. Finance: Brian Myers, designated chair, reviews proposed operating budget for 2015, with references to historical budgeted and actual expenses and revenues. Paul reports on two added stipendiary, project-driven positions: beginning in January, Coordinator of pastoral, liturgy and event plans, and beginning in June, a programs coordinator for family enrichment, faith formation at home. Discussion of front desk reception needs. M/S Jim Huber, Chris Slater. Approved by unanimous voice vote.
- b. Property: Kathleen Murphy reports that Committee met with City of Minneapolis to learn about their assessment practice. Planters divide parking from sidewalk. New lighting is installed in nave. Parking lot heating system is in progress to connect boiler to heating pipe system. Reminder of Cathedral Property Guidelines.
- c. Stewardship: Dennis Christian reports on number of pledges gathered for 2015. Discussion of interest in collecting donations at evening events, such as Lessons and Carols.
- d. Governance: Warren Maas reports that the Governance Committee recommends a new format for Council meetings, to be discussed by Council in January. Paul briefly elaborates on the format, which is based on Claude Payne's model (retired Bishop of Texas): in which every committee or commission meets at the same night as the Council meeting. Goal is to facilitate participation, improve efficiency, and encourage committee-driven accomplishment. The format will be discussed in depth at the upcoming retreat.

The Committee recommends that engaging a law firm to assist with development of contracts.

- e. Human Resources: Report printed in meeting materials.

Announcements and Celebrations

Rev. Lowell praises congregation's care for the late Evan Karges and comments on how his memory is being honored by activities at Saint Mark's.

Joanne reminds Council of potluck: January 8, at 6:00pm, 2724 Irving Avenue South.

Closing Prayer

