

Minutes

Congregation Council

St. John's Lutheran Church
February 27, 2018 + 7:00 p.m.

Absent: Jennifer Edwin, Jane Rinehart

Present: Pastor Pam, Pastor Jonathan, Rob Quanbeck, Ruthie Neuger, Martha Erickson, Erik Holleque, Alyssa Ness, Mark Gleason, Nancy Knoch, Terry Dell, Dan Van Tassel, Terry Dell, Mary Hoff (WELCA Rep)

Guest: Mary Kelvie

1. Opening Prayer – Offered
2. Future Dates
 - a. Boards – March 13, 2018 7:00 p.m. – Worship and Arts Board treats
 - b. Council – March 20, 2018 7:00 p.m. Nancy Ordahl Knoch Prayer
* One week early, due to Lenten season
 - c. Soup Suppers
 - i. Check with Christy Hall Holt if unsure of your board's sign-up date
3. Pastor's Report
 - a. Boards/Council Devotion Schedule – sign-up next month
 - b. Lent – Faith stories; Breads on Wednesday Night donated by Brick Oven; Book discussion - Over 40 people signed up
 - c. Building Use – getting a lot of use, big resource for the community. Starting a new partnership with the Key; piloting project of giving breakfasts Monday and Fridays for kids struggling to get to school; Co-op donating food; St. John's members some of volunteers participating. Faribault group of social workers working with developmentally disabled working on cooking. Laura Baker, Middle School and High School also utilizing. Demonstrates need of full-time facility manager. Cognizant of trying to overtax staff too.
 - d. Youth and Families transition team—Not just about putting together a job description. Intentional: where do you see youth ministry happening in St. John's. Integrated ministry – integrating the Youth into congregational ministry. Bright Spots: prayer buddies, mentors. Challenges: busyness of people's lives. Read Sustainable Youth Ministry. Inviting Karen Gieseke to help coach group and facilitate conversations. Expect appx 25 people gathering with Karen to have a focused conversation. Will invite some council members. Hope to also have a council conversation.
4. Council Action Items and Updates
 - a. Grace Overflowing Update
 - i. Phase II – slower response. Challenge grant from Foundation: \$10K available if meet goal by Easter.
 - ii. Benevolence – Full grant to Laura Baker after Easter and starting relationship pieces; then Torch.
 - b. WELCA – Mary Hoff shared information and encouraged all to share with their boards: 1) Latino and Friends Play Festival at the NAG; May 11-12; May 18-19; buy tickets at the door. 2) Thrivent policy holders can apply for and use Thrivent Funds for church

projects/initiatives. Suggestion of having Ralph Yernberg come to a Board meeting to discuss.

c. Church Projects

i. Capital Projects: Fellowship Hall – lots more discussions. Will need some dedicated meetings for that.

d. Mary Kelvie - Funeral Ministry at St. John's

i. Lots of funerals recently with challenges for volunteers/staff.

- Trends discussed: hard to predict/plan for; expectation in St. Johns of high quality hospitality. Typically takes dedicated volunteer coordinator and 30 volunteers for each funeral: making food, serving, table setters, laundry, cleaning. Previously all volunteer. Now lots of staff time. Coordinator is key role that has been lost. Need to have a sustainable and equitable model. Many other churches have gone to catering only. Need to let go of some 'high hospitality'.
- Proposal: Mary, Pastors and a few key volunteers come up for proposal to change funerals. Communication will be key.
- Timeline – proposal by next month with hope ready to communicate to membership by June.
- Board authorizes small group to include Mary Kelvie, Pastors, a few kitchen volunteers, perhaps someone who has gone through a funeral recently, etc.

5. Consent Agenda Items

a. Treasurer report.

i. Martha will be mailing out budget documents ahead of time - slightly different layout.

ii. January 2018 \$28k less than last Jan. 2017 in part due to changing one time donations to 'recognizing' the donation broken out by 12 months.

b. January Meeting Minutes

c. Ruthie Neuger moved and Terry Dell seconded to approve consent agenda items. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Other Business

a. Foundation funds - \$25k allocated annually; some funds annually allocated (e.g. scholarship funds), other funds discretionary for boards to use, hopefully to launch new initiatives.

b. Jenny Nystrom moved and Ruthie Neuger seconded to use \$500 Foundation Funds to contribute to Karen Gieseke as a consultant to assist the Children's and Youth Transition Team. Passed unanimously.

c. Clarification on location of current/past minutes

d. Alyssa Ness discussed Library Revisioning

7. Prayer led by Rob Quanbeck and Lord's Prayer

8. Adjournment