

St. John's Congregational Council Meeting

May 20, 2024, 7:00 p.m. Rooms 103-104

Members Present: Warren Althoff, Karen Bentley, Shirley Blake, Aaron Clark, David Clark, Cindy Gonsowski, Karen Grossman, Tammy LeVally, Kathy Myers, Gary Smith, Paul Wittenberg, Pastor Seth Jersild

Members Absent: Phil Pennington, Pastor Patti Morlock

Guest: Vicar Dale Stanley

Opening Prayer: Pastor Seth Jersild opened the meeting with prayer.

Call Meeting to Order, Roll Call: President Aaron Clark called the May Council meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Secretary Karen Bentley passed around a sign in sheet for attendance.

Devotions: Pastor Seth Jersild lead the devotions from Matthew 6:24-34. Members shared about a time in their lives that when they put their trust in God's love and care it allowed them to set aside worry or burden and find a way forward. Pastor Seth closed our time of devotions with prayer.

Additional Agenda Item: New Business-FLC Bathroom Renovations Update

Recognition of Approval of the Minutes from the April Meeting: Secretary Karen Bentley reported that a majority of Council members approved the minutes of the April meeting. She will continue to send the minutes by email within 48 hours of each meeting. Members are expected to read the minutes and send Karen an email with their approval/additions/corrections within 48 hours of receiving the minutes. She will amend and resend the minutes as needed.

Senior Pastor's Report: Pastor Seth Jersild reported on the following items: Faith Celebration and Confirmation took place yesterday. The Rededication Combined Worship Service on Mother's Day was a wonderful celebration of our history and filled with powerful worship.

175th Anniversary Team: Former Sons and Daughters of St. John's have been invited back to preach at a worship service in honor of our anniversary. Four have accepted the invitation: Paul Cannon, Mark Creamer, Matt Cox, and Tari Stage-Harvey. Pastor Terry Morgan will also be attending to celebrate with us.

Reformation Sunday, October 27 will include NALC General Secretary Amy Little as our guest.

Youth Minister Search Team: Pr. Seth and Pr. Patti will be meeting with the team to determine next steps in the search. We are thankful for the team's passion and dedication to this task.

Property Team formation and Technology Team updates are ongoing.

VBS is June 24-27. Registration is open on the St. John's website and public Facebook page.

Associate Pastor's Report: Pastor Patti was unable to attend the meeting.

Vicar Dale Stanley's Report: Vicar Dale updated Council on his preaching schedule. He continues to shadow Pastor Patti and Pastor Seth. He attended the OMR Convocation at St. John's earlier in the month and represented the North American Lutheran Seminary during the event. The GriefShare class continues with support from Joanne Keller and Wilma Phillips. We congratulate Vicar Dale on receiving his MDiv degree this past weekend.

Financial Reports: Treasurer Kathy Myers reviewed the Financial Statements for March and April. She noted that the April Statement includes a line that reports the amount of the Bequest Holding Account. Paul Wittenberg made a motion to accept the March Financial Statement. Cindy Gonsowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Gary Smith made a motion to accept the April Financial Statement. Paul Wittenberg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Kathy made a motion to allow for two bids for an initial study of the building infrastructure if Dan Yeater is unable to secure a third bid on the project. David Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Kathy made a motion to call a Special Congregational meeting on Sunday, June 23 in the Family Life Center following the Traditional and Contemporary Worship services at 12:15 p.m. Shirley Blake seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. In the meantime, the pastors, Dan Yeater, and Kathy Myers will inform the congregation about the bequests we have received and the family's wishes for how the money will be used.

Kathy made the following motion. Karen Bentley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The congregation is asked to approve spending up to \$60,000 for a structural engineering assessment of the infrastructure of St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church. Funds for this assessment will come from the Bequest Holding Account.

Kathy made a motion that the following designated funds be renewed for 2024: Quilters, Elizabeth Circle, Bereavement, and Youth. Karen Grossman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Membership Report: Pastor Seth made a motion to approve the following update:

Members Incoming-Beverly Wilson-Affirmation of Faith.

Outgoing Members: None to Report

Karen Bentley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: Security Policy-Tabled until next month

New Business: Family Life Center Bathroom Renovation Update-Cabinets and sinks are being removed from the men's and women's restrooms. New cabinets will be installed. Countertops and sinks will be installed on June 10. Faucets, mirrors and lighting will also be updated. New light fixtures will be installed in the accessible restrooms also.

Council/Congregational Concerns: Many members have expressed their appreciation for the Rededication worship service and the special music that was included.

Staff hosted a Retirement Brunch this morning to honor Jan Miller. The congregation is encouraged to send Jan notes of thanks and appreciation for her years of dedicated service to St. John's.

What's Going On In Your Life? Members shared updates about their lives and any prayer requests.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m. following members praying The Lord's Prayer together.

Karen Bentley, Secretary

ACTION ITEMS:

Review the minutes and respond to Secretary Karen Bentley within 48 hours with approval/additions/corrections. (All Council members)

Finalize Security Policy to present to Council (Executive Team and Pastor Seth Jersild)

Research electronic payment services (Vanco?) and report at the June meeting. (Aaron Clark and David Clark)

Draft guidelines for spending Endowment Funds (Finance Team)

Make announcements at worship services about the bequests we have received and the plans being developed for these funds. (Pastor Seth, Pastor Patti, Kathy Myers, and Dan Yeater)

Notify the members of the congregation about the Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 23 at 12:15 p.m. in the FLC. Prepare written ballots for congregational vote. (Pastor Seth and Aaron Clark)

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: Monday, June 24, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. in Rooms 103-104
(NOTE CHANGE OF DATE)