

Congregational Council
St. John's Lutheran Church | Northfield, MN

May 25, 2021 | 7:00 p.m.

Meeting via Zoom due to COVID-19

Present: Pr. Pam Fickenscher, Pr. Jonathan Davis, Ruth Dahl, Jane Rizzo, Suzy Taggart, Rod Christensen, Rachel Brownlee, Mark Gleason, Gene Bakko, Carolyn Nitz, Kristy Harms, Merilyn Calcutt, Rob Nutt, Paul Beck, Suzanne Pfau

Not Present: –

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m.

1. Opening Prayer - led by Gene Bakko.
2. Financial Report
3. Pastors' Report
4. Council Action Items & Updates
 - a. Queer Youth Center & Lead for Minnesota
Robert Harris, a representative from Lead for Minnesota, joined us to discuss the possibility of St. John's committing to be a host site for a fellow.
 - b. ECB Updates
ECB is exploring closed captioning options. ECB recommends that we move ahead with the closed captioning options. ECB feels that church members should not be charged for closed captioning services for events (weddings, etc.). ECB would like to discuss the sound panels in more depth.
 - c. Safe Operating Update
The council discussed our personal comfort levels with attending church services without masks. The council unanimously felt comfortable having a mask mandate during church services for the time being. The council will revisit the mask mandate in the following weeks.
 - d. Future Council Meetings
The council made the decision to hold our June council meeting online, and determine whether or not July's meeting will once again be in person at a later date.
 - e. Board Updates
5. Consent Agenda Items
 - a. Kristy Harms made the motion to approve St. John's committing to \$5,000 per year for the next two years, in committing to be a host for Kieran with Lead for America. For the first year, \$600 would come out of the Foundation's Youth and Children's Funds, and \$4,400 balance coming from Grace Overflowing Benevolence Fund. The

second year, the funds would come from a combination of Foundation funds and money raised by the Youth board. Rob Nutt seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- i. Mark Gleason made an amendment to the motion that St. John's support would be contingent upon the program continuing in Northfield. Rod Christensen seconded the amendment. The motion carried unanimously.
 - b. Mark Gleason made the motion to approve the FAQs regarding St. John's providing streaming services for non-service events (weddings, funerals, etc.). Paul Beck seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
 - c. Suzanne Pfau made the motion to ask the congregation to wear masks at least through June. Gene Bakko seconded the motion.
 - d. Jane Rizzo made the motion to approve the minutes and financial report from April's council meeting. Merilyn Calcutt seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
6. A closing prayer was offered by Ruth Dahl.
7. Meeting was concluded. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.