

## St. John's Congregational Council Meeting

June 24, 2024, 7:00 p.m. Room 104

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

**Members Absent:** David Clark

**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 June Council meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Secretary Karen Bentley passed around a sign-in sheet for attendance.

**Devotions:** Pastor Seth Jersild led the devotions from Genesis 1: 26-31. Members shared about various gift giving situations in their lives with family members and giving anonymously. Our time of devotions closed with prayer.

**Additional Agenda Items:** None

**Recognition of Approval of the Minutes from the May Meeting:** Secretary Karen Bentley reported that a majority of Council members approved the minutes of the May 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: Member's concerns about planning for ministry and his response. A Long-Term Ministry Planning Team is being formed. The initial meeting of the group will be Sunday, July 14 after the 11:00 services. Information and an invitation for all those interested to attend will be published in the weekly News Notes. There are several resources from the NALC that we can use as guidance as we undertake this process.

**Youth Minister Search Team:** Pastor Seth met with the team to determine the next steps in their search. They will be meeting again soon and plan to have a motion to bring to the congregation in the near future.

**Property manager:** Tom Lang will be resigning at the end of September. A search is underway for his replacement. Council is very thankful for Tom's dedication to serving St. John's in this role over the past months.

**175th Anniversary Team:** Former Sons and Daughters of St. John's have been invited back to preach at worship services in honor of our anniversary, beginning with Pastor Don Allman this past Sunday. A schedule of Guest Preachers has been arranged and published.

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

On Saturday, July 27, we will have a "For All the Saints" celebration at the shelter house. Details are in the News Notes.

VBS week is here-June 24-27. Pastor Seth & Vicar Dale are teaching the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade class.

The weekend of September 7 & 8, we will have special German Heritage services which will include Martin Luther's mass.

Security & Safety Plans are still in the planning stage. The goal is to have a plan to share with the Council and the congregation by this fall.

Technology updates and improvements-to be continued

**Associate Pastor's Report:** Pastor Patti Morlock reported on the following items: plans have been finalized for our Guest Preachers and Reformation Sunday.

The 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luther Rose quilt will be finished soon and ready to send to the person that will complete the backing. Many members have added their sewing skills to this project. The quilt will be approximately 8' x 8' and hang on the wall in the Link between the new entrances to the restrooms.

A Women's Retreat/Tea is being planned. There is a change of date to be published soon.

Many funeral and hospital visits have taken place in recent weeks.

Pastor Patti continues with her supervision of Vicar Dale's internship experience.

**Vicar Dale Stanley's Report:** Vicar Dale will soon reach the halfway point of his internship. He is working with the Internship Team to plan his responses to the questions on the "Pastor Available For Call" profile he will complete in October. VBS is this week. The GriefShare class is almost finished. After a time of reflection and evaluation, another session will be offered in the fall. When Vicar Dale is not preaching at other churches in the SEOMD he meets with the adult Sunday School class in the Fellowship Hall. They are currently studying 1 John.

**Financial Reports:** Treasurer Kathy Myers reported that the May Financial Statement will be emailed soon. Our accountant has resigned. A search is underway for a replacement.

Sarah Circle has submitted a request to renew their designated fund. Kathy made a motion to renew the Sarah Circle Designated Fund for 2024. Karen Grossman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Members Incoming-Tom and Janet Wallace-reinstated to active membership.

Outgoing Members: None to Report

Karen Bentley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Old Business:** Security Policy-Tabled until next month

**New Business:**

**Council/Congregational Concerns:** Many members have expressed their appreciation for the updates to the FLC restrooms. A dedicated team of volunteers have stepped forward to help with watering and maintaining the landscaping around the church.

**What's Going on in Your Life?** Members shared updates about their lives and prayer requests.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. following the 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)

Draft guidelines for spending Endowment Funds (Finance Team)

Long Term Ministry Planning Team meeting-Sunday, July 14, 12:00 (All available Council members)

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:** No Meeting in July  
Monday, August 19, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. in Rooms 103-104