

Congregational Council
St. John's Lutheran Church
February 22, 2022 | 7:00 p.m.
Via Zoom due to inclement weather

Members: Pr. Pam Fickenscher, Pr. Jonathan Davis, Paul Beck, Marilyn Calcutt, Rod Christensen, Dale Gehring, Mark Gleason, Candace Godfrey, Trish Goodrich, Kristy Harms, Tamara Jackman, Dennis Rinehart, Jane Rizzo, Kathleen Shea, Jerry Ugland

Present: Rod Christensen, Marilyn Calcutt, Mark Gleason, Dennis Rinehart, Jerry Ugland, Candace Godfrey, Pr. Jonathan Davis, Trish Goodrich, Dale Gehring, Kristy Harms, Jane Rizzo, Paul Beck, Kathleen Shea, Tamara Jackman

Not Present: Pr. Pam Fickenscher

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

1. Opening devotion and prayer led by Kathy Shea.
2. Mark Gleason moved to approve minutes from December 21, 2021. Jane Rizzo seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
3. Financial Report
 - a. Update regarding the Continuing Ed fund: upon recommendation from the Budget committee, this fund (roughly \$17,000) has been moved from the balance sheet to designated funds.
 - b. Update regarding 1-year term CDs that are up for renewal: Leah, Pam, and Jane discussed, and given our current cash balance (\$342K) the decision was made not to cash them in and they were renewed for another year.
 - c. Jane shared details about the budget for offering income and why January may look low; no concerns about income at this time
4. Kathy Shea moved to approve the January financial report. Jerry Ugland seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
5. Council Updates & Action Items
 - a. Dale Gehring made the motion to affirm the following housing allowance designations for 2022: Pr. Pam Fickenscher—\$45,000 and Pr. Jonathan Davis—\$40,000. Kristy Harms seconds the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
 - b. The Council affirms the appointment of Ruth Aaseng to the personnel committee. Paul Beck moved to approve the appointment. Jane Rizzo seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
 - c. Safe Operating Committee update
 - i. Rod Christensen updated the Council that in-person gatherings are increasing now and over the next few weeks as cases fall. Coffee hour has been reinstated, but masks are still in place.
 - ii. Discussion of reinstating in-person Board Night and the comfort level of individuals on various committees. Discussion to target April 2022 for next

in-person Board Night. In the meantime, Board Chairs will discuss with their Boards at their March meetings.

6. Pastor's Report – Pr. Jonathan
 - a. Pastor Pam is currently on a 1-month sabbatical; Sally Lindell and Mark Ryberg stepping in to help; several guest preachers coming in March
 - b. Howard Thorsheim funeral on Saturday
 - c. Lent is almost here! Ash Wednesday already next week; on average 80 people attending 1st service and 60 attending 2nd service; we will again have Lenten speakers from congregation, both veteran and new members will be providing the homilies
 - d. Children's Ministry: Julie is seeing higher attendance on Zoom vs. in person on Sunday mornings; however Youth Ministry on Wednesday nights has between 30-40 kids coming in person, yet almost no youth coming on Sundays
 - e. Rod came to staff meeting earlier today to talk about vision & growth opportunities for the new year as we emerge from COVID
 - f. Tamara and Jonathan are co-teaching OWL (high school youth sexuality program) again; hope to grow participation numbers
 - g. Dates for Jonathan's upcoming sabbatical: July 11th - October 3rd
7. Board Reports: included in the materials for the Council meeting.
 - a. Business Management Board: Jane spoke about their visit from Archives. They are requesting funds to buy supplies (archival boxes, folders, shelving, window coverings).
 - i. Discussion of whether the BMB is the right place for Archives, or if it is better served in Adult Ministry & Education. Marilyn agrees that AM&E is a good fit. Chairs all agree by consensus to move Archives over the AM&E Board.
 - ii. Discussion of when Property Board should be involved in various Board decisions. Conclusion reached that if there is a permanent change to the structure or building then Property should be involved. Emphasis made on the importance of good communication between various Boards and Properties.
 - iii. Action Item: the BMB would like to request a budget change of \$2,000 from insurance (which was budgeted \$3,000 higher than expected costs) to Archives to fund current needs. Due to the nature of the projects, BMB recommends putting the \$2,000 into a designated fund in case the projects are not completed within the calendar year. Jane Rizzo made the motion to approve budget change. Dale Gehring seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
 - b. Evangelism & Communications Board:
 - i. Mark Gleason asked the Council for direction on whether to move forward with the proposed acoustic upgrades for St. John's Hall as a capital expense priority. At the time of the bid in 2021, costs were estimated at \$46,500.
 - ii. Council discussion and questions raised:
 1. Does making this investment allow us to use SJH in ways we haven't used it before? Properties & Grounds is in support of this; current sound system limits some people's ability to participate in activities in that room

2. Due to the large price tag, this is outside our budget for this year; does this project qualify as a special gifts opportunity for the congregation?
3. Does this project fit into our mission as a congregation? Right now there is an accessibility concern. If our focus is on fellowship and connection, then yes – this fits into our mission; however is this a priority for our mission right now?
4. Question to call: Council is in agreement to explore ways in which the funds might be available to advance this project; Mark and E&C Board will work with Executive Committee to move this forward. Dennis made the motion that the Council should investigate this further. Paul Beck seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52pm

Other Notes: none.

Respectfully submitted by Trish Goodrich