

Congregational Council
St. John's Lutheran Church
December 19, 2023 | 7:00 p.m.

Members: Pr. Pam Fickenscher, Pr. Jonathan Davis, Kathy Shea, Dave Neuger, Marilyn Calcutt, Eric Sponheim, Trish Goodrich, Kristy Harms, Tamara Jackman, Dennis Rinehart, Jane Rizzo, Jerry Ugland, Steve Taggert, Dan Franklin

Present: Pr. Pam Fickenscher, Pr. Jonathan Davis, Kathy Shea, Jane Rizzo, Dave Neuger, Dan Franklin, Jerry Ugland, Tamara Jackman, Steve Taggert, Eric Sponheim, Dennis Rinehart, Trish Goodrich, Allie Walters (for Children's Board), Marilyn Calcutt, Kristy Harms

Not Present: None

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm

1. Opening prayer led by Tamara Jackman
2. Motion to approve the November 28, 2023 Minutes made by Dave Neuger. Seconded by Steve Taggert. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Financial Report - Jane Rizzo
 - a. At the end of November, our offering line is at 88% of budget, which is good. Jane predicts we will make our budget for offering. Our expenses are also at 88% of budget. We are in line for a balanced budget to end the year.
 - b. Jerry Ugland/Benevolence has some questions about the balance indicated in their budget - they thought they had spent all their funds. Jane will look into this.
 - c. Seminarian Grant - we should request from the Foundation the \$1,300 allocated for our seminarians
 - i. Dan Franklin moved to request that \$1,300 be released from the Foundation from the Soli Seminary Fund for two seminarians. Steve Taggert seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.
 - d. Budget Committee update - they met recently and are making good progress. They will wait until closer to the end of the year to make a recommendation on the offering budget; expense budget follows shortly thereafter.
4. Kristy Harms moved to approve the November financial report. Eric Sponheim seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
5. Council Updates & Action Items
 - a. None at this time

6. Pastor's Report (included in the materials for this meeting)
7. Board Reports (included in the materials for this meeting)
 - a. Worship & Arts Board - they will be requesting the disbursement of \$1,000 in designated funds from the Music Fund for two items:
 - i. \$500 to compensate David Sims for an original composition for the service that honored the memory of Helene Anglin.
 - ii. \$500 to recognize the contributions of Manny Laureano in the special service in Memory of Helene Anglin. The \$500 would go to the Bloomington Symphony Orchestra in recognition of Manny Laureano's contributions and in memory of Helene.
 - iii. Asks the Council to consider including a significant line item in the capital campaign for updated artwork to advance our diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging commitment
 - b. Benevolence & Social Concerns Board - Interviews were held with representatives of Habitat for Humanity, Laura Baker Services Association, Northfield Union of Youth, and Holden Village. Ruth's House and Healthy Community Initiatives were also considered for funding through Sustainability Campaign benevolence. We decided on specific monetary goals for our benevolence to several of these agencies to be implemented when and if funding becomes available through Sustainability Campaign funds in subsequent months or years.
 - c. Youth Board - discussed TORCH service project and NRC service project (twenty stockings filled and delivered)
 - i. Upcoming events: J-term classes; Tubing @ Buck Hill on January 23rd
8. New Business
 - a. Sustainability Capital Campaign Updates
 - i. Size of campaign and council approval
 1. Pr. Pam provided a summary list of Facilities Projects. Spreadsheet includes low cost estimates, high cost estimates, projected budget, fundraising need, urgency, and funding options
 2. Overall scope of appeal hadn't been firmed up when we had the Special Congregational Meeting in August; we now have a firmer idea of both need and scope of appeal
 3. Many of these things are "invisible"; might impact ability to generate excitement for the campaign; do we broaden the scope of the appeal so that we can include items that are more tangible?
 4. Jane suggests that we wouldn't want to start a lower number than we did during the last campaign. Recommends a starting goal of at least \$750,000.

5. Kristy makes the motion that Council approves a goal of \$750,000 for the Sustainability Capital campaign, assuming that at least 10% of what is raised is designated for Benevolence. Jane seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously.
- b. Nominating Committee
- c. Slaughter of Innocents
 - i. Pass along to Benevolence Board, or consider individual offerings

Future Dates:

- a. Annual reports due to Leah: **December 22, 2023**
- b. January Board Night: **January 9, 2024 (at Chair's discretion)**
- c. Council Budget Approval Meeting: **Tuesday, January 16, 2024**
- d. Budget Preview for Congregation: **Sunday, January 21, 2024**
- e. Annual Meeting: **January 28, 2024; 12:30 p.m.**
- f. 2023 Boards Orientation Night: **Tuesday, February 13, 2024; 7 p.m.**
- g. 2023 Council Retreat: **Saturday, February 3, 2024**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19pm.

Other Notes: none.

Respectfully submitted by Trish Goodrich