

Congregational Council
St. John's Lutheran Church
January 21, 2025

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

Not present: Daniel Hanson, Elaine Nesbit

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm

1. Opening: Dan Franklin opened us in prayer.
2. Motion to approve the December 17, 2024 Council Minutes made by Andrea Hoff; the motion was seconded by Cheryl Buck; the motion passed unanimously.
3. Financial Report by Judd Lohmann, Treasurer (Judd provided a written summary)
 - a. Judd reported that the Year end financial report showed that we were very close to budget, as offering for December was \$61,000 above budget and the year end offering total was \$9,000 over budget. Total year end operating expenses were below budget.
 - b. Judd presented and the Council reviewed the budget proposal. Judd indicated that there may be some minor adjustments due to some additional financial information being received.
 - c. Motion was made by Eric Johnsrud, and seconded by Judd Lohmann, to approve the budget as presented and to authorize the Budget Committee to make final adjustments, giving the Budget committee the discretion to bring the final adjusted budget to the Council for any further approval. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Council Updates and Action Items
 - a. Pastor Pam is eligible for a sabbatical in 2026. The primary grant opportunity for funding grant sabbatical plans is through Lilly Endowment's Renewal Program. The congregation applies for the grant and the deadline is **March 12, 2025**.
 - b. Motion was made by Michelle Kramer Prevost and seconded by Cheryl Buck to authorize Pastor Pam Fickenscher to take a 12 week sabbatical from July 26, 2026 to October 16, 2026 and that the President of the Congregation, or whomever the President might designate, is authorized to prepare and submit the grant proposal on behalf of the congregation with further authorization to release such financial

information as is required by the Lilly Endowment's process. The motion passed unanimously.

- c. Dan Franklin reported that St. John's was seeking three proposals from outside agencies to conduct a financial audit.
 - d. The St. John's Annual meeting will be held on **February 2, 2025** and a Congregational information session will be tentatively scheduled for **January 29th at 6:15 p.m.**
5. Pastors' Reports
- a. Pr. Pam: (included in materials for the meeting)
 - i. St. John's is welcoming Arturo Rosas to the staff in February in a part time janitorial role
 - ii. Annual Meeting: There are a number of representative roles available each year to the synod, conference and mission partners. If you would like to attend one of these, let Pastor Pam know before the meeting on February 2nd.
 - b. Pr. Jonathan:
 - i. Bishop Regina Hassanally is up for reelection as Bishop of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod and needs to be nominated for the position by the congregation.
 - ii. Motion was made by Dan Franklin and seconded by Andrea Hoff to add the nomination of Bishop Regina Hassanally as Bishop of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod to the Annual Meeting agenda. The motion passed unanimously.
6. Board Reports: Boards did not meet in January.
7. Other Business
- a. Dan Franklin thanked council members whose terms were expiring for their work on the council. The Council, by acclamation, thanked Dan for his leadership as President.

Future dates:

Budget Informational Meeting: Wednesday, January 29, 2025, 6:15 pm

Annual Meeting: Sunday, February 2, 2025 (after second service)

Council Retreat: Saturday, February 8, 2025, 9 am

Board Night: Tuesday, February 11, 2025, 7 pm

Council Meeting: Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 7pm

Respectfully submitted by Eric Johnsrud