

**Congregational Council**  
**St. John's Lutheran Church | Northfield, MN**  
**July 28, 2020 | 7:00 p.m.**  
**Meeting via Zoom due to COVID-19**

Present: Pr. Pam Fickenscher, Pr. Jonathan Davis, David Nitz, Martha Erickson, Ruth Dahl, Suzy Taggart, Allene Moesler, Suzanne Pfau, Craig Schultz, Marilyn Calcutt, Mary Hoff, Kris Vatter, Mark Gleason, Jenny Nystrom, Kathy Shea

Not Present: ---

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by David Nitz.

1. Opening Prayer - offered by Kris Vatter.
2. Treasurer's Report
  - a. Revenue and expenses are just below budget.
  - b. These figures do not reflect the PP loan.
3. Pastor's Report
  - a. Staff planning time is set for August, after we hear what the school year will look like in September.
  - b. Radio worship has had a good response.
  - c. Safe Operating Task Committee is looking at how to keep baptisms safe.
  - d. The outdoor service is planned for August 2.
  - e. Pastoral Care - we've been looking at how to do this safely. The various care centers throughout town also have their own safety protocols.
4. Council Action Items and Updates
  - a. Reviewed the Safe Operating Task Committee document. Allene Moesler suggested posting the principles on the website for anyone who is searching for our safety procedures.
  - b. The Stewardship board was thrilled with the participation and responses they received from the other boards on their survey.
  - c. Benevolence Board - Kathy Shea discussed the anti-racism pledge they are working on and what that looks like for St. John's. Jenny Nystrom suggested that the work around anti-racism should have broad participation from congregation members and that putting together a task force might be a good way to move forward.
5. Consent Agenda Items
  - a. Kris Vatter moved to approve June Congregational Council minutes. Martha Erickson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- b. Allene Moesler made the motion to approve June's Treasurer's Report. Craig Schultz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
  - c. Allene Moesler moved to affirm the Safe Operating Task Committee's Principles and recommendations about the availability of the building for small groups after July 31, 2020. Martha Erickson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
  - d. Jenny Nystrom moved to approve the request to Foundation to release \$3,500 for ELCA scholarship funds (\$2,700) and Seminarian support (\$800). Ruth Dahl seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
  - e. Mark Gleason moved to approve expenditure of Grace Overflowing Funds for St. John's Hall carpet (\$19,500) and Hearing Loop (\$14,500). Craig Schultz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
  - f. Ruth Dahl made the motion to transfer Grace Overflowing present and future contributions which are undesignated as of 8.1.20 to Council Designated Capital and Benevolence Funds, with spending to be authorized by Council acting on recommendations brought on a quarterly basis by Property and Grounds and Benevolence Boards, respectively. The Benevolence amount will be based on the original intent of using 20% of net campaign contributions for benevolence. Kathy Shea seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.  
(As of the June 30, 2020 financial update, estimated transfers between now and the end of the year will be \$149,000 - Capital, and \$11,000 - Benevolence)
  - g. Kris Vatter made the contingency motion on continuation of health benefits for Emmanuel for August, 2020, in the event he is not eligible to work beginning August 1 due to delay in the processing of his Visa application. Mary Hoff seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
6. A closing prayer was offered by David Nitz.
7. Meeting was concluded. Meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.