

Congregational Council
St. John's Lutheran Church
August 23, 2022| 7:00 p.m.

Members: Pr. Pam Fickenscher, Pr. Jonathan Davis, Paul Beck, Marilyn Calcutt, Rod Christensen, Mark Gleason, Candace Godfrey, Trish Goodrich, Kristy Harms, Tamara Jackman, Dennis Rinehart, Jane Rizzo, Kathleen Shea, Jerry Ugland, Steve Taggert

Present: Pr. Pam Fickenscher, Marilyn Calcutt, Rod Christensen, Dennis Rinehart, Candace Godfrey, Kathleen Shea, Mark Gleason, Tamara Jackman, Trish Goodrich, Jerry Ugland

Not Present: Pr. Jonathan Davis, Jane Rizzo, Kristy Harms, Steve Taggert, Mark Gleason

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm

1. Opening devotion and prayer led by Dennis Rinehart.
2. Motion to approve the July 26, 2022 Minutes made by Tamara Jackman. Seconded by Kathy Shea. The motion passes unanimously.
3. Financial Report - Rod Christensen
4. Dennis Rinehart moved to approve the July financial report. Candace Godfrey seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.
5. Council Updates & Action Items
 - a. Two requests to release from the Foundation:
 - i. \$3,000 for College Scholarships
 1. Motion by Jerry Ugland, seconded by Paul Beck. Motion passes unanimously.
 - ii. Seminarian Grant
 1. Council discussed the disbursement of \$1,280 that is already designated, but also adding another \$220 from the St. John's Foundation Fund, for a total of \$1,500. Motion by Jerry Ugland, seconded by Tamara Jackman. Motion passes unanimously.
 - b. Meal Ministry update
 - i. Scott Barvir has stepped up to lead the team as a volunteer. We don't need a stipend for him at this time, but we do need to approve money for a food budget.
 1. Council suggests providing \$4,000 from the St. John's Fund as a starting fund for supplies and food to cover the 10 meals scheduled through the end of the year. Motion by Tamara Jackman, seconded by Marilyn Calcutt. Motion passes unanimously.
 - c. Acoustic Upgrade update

- i. Pledges of \$12,000 have come through since the announcement of the project, with the possibility of another donor contributing an unspecified amount.
 - 1. Paul Beck shared that the Worship & Arts Board is highly in favor of the project. Pr. Pam reiterated how long this has been a need for that space, and that she is confident that we will continue to raise funds.
 - 2. Rod Christensen suggests that we approve the acoustic upgrade proposal, including a campaign for special gifts and funding the remainder of the cost from designated funds as necessary. Motion by Paul Beck, seconded by Kathy Shea. Motion passes unanimously.
- 6. Pastor's Report – Pr. Pam - included in the materials for this Council meeting
- 7. Board Reports: included in the materials for the Council meeting. Additional notes:
 - a. **Adult Ministry & Education** - Rev. Grant Aaseng has agreed to start a men's Bible Study group. They will meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at noon. Information will be shared soon.
- 8. New Business
 - a. Review of Covid policies & procedures for upcoming months
 - i. See Addendum A
 - ii. Proposed changes are for when alert is YELLOW, masks would be optional (this matches CDC recommendations)
 - iii. Motion to approve change made by Dennis Rinehart, seconded by Candace Godfrey. Motion passes unanimously.
 - b. November meeting schedule
 - i. Our usual Board Night is Election Day. Council discusses moving Board Night one week early, to 11/1/22. Council confirms **NOVEMBER BOARD NIGHT CHANGE to Tuesday, November 1st, 2022.**
 - c. Board Night scheduling
 - i. Council discusses making a move back to a collective gathering for September and subsequent months through the end of the year. **Remaining board night dates: 9/13, 10/11, 11/1, 12/13.**
 - d. Comprehensive programming & facilities planning process update
 - i. Sunday meeting dates for community conversations are set for October 2nd (between services). Council members should plan on dividing up amongst groups to record feedback.
 - ii. Staff has started an inventory of current room usage, including a need for cleaning out of spaces that have been left alone for a long time.

Future dates

1. Boards: **Tuesday, September 13, 2022**

Please send notes of your Board meetings to Trish Goodrich within a week so she can have them prepared for Council meetings

2. Council: **Tuesday, September 27, 2022 | 7:00 p.m.** Prayer led by Kristy Harms.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14pm.

Other Notes: none.

Respectfully submitted by Trish Goodrich

Addendum A

Safe Operating Task Force Update

The Safe Operating Task Force has discussed St. John's ongoing response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and recommended the following change to the Congregational Council, which approved it at its 8/23 meeting.

We will continue to follow the CDC's guidance, using the weekly Rice County community risk levels to determine our masking practice.

- When Rice County is green, masks are optional but welcome. This is unchanged.
- When Rice County is yellow, masks are optional but welcome, and those who have increased risk from an infection are encouraged to follow the advice of their health care professional. In small groups, we hope participants will discuss what works best for all. This is a change from our current practice, and follows CDC guidance.
- When Rice County is red, masks will be required at St. John's, regardless of vaccination status. This is unchanged.

We continue to expect masks to be used by many, as we have seen these last several months, and we appreciate the patience and good will shown by the congregation as we learn to manage the pandemic together.

Motion made by Dennis Rinehart, seconded by Candace Godfrey. Motion passes unanimously.