



Saint Paul's United Church of Christ Congregational Meeting

**Sunday, February 25, 2024
10:30am**

In-Person, In the Sanctuary & Zoom
regular Zoom login information

Meeting ID# 863 5931 7508 To call in: 1-646-876-9923

Meeting Agenda

<i>Please submit any new business items to the Consistory president by 10:30am.</i>
Call to Order —Doug Johnson, Consistory President
Opening Prayer —Pastor Margaret Ernst
Review of October 2023 Congregational Meeting Minutes & VOTE
Review End of Year 2023 Financial Review & VOTE —Dave Johnson, Treasurer
Pastoral Transition Update
Community Engagement —Pastor Margaret Ernst & Stuart Wells
Old Business
Adjournment
Closing with the Lord's Prayer

Message from the Consistory President

Greetings St Paul's,

As St Paul's moves in to 2024 there is much to look forward to. Our transition team has finished the pastoral search profile and we are now actively seeking a new pastor to lead us into the future. Best wishes to Pastor Margaret as she moves forward and is able to focus on her ministries.

We already sponsored a community dinner. Thanks to Pat Babel for taking the lead and everyone who contributed their time, energy, and donations. St. Paul's is always looking for more and new ways to help out in the community.

Our bake at home pizza sale was comparative to last year, thanks to Dave and Diane Johnson and everyone who made purchases and took orders. We are still expecting to hold a fundraiser auction sometime this year however, it is still in the planning stages. If anyone has any ideas for future fundraisers, please contact someone in Consistory.

The Meet & Greets continue to be a valuable tool at keeping communications open.

Members of the congregation are continuing to assist with home communions which has proven to be rewarding in many ways. Anyone interested in joining this ministry, please contact someone on Consistory.

We are a small church with a lot of good people who have ideas and energy for improving the quality of life in Birdsboro and beyond.

Blessings, Doug Johnson, Consistory President

Pastoral Transition

The Church profile is now completed. The next step is to begin advertising for the pastor position. Rev. McLemore, Associate Conference Minister for Search & Call for the PSEC, met with the transition team following worship Sunday, February 18 to discussion of the upcoming process.

One copy of the profile is on the side door table. If you would like your own copy of the profile, you can visit our website (tab under Connect/Member's Section/Pastoral Transition) or contact the church office to have one printed for you.

Community Engagement Update

After welcoming folks, praying, a quick recap of our last meeting and having dinner.....

Pat posed a question for the group related to the topic (which I embarrassingly forget what the question was.) Then Pastor Margaret spoke about lessons & examples we can learn from and framed mutual aid networks as relational networks of community cooperation for the common good. Next, John briefly discussed identifying local social justice issues. He used the example of how some people in Birdsboro can't afford to pay all of their bills and have to choose—meaning many can't pay for their water/sewer bill and end up skipping showers and skimping on water use. Is there a way to make water more affordable for those in need?

Next, we split into small breakout groups by the dinner tables we were sitting at, each table discussed the printout articles/materials they had at their tables. The tables didn't have the same printed material but had different stuff to look at and discuss. Then we regrouped and had open discussions about the entire group's thoughts. We decided the next step will be to widely publicize our next gathering to the community to try to make a large meeting event. Rough target date for this meeting will be by the end of January.

In the meantime, we've formed two teams: One team to plan and organize the public launch event (the big meeting to broaden community support and awareness) and organize the venue meal etc. The other team will be planning the structure and organization of our mutual aid network. Similar to MTBB, these two teams will set their own meetings to work on their tasks. We did not set team meeting dates at the Community Dialogue Dinner on Wednesday.

Structure Team: Stuart & Lenette, John Hunter, Tom Adil, Pat Babel.

Event Team: Barb Headman, Barb Kerper, Pastor Margaret, Rob R.

It's possible a few more people might join a team since several interested folks were not able to make it to the meeting.

We closed with the poem "The Low Road" by Marge Piercy.

Congregational Meeting Minutes / October 29, 2023

Congregational Meeting 10/29/23 began at 10:20 am

Doug Johnson - opening prayer

MINUTES - approved

- Nancy Hughes pointed out that there was an approval noted for the last meeting's minutes. (This was updated.)
- Stuart Wells made a motion to accept the minutes with corrections.
- Nancy Hughes seconded the motion and all approved
- June 27 minutes – Lenette Wells made motion to approve and Sandi Swavely seconded.

Budget - Dave Johnson

- Cornerstone - percentage going up
- Janeen Adil used a pie dish to show an example of our budget - if it was in 10 pieces, 9 of those pieces go to building, grounds, staff, etc. Only one piece for everything else in a church called by JESUS.
- We need a new way of looking at things.
- Talked of flexibility but there was a lot I could not hear.
- Janeen does not have an answer to this problem but wanted everyone to be aware.
- Sandi - we cut back easy to raise money. Auction will benefit community.

St. Paul's UCC Leadership

Consistory Leadership 2023 / 2024

Doug Johnson, President

Stuart Wells, Sandi Swavely, Janeen Adil

Pat Babel, Secretary

Dave Johnson, Treasurer

Vice-president spot undeclared

Supporting Ministers

Pastor Margaret Ernst

Janeen Adil, Minister of Christian

Spirituality

Luwaina Baker, Administrative Asst.

Barbara Kerper, Sexton

Sara Lambert, Bookkeeper

Church Office Hours

Tues—Thurs 8:30am-1:00pm

Pastor Margaret's Office Hours

Wed—Thurs 11:00am—3:00pm

Ways to stay connected to St. Paul's UCC

office@stpaulsbirdsboro.org

610-582-8461

www.stpaulsbirdsboro.org

“Like” us on Facebook

Sign up for weekly E-News