

Congregational Council
St. John's Lutheran Church
July 23, 2024

Members: Pr. Pam Fickenscher, Pr. Jonathan Davis, Ellen Ellickson, Jill Enestvedt, Dan Franklin, Daniel Hanson, Andrea Hoff, Tamara Jackman, Eric Johnsrud, Judd Lohmann, Elaine Nesbit, Rob Quanbeck, Alli Walters Mode, Michelle Kramer-Prevost

Present: Pr. Pam Fickenscher, Ellen Ellickson, Jill Enestvedt, Dan Franklin, Daniel Hanson, Andrea Hoff, Tamara Jackson, Judd Lohmann, Elaine Nesbit, Rob Quanbeck, Michelle Kramer-Prevost, Alli Walters Mode

Guests: Kelly Podracky and Luke from the Key, Northfield Union of Youth

Not present: Pr. Jonathan Davis, Eric Johnsrud

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm

1. Guest presentation: Kelly and Luke from the KEY, the Northfield Union of Youth
 - a. Kelly Podracky, Executive Director of the Union of Youth, and Luke, a youth from St. John's who utilizes the KEY, responded to Tamara's invitation to explain more about the request for interim funding of the position of mental health coordinator at the KEY. Kelly explained the funding deficit at the KEY due to unexpected gaps in leadership, and previous funding denied. She explained her plans to rebuild a robust program, and reiterated the need for a temporary salary (\$10,000) for their mental health coordinator, Gabby. She related examples of specific significant needs and stories of youth who had been assisted in their program.
2. Motion to approve the June 25, 2024 Council Minutes made by Rob Quanbeck ; the motion was seconded by Tamara Jackman; the motion passed unanimously.
3. Financial Report by Judd Lohmann, Treasurer (included in materials).
 - a. We are tracking well financially.
4. Council Updates and Action Items
 - a. No boards met this month.
5. Pastors' Reports
 - a. Pr. Pam: (included in materials for the meeting)
 - i. A lot of funerals recently.
 - ii. Staff coming and going with summer plans.

- iii. Facilities: Moving on HVAC; some repairs and some in process (sanctuary air conditioning; compressor in the kitchen); Energy audit company is available for ongoing consultations.
- iv. ELCA God's Work Our Hands - church wide day of service/ We in Northfield are planning to do our own program on the last Sunday in August. Indoor and outdoor projects will be offered. All ELCA congregations will be invited to participate: 11am-2pm August 25, following worship. Digital sign up planned.

6. New Business/Old Business

- a. Old Business: (Judd Lohmann) Insurance on solar panels: Not great clarity - Church Mutual doesn't have a record of our request. They have not formally responded yet. Judd contacted our previous insurer and is waiting for a bid from them.
- b. New Business: (Pr. Pam) Lower Level Projects at St. John's
 - i. Updates Planned:
 - 1. Tiling in SS rooms already in budget, deciding on product.
 - 2. Refurnish undercroft: Funding for chairs and cleaning is a priority. Question was posed of whether to fund that from the surplus from the Sustaining Grace campaign. Judd made a motion to refurbish the undercroft including cleaning the chairs and the carpet and replacing tables paid through Grace Overflowing. Michelle Kramer-Prevost seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - 3. Kitchenette in undercroft (simple kitchen sink and counter)
 - 4. Bathroom in the Youth/undercroft hallway - make usable
- c. New Business: A participating congregant would like to host a "meet and greet" at St. John's for their school board campaign. The Council collectively felt that it was best to say no to any particular candidate as it could be perceived as endorsement.
- d. Old Business: Staff Celebrations

The plan was for the Stewardship Board to handle the celebration of staff members. The Worship and Arts Board will work on the gift part of Nathan Proctor's celebration and the speaking at the celebration. The Council decided on gift amounts of \$100 for every five years of employment. The money will come from "Undesignated memorials". The Stewardship board will oversee the celebration (provide refreshments, etc.) The celebration of Nathan is set for August 18. Tamara Jackman made a motion to fund staff celebrations as described above. The motion was seconded by Michelle Kramer-Prevost. The motion passed unanimously.
- e. Sign ups changes for treats and devotions for board nights: August will be Stewardship; Business Management Board will take October.

f. Old Business: Request from Union of Youth

The request from Union of Youth for 10,000 to cover the mental health coordinator was revisited. (Guest speaker answered questions - see above). The council decided that we can offer the requested \$10,000. We will revisit the need later in the year if there are more unused funds. The motion was made by Judd Lohmann that we provide \$10,000 in total funding from the Foundation, \$9,000 from the general and \$1,000 from the youth portion. The motion was seconded by Alli Walters Mode. Judd Lohmann will follow up with getting the funds. Tamara Jackman will contact Kelly Podracky (Executive Director of the Union of Youth) to let her know.

Book Discussion: When Church Stops Working, Chapter 5.

We will discuss Chapter 6 next month.

Future dates:

Next Board Night: August 13, 2024, 7pm

Next Church Council Meeting: August 27, 2024, 7pm

Dan Franklin closed the meeting with a prayer at 8:41pm

Respectfully submitted by Elaine Nesbit