

St. John's Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Minutes
February 27, 2024

Members present: Andrea Hoff, Ellen Ellickson, Jill Enestvedt, Alli Walters, Eric Johnsrud, Pastor Pam Fickenscher, Tamara Jackman, Dan Franklin, Rob Quanbeck, Michelle Kramer-Prevost, Judd Lohmann, Eric Sponheim, Dan Hanson

Not present: Pastor Jonathan Davis

Meeting was called to order at approximately 7 pm.

Opening discussion of the book "When Church Stops Working" (Intro and Chapter 1) led by Pastor Pam.

1. Motion to approve minutes of January 16, 2024 meeting made by Eric Johnsrud. Seconded by Tamara Jackman. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Financial Report

- a. Update from Judd Lohmann, Treasurer
January budget end actuals were below budget.
- b. But the net was close to on-budget, so no concerning issues.
- c. Michelle Kramer-Prevost moved to approve the report as submitted. Jill Enestvedt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Council Updates & Action Items

- a. Sustaining Grace Campaign - Jeff McLaughlin
Jeff gave an update. Highlights included: No cost to the congregation for printed materials for running the campaign because a couple of individuals and an anonymous donor have covered this. And the electric bill will be stable going forward for the duration of the solar panels (estimated 25-30 years).
- b. Resolution of housing allowance to pastors
Andrea Hoff moved that the Council designate a portion of the pastor's salaries as housing allowance in compliance with IRS regulations. These allowances do not change their total compensation as budgeted for 2024. Pastor Fickenscher will have \$45,000 designated as housing and Pastor Davis will have \$40,000 designated as housing. Judd Lohmann seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- c. Brokerage service:
Andrea Hoff moved that Michelle Kramer-Prevost and Judd Lohmann be designated as St. John's signatories for the account with Cetera Financial Services. Eric Johnsrud seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- d. Update on Valley Grove Tapestry exhibit (cost/timing/possible need for Council vote).

Valley Grove Lutheran Church has offered tapestries to display through May, until they go back into storage. It may require a rider to our insurance, because the tapestries are worth about \$12,000. Judd Lohmann moved that if the cost of an insurance rider is not more than \$300, the Worship & Arts Board may proceed with covering the cost of the rider through its own budget. Alli Walters seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Pastor's Report (included in materials for this meeting)
 - a. Worship attendance has increased compared to a year ago.
 - b. Several recent funerals again highlighted the importance of the funeral ministry.

5. Board Reports -
 - a. Nominating committee identified the following people to fill board positions: Ron Hebensperger to join Worship & Arts; Alli Walters to chair Childrens; and Erik Lindell to join Youth Board.
 - b. Board Chair Reports (included in meeting materials)

6. New Business - none

Future Dates:

March Board Night, Tuesday, March 12, 2024

*Note that there is only one week between Board Night and Council this month. Please submit your Board Minutes to Elaine Nesbit by Thursday March 14 so that they can be ready for the Council Meeting.

Church Council Meeting, Tuesday, March 19, 2024

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:25.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Eric Sponheim