

Minutes

St. Paul Denver ECC Council Meeting

September 9, 2023

Attendees: Mary Pero, Council President
Carla Wolin, Vice President
Sue Kaessner, Treasurer
Sue Hester, Secretary (zoom)
Liz Begalla, Council Representative to Region (zoom)
Fr. Don Sutton, pastor
Congregation member: David Kottenstette

Financial Update, Sue K.

Sue presented 3 reports:

- Expense/Revenue, 1/1/23-6/30/23
- Income/Expense Report, 1/1/23-August, 2023 (to be re-named “Budget Report”)
- Income/Expense Report, August, 2023

Revenue has been \$27,082 to date, and receipts are steady. Agreed to the following action items:

1. Carla and Liz asked for reports as to their donations vs. their pledges for the year.
2. Fr. Don will ask congregation as part of announcements whether they would like a report of donations vs. pledges.
3. Sue H will put this in the newsletter.
4. Fr. Don will find out more about contract bookkeeping services the Region is using to see if we could use this service. Motion presented and passed by Council to pay up to \$60 per month for such a service.
5. Sue K will correct Michael’s title to “Pastoral Support” on the financial reports.
6. Michael’s stipend is labeled “housing;” Fr. Don will check with the Regional Council to ensure it is possible to have two pastors receiving stipends labeled housing.

Celebration of ECC’s Two Year Anniversary at Sixth Avenue, (joint ECC UCC celebration scheduled for Saturday, September 16, after Mass).

This will be discussed at the Pastors' meeting on Monday with plans finalized then. Bobbie will be asked to join us.

Women's Homeless Initiative, discussion about how ECC can better support.

ECC has been assisting UCC monthly with the "Lunch Brigade," but would like to do more in a leadership or support role. Some ideas discussed were to do a separate ECC Lunch Brigade preparing lunches at the church, or identifying 5-6 volunteers to make 10 at home and consolidating them for delivery at the church. Irene has offered to lead this effort. Mary will talk with Irene and will get back to us as what will work best.

There was also discussion of having Diana Flahive come as a guest speaker so that ECC may be more educated as to what all CHUM and the WHI is doing.

Educational Programs After Mass

Agreed that ECC will host monthly or bi-monthly educational programs to include wine and cheese for about 45 minutes-one hour after mass beginning again this Fall.

Fr. Don will contact Diana Flahive to determine her availability for a date toward the end of September.

Fr. Don will ask Chris Gilmore to talk with us about the UCC.

Congregation will be asked for other topics of interest via announcements and in the newsletter.

Missals

Fr. Don will order Missals to replace the ones expiring.

Parish Mailing Lists

Sue H maintains the Constant Contact list, but it is not downloadable. The last membership list was developed by Sue in March 2021 in connection with the process of identifying St. Paul ECC members eligible to vote in the election for Bishop. Agreed that we won't do anything at this time, but if people need information from the Constant Contact list to contact Sue H.

Constitution

Mary led a discussion through much of the current Constitution and will revise it accordingly and send out another draft. It was agreed to re-name the “Distinctives” to “Belief Statements.”

Sue H will check the files to see if we have a signed copy of the Constitution in the files. Question: will we need to file the finalized, updated Constitution with the Region and/or the State of Colorado. Sue will check with Greg.

Mary of Magdala Society

Fr. Don and David attended a dinner with Bishop Pablo, and the Mary of Magdala Society was discussed. This Society’s goal is to support formation of clergy and others in the proclamation of the Gospel in progressive language. Fr. Don wants to support this effort, and will talk with Fr. Michael about the possibility of a Cabaret fundraiser. We will look for other ways to educate our community about these efforts through announcements and a newsletter article. David K. offered to write an article and provide to Sue H.

Next Council Meeting: October 14, 2023