

**UPG Parish & St. John's Windish Lutheran Church  
 Joint Council Meeting  
 SJW**

**Bethlehem, PA  
 January 17, 2023**

<b>Members Present:</b> Joe Bleier, Joe Boligitz, Sandy Butch, Susan DeAngelis, Lou Dravec, Kathy Fielding, Teryan Gerhard, Harmony Gubich, Bonnie Harper, Tracy Heberling, Buzz Heidecker, Mary Karol, David Kolman, Ron Leposa, Donna Mackaravitz, Linda Maule, Donna Musselman, Jeff Nelson, Gayle Nemeth, Ken Remaly, Kenda Riley, Tom Seifert, Stephanie Skinner, Linda Toltesi, Paul Toub, Susan Vitez			
<b>Members Excused:</b> Ron Dalla Piazza, Michel Lloyd			
<b>Members Absent:</b> Steve Granlund			
<b>Clergy/Staff members/Guests present:</b> Pastor Mike, Maria Skrilec, Catherine Ziel, Kevin Remaly, Mary Mann, Sharon Lintner, Nancy Kostas			
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Resolution</b>
<i>Call to Order</i>		@ 1902 by David Kolman, Sandy Butch, & Ken Remaly (presider)	
<i>Opening Prayer</i>		Offered by Pastor Mike	
<i>Approval of Agenda</i>		Motion to approve agenda as distributed made by: Ron Leposa 2 <sup>nd</sup> by: Susan Vitez	Approved unanimously
<i>Approval of Minutes December 20, 2022  January 09, 2023 Emergency Meeting</i>	Minutes were not sent as part of emailed reports	Approval of both sets of minutes deferred until February council meeting	
<i>Pastors Reports</i>	As distributed  Pastor Mike raised concern about his hours after Pastor Suzanne leaves on January 31,2023	Motion to approve Pastors reports made by: David Kolman 2 <sup>nd</sup> by: Donna Musselman Discussion deferred until the February joint council meeting to provide an opportunity for the executive committee to meet	Approved unanimously
<i>Treasurer's Updates</i>	LOC as submitted & explained by Catherine Ziel St. Peter's as submitted & explained by Joe Bleier St. John's Windish as submitted & explained by Maria Skrilec	Motion to approve submitted reports for the UPG & SJW made by: Sandy Butch 2 <sup>nd</sup> by: Donna Musselman	Approved unanimously

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<b><i>Staff Concerns</i></b>			
<b><i>Staff Reports</i></b>	As distributed		Informational
<b><i>Issues from Staff Meeting</i></b>	None		
<b><i>Committee Reports</i></b>			
<b><i>LOC</i></b>	As distributed		Informational
<b><i>St. Peter's</i></b>	As distributed		Informational
<b><i>St. John's</i></b>	As distributed		Informational
<b><i>Joint BAM</i></b>	Knitted hat/scarves distributed to 3 community organizations 1000+ signed holiday cards to taken to various nursing homes for distribution to residents Lenten project will be a food collection for the Lincoln elementary food pantry		Informational
<b><i>Property</i></b>	As distributed		Informational
<b><i>Worship &amp; Music Committee</i></b>	Next meeting is the end of January 2023		Informational
<b><i>Tech Team</i></b>	No report		
<b><i>Old Business</i></b>			
<b><i>COVID-19, Influenza, RSV</i></b>	COVID & flu case numbers remain elevated; COVID numbers likely low due to positive at home tests not being reported unless treatment or hospitalization necessary Flu case numbers higher than previous years RSV case numbers not being		Informational

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	reported as often		
<b><i>Unity Team Report</i></b>	<p>Sharon Lintner new member from SJW Letters from the Bethlehem Parking Authority &amp; attorney reviewed Reviewed merger documents</p> <p>Recommendation from the Unity Team to the joint council that any communication from the Synod regarding the blending/merging of Blessed Trinity should also include the pastors, three (3) council presidents, three (3) unity team co-chairs, &amp; Mary Mann as the unity Team synod liaison</p> <p>Meeting with the NEPA synod for the purpose of reviewing the call process will be held @ STP on January 31, 2023 Next Unity Team meeting will be held on February 12 February 18, 2023</p>	<p>A motion to accept the Unity Team report made by: Donna Musselman 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Sandy Butch</p> <p>A motion to accept the Unity Team recommendation made by: Joe Boligitz 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Bonnie Harper</p>	<p>Approved unanimously</p> <p>Approved unanimously</p> <p>Informational</p> <p>Informational</p>
<b><i>Communication Plan Update</i></b>	<p>Prayer vigils</p> <p>Communication process, as outlined at the emergency joint council meeting held on January 09, 2023, seems to have had favorable results</p>	<p>3 prayer vigils will be held on January 17, 2023</p>	<p>Informational</p> <p>Letter received from the Bethlehem Parking Authority rescinding threat to seize the SJW surface parking lot via eminent domain</p>
<b><i>New Business</i></b>			

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<i>Sale of Properties</i>	See below		
<i>Reschedule of Congregational Meetings &amp; Voting Procedure</i>	Recommendation to the joint council made by the Unity Team that a joint special congregational meeting date be set on Sunday, February 05, 2023, with a reschedule date if necessary of Sunday, February 12, 2023, @ STP following the morning service to vote on the acceptance of the Plan & Agreement of Merger (with the revised exhibit A & exhibit C) which includes Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church Constitution & Bylaws, & a vote for the acceptance of the offer from Lehigh University to purchase the properties as presented at the town hall meeting held on Sunday, December 18, 2022	Motion to accept the recommendation from the Unity Team made by: David Kolman 2 <sup>nd</sup> by: Ron Leposa	Approved unanimously
<i>Lois Ritchie's Hours</i>	Need increased help to cover some of responsibilities that had been covered by Josh Gulotta: specifically functions he did to coordinate weekly worship assistants Also need to discuss sharing payroll for this with the other two (2) campuses until such time as the merger & reorganization of job responsibilities has been completed		Informational
<i>Next Joint Council Meeting</i>	Tuesday February 21, 2023 @ STP	David Kolman presides	Informational
<i>Adjournment &amp; Lord's Prayer</i>	@ 1943	Motion to adjourn made by: Teryan Gerhard 2 <sup>nd</sup> by: Joe Bleier	Approved unanimously

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Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Musselman, St. Peter's Congregational & Joint Council Secretary