

Congregational Council
St. John's Lutheran Church
August 22, 2023 | 7:00 p.m.

Members: Pr. Pam Fickenscher, Pr. Jonathan Davis, Kathy Shea, Dave Neuger, Marilyn Calcutt, Eric Sponheim, Candace Godfrey, Trish Goodrich, Kristy Harms, Tamara Jackman, Dennis Rinehart, Jane Rizzo, Jerry Ugland, Steve Taggart, Dan Franklin

Present: Pr. Pam Fickenscher, Pr. Jonathan Davis, Kathy Shea, Dave Neuger, Marilyn Calcutt, Eric Sponheim, Candace Godfrey, Trish Goodrich, Kristy Harms, Tamara Jackman, Dennis Rinehart, Jane Rizzo, Jerry Ugland, Steve Taggart, Dan Franklin

Not Present: Pr. Pam Fickenscher

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm

1. Opening devotion and prayer led by Marilyn Calcutt
2. Motion to approve the July 25, 2023 Minutes made by Trish Goodrich. Seconded by Dan Franklin. The motion passes unanimously.
3. Financial Report - Jane Rizzo
 - a. We are currently at 51% of budget for YTD offering received; ideally we'd be at 53% (about \$36,000 behind). There is still time to close the gap. We have some savings with the transition and change in the Youth Director position. It will remain to be seen if we need to make additional cuts to the budget.
 - b. Total operating expenses are at 56% which is tracking close to what we anticipated
4. Kristy Harms moved to approve the July financial report. Dennis Rinehart seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.
5. Council Updates & Action Items
 - a. Congregational Meeting on August 27th
 - i. Discussed specifics of meeting
 1. Immediately after the 9:30am worship; location: Sanctuary
 2. Jane Rizzo will chair the meeting
 3. Trish Goodrich will take minutes
 4. 50 members required for a forum
 5. A sign-in sheet will be provided so that every member voting is recorded as present; proxy votes are not allowed
 6. Presenters: Pr. Pam Fickenscher, Jeff McLaughlin, Steve Taggart

7. Presentation
 - a. Process leading to this meeting (Pr. Pam)
 - b. Proposed projects (Steve Taggart)
 - c. Foundation loan (Jeff McLaughlin)
 - d. Q&A facilitated by Jane Rizzo, after making a motion on the four Resolutions
 - e. Vote taken after the Q&A
 8. One vote for four Resolutions; vote by voice
 9. It was suggested that we remind the congregation that the next step after approval of resolutions is to appoint a Capital Campaign Committee that will clarify and define the work and projects to be done
 10. It was also discussed that it would be preferable to announce a range for a target goal instead of one specific number. This was similar to what was announced for the Grace Overflowing campaign. Also, the target goal would be raised over multiple years
 - a. Council consensus is to announce \$750K-\$950K to be raised over 3-5 years.
- ii. Discussion and approval of language and order for four Resolutions (see Addendum A)
 1. Jerry Uglund suggests one modification to the final resolution: change **“AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED” TO “AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED”**
 2. Kristy Harms makes the motion that the four resolutions presented here, with the one modification mentioned above, be approved by the Council for presentation to the congregation at the Congregational Meeting on August 27th. Jane Rizzo seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.
 - iii. Discussion about disbursement of 10% benevolence
 1. How would we - as a Council, a congregation, and a Capital Campaign Committee - go about planning for, organizing, and communicating about disbursement of 10% of funds raised for benevolence?
 2. Given the importance this congregation places on benevolence, Jerry Uglund suggests that we should have a very clear process of how we go about soliciting proposals and details for disbursement
 3. Question asked about who would review the proposals? This was done by the Benevolence Board during the previous capital campaign.
 4. Question asked if we should put out specific requests to certain places that we have supported in the past. One idea is that we could ask for proposals specifically relating to sustainability, tying this in with the overall theme of our capital campaign

- a. Although the Council agreed that this was a good idea in theory, it could pigeon-hole the committee and the Council before understanding the full needs of our partners and community as a whole.
- 6. Pastor's Report - (included in the materials for this meeting)
 - a. No update on engineering audit and energy visit - information still to come
- 7. Board Reports - (included in the materials for this meeting)
 - a. Business Management Board -
 - i. Asks that the Stewardship Board includes a nudge towards online giving during the fall drive. The Stewardship Board agrees that yes, there will be more of a firm nudge this year, also with the understanding that there will still be people that want to mail their gift
 - b. Youth Board
 - i. Currently looking at replacing four couches in the Youth Room. They are looking at Furniture to Go, and the cost is approximately \$580 per couch. Y
 - ii. Tamara Jackman makes a motion to release \$750 from the Youth Foundation Fund within the St. John's Foundation Fund to put towards the purchase of new couches.. Eric Sponheim seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.
 - c. Stewardship Board
 - i. Update regarding fall Stewardship campaign: given the fact that we want to do a more focused and transparent ask to our members for 2024, we are going to be crafting letters that will be more specific and focused for each family.
 - ii. The Ministry Fair is scheduled for Sunday Sept 24th.
 - d. Benevolence Board
 - i. Meals on Wheels still has openings for Saturdays
- 8. New Business
 - a. Facilities Sustainability Project - no update at this time
 - b. Stewardship campaign - see notes above

Future Dates:

- a. Boards: **Tuesday, September 12, 2023**
Please send notes of your Board meetings to Trish Goodrich so she can have them prepared for Council meetings
- b. Council: **Tuesday, September 26, 2023 | 7:00 p.m.** Prayer led by Dave Neuger

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm

Other Notes: none.

Respectfully submitted by Trish Goodrich

Addendum A

St. John's Lutheran Church Congregational Meeting Resolution – August 27, 2023

WHEREAS, the St. John's congregation has a rich history of heeding the call for financial support in meeting the extraordinary financial needs of advancing our mission as a Christian congregation;

AND WHEREAS, the St. John's congregation has demonstrated a clear understanding of the need to maintain annual stewardship growth in the midst of a capital campaign to meet special needs;

AND WHEREAS, a part of the St. John's mission must include a commitment to safeguarding the sustainability of God's creation;

AND WHEREAS, the St. John's congregation has a unique opportunity with an indefinite, but likely narrow, window to capitalize on available federal funding to augment its own contributions to improving the church's environmental impact;

AND WHEREAS, St. John's has a grace-filled commitment to advancing its mission through congregational-directed benevolence which can be enhanced through a capital campaign;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the congregation authorize the Church Council to invest in improving our physical space by installing solar panels on St. John's Hall, and pursue other sustainability initiatives to reduce our carbon footprint while at the same time positively impacting our long-term financial health;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council launch a capital campaign to address a number of physical needs of our church, with 10% of the appeal designated to support needs in our larger community;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the congregation authorize the Council to accept a loan of up to \$100,000 from the St. John's Foundation, if needed to complete the projects in a timely manner;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the congregation affirm the decision of the Board of the St. John's Foundation to change its bylaws and investment criteria to allow for alternative investments, including the potential loan to the congregation.