

**St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Amityville**  
**Consistory Meeting Minutes**  
**July 9, 2025**

**Present** – Stacey Ambrose, Curt Clifford, , Billy Harrison, Jackie Hertzog, Judy Leister, Kay Nyman, Linda Okuniewski, , Marsha Pingitore, Doug Reinert, Marianne Reinert, Judy Reitz, Michele Ross, Martha Sitler, Kathy Weller, Rev. Don Epps.

Devotions were given by Jackie Hertzog.

President Curt Clifford called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The secretary confirmed that we did not have a quorum present, so all motions will need to be confirmed at our next meeting.

**Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION:** Approve meeting minutes of June 11 as presented.

**MOTION BY:** Marianne Reinert      **SECOND:** Judy Leister      **VOTE:** All in favor (Ratified in August)

**Minister's Report**

**Rev. Don Epps**

- Report was emailed.
- Rev. Epps shared a list of his considerable activities this month in support of his request that his position be expanded from ½ time to ¾ time and that a part-time Minister's Assistant be hired to assist with calls, scheduling and "other duties as required."
- He also shared a photo of a four-legged stool illustrating the four responsibilities of the Office of Minister: Spiritual Leader, Teaching, Pastor, and Preaching.

**Secretary's Report/ Correspondence**

**Martha Sitler. Secretary**

- No correspondence. No report

**Treasurer's Report**

**Peter Dadey, Treasurer**

	<u>June 2025</u>	<u>Full Year 2025</u>
<b>Income</b>	\$ 44,057	276,493
<b>Expenses</b>	37,403	266,103
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	6,653	10,390

**President's Report**

**Curt Clifford, President**

- President Clifford stated that he has heard quite a bit of dissention over the need for air conditioning the Sanctuary. He has asked the Budget and Finance Committee to analyze large capital expenses that may be required in the next five years as well as estimated costs for installing and maintaining an air conditioning system in the sanctuary and social room. When we have the facts, the issue can be discussed and decided at the Annual Meeting in November.

**High Priority Business**

- Mr. Clifford returned to the proposal to create a new position of Minister's Assistant. This part time (5 – 10 hours per week) position would fall under Church and Ministry. Rev. Epps has expressed his desire to have Kathy Weller take the position.
- Marianne Reinert stated that these requests, as well as Rev. Epps' request to increase the number of hours he can work were discussed with Church and Ministry. Consistory members had numerous questions regarding finance and personnel issues. Discussion was postponed until the Church and Ministry Committee is prepared to address the concerns. Marianne said she expects the committee will meet again before the end of July.

**Committee Reports**

### **Worship**

**Judy Reitz, Committee Chair**

- Report emailed.
- Judy reported that the date for Summer Communion scheduled for August 10 will be changed to Sunday, September 7 due to Rev. Epps' vacation. Curt Clifford will work on finding a substitute minister for 8/10.

### **Youth**

**Stacey Ambrose, Committee Chair**

- Stacey reported that Rev. Epps met on July 7 with the Youth Committee and several guests to discuss ideas, goals, and programs to increase the number of youths involved in all our activities.
- Ideas included offering more family activities, possibly moving the Youth Group meetings back to Sunday evenings, and finding ways for our youth to participate in church events.

### **Budget, Finance & Stewardship**

**Bill Falstich, Committee Chair**

- Bill Falstich was not present but did send a report stating that halfway through the year we are on budget and expenses are running very close to revenues.
- The Committee endorsed hiring a new church sexton at a rate of \$12 per hour (approximately \$1,500 per year)
- He also stated that the Committee is working with Pastor Steven's new church to recover some medical and vision insurance costs that we pre-paid as per our separation agreement.

### **Capital Campaign**

**Rich Zuber, Committee Chair**

- Rich was not present but sent a report that pledges of \$21,000 ~~in~~ remain to be paid by the end of January 2026.
- Curt added that we currently have \$29,000 in a Money Market account earmarked specifically for-paying back the loan from the Endowment Fund.

### **Christian Education**

**Wendy Elser, Committee Chair**

- Wendy is away but emailed her report.
- We had a successful week of Vacation Bible School. Thanks to all who helped during the week.
- Marlene is still looking for several more Sunday School teachers for both age groups this fall. No teaching experience necessary.

### **Church and Ministry**

**Richard Zuber, Committee Chair**

- Marianne Reinert reported that Julia Leady has been hired a church sexton and has already begun her training.

### **Evangelism**

**Kathy Weller, Heidi Pennypacker Committee Co-Chairs**

- Report emailed.
- Kathy reported that the committee will meet tomorrow evening to finalize plans for their presence at the Peach Festival.
- We have updated the church brochure and will be making copies in-house to save costs.

### **Facilities**

- Mike Rackey has resigned as committee chair but is still working on our behalf receiving quotes for blacktopping the lower driveway.
- The Committee will meet on Tuesday, July 15.

