

**Congregational Council**  
St. John's Lutheran Church  
February 28, 2023| 7:00 p.m.

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

**Present:** Pr. Pam Fickenscher, Kathy Shea, Steve Taggert, Jerry Ugland, Trish Goodrich, Candace Godfrey, Dennis Rinehart, Marilyn Calcutt, Eric Sponheim, Dave Neuger, Tamara Jackman, Pr. Jonathan Davis

**Not Present:** Kristy Harms, Jane Rizzo, Dan Franklin

Meeting was called to order at 7:02pm.

1. Opening devotion and prayer led by Kathy Shea
2. Motion to approve the January 17, 2023 Minutes made by Marilyn Calcutt. Seconded by Candace Godfrey. The motion passes unanimously.
3. Financial Report - Pr. Pam Fickenscher
  - a. Noted that some members give their entire annual giving during the month of January. Those funds are moved into designated funds under "Prepaid Pledges - 2023" and spread throughout the year.
  - b. Snow removal budget has been reached for the year
4. Dave Neuger moved to approve the January financial report. Steve Taggert seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.
5. Council Updates & Action Items
  - a. Refreshments on Board Meeting nights
    - i. Board chairs should encourage people to come early, to enjoy refreshments and visit before meetings start
6. Pastor's Report (included in the materials for the meeting)
  - a. Synod Assembly is coming up May 6th - still need one more delegate
  - b. Covid data - Rice County tracking numbers might not be as readily available in the future. Safe Operating Task Force was disbanded in January; we might need to think about how to handle decisions about masking going forward without tracking data.
  - a. Clergy housing allowance:
    - i. Dennis Rinehart made the motion to affirm the following housing allowance designations for 2023: Pr. Pam Fickenscher-\$45,000 and Pr. Jonathan Davis-\$40,000. Dennis Rinehart seconds the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
7. Board Reports - Board Chairs (included in the materials for this meeting)

- a. Youth Ministry – focusing on the question: how can we better serve youth in our community?
    - i. Pr. Pam: upcoming Northfield Schools budget cuts: can faith communities have a role in filling the gaps? What about a stronger relationship with the ALC?
    - ii. Hoping to return Easter Breakfast to the schedule this year
  - a. Evangelism & Communications – will work with Properties & Grounds to discuss lighting and paint options for St. John’s Hall
  - b. Properties & Grounds – hoping to have 5-10 year list of major repairs by April; detailed numbers by end of May.
8. New Business
- a. Communication of Budget updates to congregation
    - i. Discussion of frequency and method of communication: monthly? quarterly?
    - ii. Method of communication: eVoice and weekly bulletin?
    - iii. Move discussion to Executive Committee
  - b. Race, equity, and inclusion discussion (Race Dialogues Summary included in the materials for this meeting)
    - i. Questions and ideas:
      1. How to engage others of different ethnicities?
      2. What could collaborating with other congregations look like?
      3. What are we already doing, versus what else we could be doing?
      4. Consider looking into the IDI (Intercultural Developmental Inventory) Assessment as a Council
      5. Visiting other places and spaces is a great way to re-evaluate how we do fellowship and how we present to outsiders
      6. Recommendation that each Chair goes back to their Board and have a specific discussion about diversity, equity, and inclusion and how their Board can consider these questions and more

Future Dates:

- a. Boards: **Tuesday, March 14, 2023**  
Please send notes of your Board meetings to Trish Goodrich within a week so she can have them prepared for Council meetings
- b. Council: **Tuesday, March 28, 2023 | 7:00 p.m.** Prayer led by Dennis Rinehart.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Other Notes: none.

Respectfully submitted by Trish Goodrich