Congregational Council

St. John's Lutheran Church July 25, 2023 | 7:00 p.m.

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

Present: Kathy Shea, Candace Godfrey, Marilyn Calcutt, Jerry Ugland, Dan Frankenstein, Jane Rizzo, Dennis Rinehart, Dave Neuger, Pr. Jonathan Davis, Kristy Harms, Tamara Jackman

Not Present: Trish Goodrich, Steve Taggert, Pr. Pam Fickenscher, Eric Sponheim

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm

- 1. Opening devotion and prayer led by Candace Godfrey
- 2. Motion to approve the June 27, 2023 Minutes made by Kristy Harms. Seconded by Dennis Rinehart. The motion passes unanimously.
- 3. Financial Report Jane Rizzo
 - a. Still behind in offering. Gap is increasing. Offering statements will be sent to congregation. 42% behind projected income.
 - b. Will focus on reducing expenses.
 - c. Dan Franklin made the motion to accept the financial report as submitted. Candace Godfrey seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- 4. Council Updates & Action Items
 - a. Youth Director Position
 - i. Kristin Partlo has been offered and accepted the position Director of Ministry with Youth and Families on a part-time basis as she continues her seminary studies. September 5 2023 start date.
 - ii. Motion to approve Kristin as part-time Youth Director: Dennis Rinehart. Motion seconded: Jerry Ugland. Approved unanimously.
 - b. Capital Campaign planning.
 - i. \$800,000 initial goal for Capital campaign. Capital projects include:
 - 1. Placement of solar panels on flat roof surfaces. Government rebates are available for solar panel installations.
 - 2. Improved utility efficiency and sustainability
 - a. A comprehensive energy audit of the St. John's campus will be part of this planned element.

- b. A separate energy audit to ascertain use of geothermal energy at St. John's is necessary <u>before</u> the more comprehensive energy audit. The geothermal audit is to be conducted by Emmanuelson-Podas. The cost of this specific geothermal assessment is \$2,500.00. There was agreement that this is a necessary cost as part of the overall energy efficiency approach. Jane Rizzo recommended that monies from the St. John's Fund from the St. John's Foundation be used for this \$2,500.00 expense. Dennis Rinehart made the motion to request \$2,500.00 from St. John's Fund for this assessment. Dan Franklin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with one abstention.
- 3. Parking lot resurfacing
- 4. Carpeting in the lower level of the church
- 5. 10% benevolence
- ii. The Foundation has agreed to loan the St. John's Congregation a sum of \$100,000 to be repaid by the congregation for the purpose of installing solar panels on the flat roof surfaces of the building.
 - 1. This will require a change of the by-laws of the Foundation to permit this first-ever use of Foundation funds.
- iii. Congregational meeting to approve a Capital campaign must be approved by Council. Announcement of meeting must occur 2 weeks before the planned meeting.
- iv. Council must request that the Foundation call a Congregational meeting to occur on the same date as the Congregational meeting.
- v. Motion made by Kristy Harms and was seconded by Dave Neuger:
 - 1. To acknowledge Foundation by-laws revision to permit loan of funds by the Foundation to the St. John's Congregation; and
 - 2. To approve announcement of the August 27, 2023 Congregational meeting by the Council and
 - 3. To approve introducing a capital campaign of \$800,000
 - 4. Motion passed unanimously.
- 5. Stewardship Board
 - a. Discuss Stewardship campaign: data about giving (%, increase your giving challenge, etc.)
 - i. Timing of Stewardship campaign, capital campaign, giving to Foundation
 - ii. Recommendations:
 - 1. Theme needs to recognize realities. Council recommended messaging to offer clarity about budget needs.
 - 2. Possible goals: increase in online giving, increasing: step-up goals, calculating increases in giving
 - 3. More specificity about intentional giving plans.

- 6. Pastor's Report (included in the materials for the meeting)
 - a. Brief review of items submitted for the Council.
 - b. Pr. Jonathan remarked on the extensive planning and coordination by Nathan Proctor to assure seamless music resources during Nathan's scheduled sabbatical. The Council expressed gratitude.
- 7. Board Reports (included in the materials for this meeting)
 - a. Adult Ministries: plans are being developed.
- 8. New Business
 - a. Discussion air quality policy for programming
 - i. No action needed at this point. Will wait for the school district to make recommendations or set their own policy.

Future Dates:

- a. Boards: No official Board Night for August meet as needed
 Please send notes of your Board meetings to Trish Goodrich so she can have them prepared for Council meetings
- b. Council: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 | 7:00 p.m. Prayer led by Merilyn Calcutt.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm

Other Notes: none.

Respectfully submitted by Kristy Harms