

Congregational Council Minutes
St. John's Lutheran Church, Northfield, MN
April 23, 2019

Present: Pr. Pam Fickenschler, Ruthie Neuger, Mark Gleason, Erik Holleque, Allene Mosler, Bonnie Peterson, Martha Erickson, David Nitz, Terry Dell, Jenny Nystrom, Suzy Taggart, Marilyn Calcutt

Not Present: Pr. Jonathan Davis, Nancy Ordahl Kmoch, Mary Hoff

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Ruthie Neuger

1. Opening Prayer – Offered by Martha Erickson

2. Pastor's Report –

- a. Attendance
- b. Hiring – Thursday will be the first in-person interview with a final candidate. Having a broad representation meet this candidate – from youth to parents to staff.
- c. Grace Overflowing – The second celebration takes place this Sunday.
 - i. The Maakestad sculpture has been restored and is on display (in its forever home) by the center entrance.
 - ii. The resurrection window is being restored – unsure of where it will be installed.
 - iii. Commons furnishings will be ordered this month. Some will be held due to Budget constraints.
- d. Sabbaticals – Pam's sabbatical in summer of 2020, Jonathan's would be in 2021. A plan would be due to the council by June for vote.
 - i. Nathan Proctor would like to take a sabbatical as well (six-year mark in August 2020).
 - ii. Synod has grants available to help cover some of the costs of the sabbaticals.
 - iii. Primary goal for sabbatical is renewal.

3. Council Action Items and Updates –

- a. Hearing Loop Update – rescheduled for Friday, May 3.
 - i. \$12,500 total in costs
 1. There may be some money that has not been designated from the 150th Celebration.
 2. \$4000 has been committed so far.
 3. Based on the generous pledges of lead donations for the project, the council approves going ahead with the hearing loop and seeks further contributions from other interested individuals; Erik Holleque seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 4. Step 2 would be extending the hearing loop into St. John's Hall at the time

- of re-carpeting.
 - b. Fund Distribution – 40% / 40% / 20%.
 - i. Jenny Nystrom made the motion to proceed with this distribution of funds. David Nitz seconded the motion. Unanimous.
 - ii. Thrivent Choice dollars brought in a total of around \$1,800.
 - c. 150th Celebration Meeting – this Sunday, April 28 – between services
 - d. Save the Date – October 24-27 for the 150th Celebration
 - i. July 13 – Ice cream social
 - e. Summer Services – In July, we will go down to one service per day – 9:30 a.m.
4. **March Financial Report** – Martha
- a. We rebounded in March
 - b. \$8,800 Street Assessment and \$4,000 New Computers – Martha made a motion for the council to vote on allocating funds to these two items; Bonnie Peterson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
5. **Consent Agenda Items for Council** –
- a. Mark made the motion to approve the minutes from March 2019; Allene seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Allene has asked for the council to think of themes that would encourage people to give this fall.
 - c. Terry reminded the council of property cleanup happening 9-11 a.m. on Saturday morning.
 - d. Terry gave an update on Fellowship Hall construction. The board is weighing options for construction and has asked the council for feedback. Terry and the board will look at the options and the costs in order to make a decision.
6. **A closing prayer was offered by Ruthie Neuger**
7. **Meeting concluded.** Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzy Taggart