

Congregational Council
St. John's Lutheran Church
December 17, 2024

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

Present: Susanne Smith (for Property and Grounds), Michelle Kramer-Prevost, Judd Lohmann, Alli Walters-Mode, Dan Franklin, Ellen Ellickson, Jill Enestvedt, Pr. Pam Fickenscher, Pr. Jonathan Davis, Cheryl Buck, Rob Quanbeck, Eric Johnsrud, Tamara Jackson

Not present: Dan Hanson

Meeting was called to order at 7:05pm

1. Opening: Book discussion on Chapter 8 of When Church Stops Working.
2. Approval of Council Minutes November 19, 2024: An amendment was requested by Rob Quanbeck to note that he was not present at the November meeting. Motion to approve the November 19, 2024 Council Minutes with stated amendment was made by Rob Quanbeck; the motion was seconded by Tamara Jackson; The approval of the Council Minutes with the amendment passed.
3. Financial Report by Judd Lohmann, Treasurer (Judd provided a written summary)
 - a. General outlook: November offering down a bit but December looking good. Income and operating budget difference is due to designated funds not released. Judd is not concerned but continues to watch carefully.
 - b. Foundation balance: \$22,000 of the \$35,000 has been used. Unused money goes back to the Foundation. We can vote on spending in this meeting.
4. Council Updates and Action Items
 - a. Insurance: We have been renewed with Church Mutual. We are reviewing and comparing companies due to cost increases. We may make a decision by year-end or make month to month payments until a decision is made.
 - b. Annual Board reports are due to Leah by the end of the year, December 31, 2024. The Annual Meeting is February 2, 2025.

- c. Foundation Requests:
 - i. Evangelism and Communications Board requests approval of Foundation Funds for \$1190 from Foundation AV funds and \$350 from Foundation General Funds to support the AV projects of purchasing one camera, installing two cameras in the sanctuary and the installation of new microphones in St. John's Hall. Eric made the motion; Michelle seconded; the motion passed.
 - ii. Worship & Arts Board is requesting Council approve the request for release of \$4,500 from unused 2024 Foundation funds for the cost of purchase and framing of three Native American art maps as part of the Board's project previously discussed at Council. After discussion, Alli made the motion; Michelle seconded; motion passed.
 - iii. WELCA has asked the Worship & Arts Board to bring to Council a request for release of \$1,500 from unused 2024 allocated Foundation funds for a hymn to be commissioned in honor of the 150th anniversary of women's service to St John's. Andrea Hoff made the motion; Jill Enestvedt seconded; after a brief discussion, the motion passed.

- 5. Pastors' Reports
 - a. Pr. Pam: (included in materials for the meeting)
 - i. Baptisms
 - ii. Cleaning: It has been challenging with our extensive programming to keep up with the cleaning of the church. There is a plan to budget an additional \$12,000 for janitorial work. We may be sharing a part time position with another local church as a supplement to what we have currently (more details to come.)
 - iii. The Just Move program is scheduled. The dates are in the Pastor's Report. Additional participants are welcome.

 - b. Pr. Jonathan:
 - i. The Advent Fair was a success.
 - ii. Tamara and Jonathan will be teaching OWL: Sexuality and Relationships for youth.
 - iii. The decision has been made to take both the middle schoolers and high schoolers to Christikon this spring.

- 6. Board Reports (Included in materials submitted)
 - a. Adult Ministry
 - i. Archives - the process of adequately protecting and storing archives needs to get started with the new Adult Ministry leadership.

- ii. There is concern that viewability of audiovisuals in the sanctuary and St. John's Hall is inadequate for the size of the forums (25-50 people) and equipment needs in that area should be reassessed.
 - b. Evangelism and Communications:
 - i. The board is very pleased with the approval of new equipment.
 - ii. Dave Zdenek's addition to the board has been smooth and appreciated.
 - c. Faith and Health:
 - i. Susan Lohmann's presentation was well received. The board plans to do a follow up in the upcoming year for one-on-one questions.
 - d. Children's Ministry and Education:
 - i. There was a beautiful celebration of appreciation for Julie Brehmer and Sally Lindell.
7. Other Business
- a. New leadership will start in February after the annual meeting
 - b. The remaining money in the Foundation:
 - i. Judd Lohmann made a motion to use the remaining \$500 from Community Social Fund for this year's annual Christmas Dinner. Cheryl Buck seconded the motion; the motion passed.
 - ii. Present needs of the Union of Youth were discussed. Specifically the KEY is planning to rent a house to use for homeless youth. Alli Walter-Mode made a motion to release \$1560 from the remaining Foundation funds to support homeless youth through the Union of Youth. Andrea Hoff seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.
 - iii. Needs of the building were discussed.
 - 1. Rob Quanbeck brought forward the need for improved Wifi in the library. Alli Walter mode suggested the possible need for acoustic tiles in the children's choir room. Discussion followed.
 - 2. Rob Quanbeck made a motion to release the remaining \$1980 from Property and Grounds to be allocated for improved Wifi throughout the building (especially in the Library and Undercroft if possible.) Susanne Smith (representative from Property and Grounds) did not know of another designation for those funds. Eric Johnsud seconded the motion; the motion passed.
 - iv. The Foundation releases these monies in this calendar year even though the payments are made in 2025.

Dan Franklin closed the meeting at 8:13pm.

Future dates:

Next Board Night: January 14, 2025

Next Church Council Meeting (Budget Approval Meeting): January 21, 2025

Annual Meeting: February 2, 2025

Respectfully submitted by: Elaine Nesbit

ADDENDUM TO THE COUNCIL MINUTES

1. Action Item for Council:
 - a. On December 23, 2024, Judd recommended (by email after consultation with the executive board) to change insurance agencies from Church Mutual to American Church Groups Insurance; each member of the council was contacted. Alli Walters Mode made the motion to accept the recommendation, Dan Hanson seconded; the motion passed.
 - b. On December 26, 2024, Judd began the process to move forward to make that change before the end of the year.