### **Fellowship**

**Judy Leister, Committee Chair**

- Report emailed.
- Judy reported that the Fellowship time following worship continues to go well and will be scheduled once or twice each month.

### **HVAC**

**Judy Leister and Kay Nyman, Committee Co-Chairs**

- Report emailed.
- Our 1-year warranty on the LG Mini Splits and FLMC Dining Room Rheem unit was up on May 31, so we are now on manufacturer parts and labor warranty – which varies between 5 – 10 years. Leibold has completed the preventive maintenance on those units as well as the unit serving the gym. This maintenance must be performed twice-yearly by a certified service technician in order to keep the manufacturer's warranty valid.  
**MOTION: To sign a one-year contract with Leibold to provide Biannual Maintenance Service on the LG units in the office wing and the Rheem unit in the FLMC.**

**MOTION BY:** Rich Zuber      **SECOND:** Mike Rackey      **VOTE:** This motion was made at the June meeting but was tabled until we received prices from Leibold and/or any other qualified service providers. The maintenance agreement with Leibold will be \$3300 for the 13 LG units and \$2200 for the Rheem units in the FLMC. No other qualified providers were found.

**VOTE:** All in favor (Ratified in August)

- Rev. Epps has secured a donor, Ned Selwyn, Jr. who will cover the total \$13,000 cost of air conditioning the Chapel to the Glory of God and in memory of his parents Ned and Louise Selwyn.

**MOTION: To accept the \$13,000 donation and proceed with air conditioning the Chapel.**

**MOTION BY:** Judy Leister      **SECOND:** Linda Okuniewski      **VOTE:** All in favor (Ratified in Aug.)

### Missions

**Michele Ross, Committee Chair**

- Report emailed.
- Michele listed the dates remaining for help with Disaster Relief in the Antietam area: July 11, 12, 25 and 26. We hope to complete the last few projects by the end of August.
- The Committee has decided to postpone the placement of the Blessing Box until we find a more sustainable location for it. Instead, we are collecting cereal and snack items for Fostering Hope.
- Rev. Epps shared ideas with the Committee on recruiting auxiliary help with Mission projects using people who prefer not to commit to attending monthly meetings.
- Next meeting – July 17 at 6:30.

### Peach Festival

**Marianne Reinert, Committee Chair**

- The date for this year's event is Saturday, August 16. Stephanie Grace will provide music from 3 – 6 p.m.

### Settled Pastor Search

**Billy Harrison, Committee Chair**

- Billy stated that the Committee has been working on the Long Profile which is intended to showcase our congregation to prospective candidates. When we finish polishing our answers, the document will be shared with Rev. Epps and then sent to Rev. McLemore at the Conference office for suggestions and final revisions. We hope to have the form posted by the end of August.

### SPLASH

**Marianne Reinert, Committee Chair**

- Marianne reported that Summer SPLASH is going very well, and Rev. Epps gave high praise to the children and to the staff.

### Technology Committee

**Kay Nyman, Committee Chair**

- Report emailed.
- The Committee met on June 16.
- Recent storms knocked out our computer firewall which has now been replaced. Special thanks to Joe Ceklosky for his long hours spent getting the new system installed and running.
- The new sound system has been installed in the FLMC including a new internet access port and a house mic, improving the sound quality and ease of use.
- The next meeting is scheduled for July 21 at 7:30.

**Technology/ Communications Sub-Committee**

- Report emailed.
- The Committee met on June 18.
- We have now completed the third month of the digital newsletter and the Weekly Word. Marlene continues to print and mail copies as requested, but these may have to be shortened to avoid paying extra postage.
- We are still looking for each Committee Chair or designee to send articles about the purpose and activities of **their** committee.
- Remember to send articles to [Communciations@stpaulsuccamity.org](mailto:Communications@stpaulsuccamity.org)
- The deadline for the August Newsletter is July 23. Deadline for the Weekly Word is the Monday before it is to appear.
- The Communications Committee will meet again on July 30.

#### **Turkey/ Ham Supper**

**Marianne Reinert**

- No report

#### **Deacons**

- No report

#### **Elders/ Spiritual Council**

- No report

#### **Other Committee Reports**

**Home Association** – Marianne reported that several contractors are working at the parsonage.

**Circle of Friends** – will tour Reading Coffee Roasters and enjoy a beverage and pastry on Wed. August 13. Reservations and \$15 payment are due by July 30.

#### **Old Business**

None

#### **New Business** – None

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 13. A PICNIC meal will be held at Doug and Marianne Reinert's home beginning at 5:30 p.m. – Meal will start at 6:00. A separate sheet will be sent out for your pot-luck choices.**

Our Consistory meeting will follow. Devotions for that meeting will be given by Michele Ross.

#### **Expenditure Motions – (Unbudgeted or >\$500)**

None

#### **Adjournment:**

- At 10:08 pm.

**MOTION BY:** Jackie Hertzog      **SECOND:** Kathy Weller      **VOTE:** By Consensus

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Sitler, Secretary