

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH & WESLEY FOUNDATION**  
**December 8, 2020**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Voting Members:** Jack Basiago, Sam Bonsall, Rebecca Connelly, Dave Flick, Jane Harris, Kelly Grimes, Scarlett Miller, Phil Mohr, Al Stewart, Darrin Thornton

**Non-voting Members:** Becky McGee, Greg Milinovich, Sarah Voigt

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

The minutes of the Oct. 27, 2020, meeting were approved.

**TRUSTEES' MOTION:**

The following motion, approved by the Board of Trustees on Nov. 19, 2020, was presented to Church Council for consideration:

**Motion 1:** That the "balance" of the monthly rental from Building 4 be directed to the operating fund instead of the St. Paul's Growth Fund for the 2021 calendar year. The "balance" will be the monthly rental income of \$5,500 minus the cost incurred from the IT project and minus any costs incurred from Building 4. The projected amount to be directed to the operating budget per month is \$4,100.

**Discussion:** K. Grimes noted that the same thing was done during the 2020 calendar year. She stated that we seldom incur costs from Building 4, as everything is paid by the lessee.

**Vote:** A vote was taken on Motion 1; the motion passed unanimously.

**PASTOR BECKY'S BASE SALARY:**

A. Stewart explained that the Conference had increased the wage requirements for associate pastors approximately 1½ years ago, but that unfortunately we were not aware of it. The result is that Pastor Becky was underpaid in 2020 by \$1,380; additionally, the 2021 compensation forms filed by the PPRC for Pastor Becky were short by \$1,380. The 2021 forms have been revised to reflect a base salary of \$47,328 and reaccepted by the PPRC. They have been presented to Church Council for reacceptance.

**Motion 2:** That Pastor Becky's 2021 base salary be increased to \$47,328.

**Discussion:** D. Flick asked if Pastor Becky would be compensated for the 2020 shortfall as well. S. Bonsall stated it would be appropriate to offer a separate motion retroactive to Jan. 1, 2020, to reinstate and disburse the difference.

**Vote:** A vote was taken on Motion 2; the motion passed unanimously.

The following motion was then made:

**Motion 3:** That Pastor Becky's base salary for calendar year 2020 be retroactively set to \$47,328 and that a payment of \$1,380 to adjust her salary be made to her by Dec. 31, 2020.

**Discussion:** There was no further discussion.

**Vote:** A vote was taken on Motion 3; the motion passed unanimously.

## **2021 BUDGET:**

S. Bonsall presented the preliminary budget for 2021 as approved by the Finance Committee. He noted the following:

1. The proposed budget is based on a projected pledge total of \$723,475. That number came from the total pledges received when the proposal was prepared and scaled up based on the percentage of the total pledges that were received as of the same week in the stewardship campaign last year.
2. As of Dec. 4, commitments for 2021 stand at about \$644,000. Compared with data from prior years, we're about 96% of the way through our cumulative actual pledging, which suggests total pledges may come in at about \$670,000, lower than the projected total.
3. A video appeal that will be sent to the congregation this week, asking those who haven't returned their pledge cards to consider doing so. Additionally, they are investigating instances where people have said they mailed their cards but the church office has not received them.
4. As a reminder, the budget presented for approval tonight is preliminary. Adjustments will be made if required as we move into 2021.

The discussion that following included the following:

1. K. Grimes asked about the status of the CARES Act funding the church had received, which was about \$206,300. Of that, \$94,000 has been used for the preschool. S. Bonsall stated that the remaining funds have not been used elsewhere in the church due to a great deal of uncertainty about how the federal government is going to audit the use of the funds for loan forgiveness. While the preschool obviously experienced an adverse impact due to the shutdown and decrease in enrollment, he's not sure we could make the same case for the church, since we were able to keep up with the church payroll without assistance. Tammy Peterson is looking into how loan forgiveness is to be determined. With additional guidance, we might be able to apply more of the funds.

2. S. Miller asked how the preschool's net ordinary income compared to previous years. S. Bonsall stated that it's much better than last year – income is down, but because of personnel changes, expenses are down even more.
3. Regarding the 2021 budget, R. Connelly asked when the Finance Committee had estimated that the church would reopen for in-person worship. S. Bonsall stated that their rough assumption was that we would have in-person services for half the year; the estimate of plate offerings was based on that timeframe.

The following motion was then made:

**Motion 4:** That the preliminary 2021 budget presented by the Finance Committee be approved.

**Discussion:** There was no further discussion.

**Vote:** A vote was taken on Motion 4; the motion passed unanimously.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

G. Milinovich commented on the recent letter from Bishop Park urging all churches in the conference to avoid in-person gatherings of any kind, at least through the end of the year. Accordingly, there are no meetings going on at St. Paul's right now, including the scouts and the Shoe Bank. Our Christmas Eve service will be virtual.

S. Miller thanked S. Voigt and B. McGee for the virtual children's Sunday school program they have put together.

D. Flick thanked Council members for their service in 2020. The next meeting is on Feb. 23, 2021.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Harris, Church Council Secretary