

Minutes
Congregation Council

St. John's Lutheran Church, Northfield, MN

June 26, 2018

Present: Rob, Mark, Ruthie, Pr. Pam, Terry Dell, Erik Holleque, Jennifer Edwins, Jenny Nystrom, Pr. Jonathan, Alyssa Ness, Nancy Ordahl Kmoch, Jane Rinehart, Kristy Harms

Not Present: Martha Erickson, Dan Van Tassel, Eric Holleque

Guest: Ralph Yernberg

The meeting was called to order by Rob Quanbeck at 7:02 pm

1. Opening Prayer - Offered by Rob Quanbeck.

2. Future dates

a. Boards – July 10, 2018 7:00pm (at chairs' discretion). No treats are needed for this month, since many of the Boards are not meeting on this date, and some of the Boards do not plan to meet in July.

Reminder: Please call or e-mail your board members prior to the meeting and remind them.

b. Council – **July 24, 2018**, 7:00pm; Erik Holleque, prayer

3. Pastor's Report

- a. Anniversary celebration activities in 2019 are planned for January, April, July and October.
- b. Air handler installation is not complete; the new air handler is so efficient that adjustments are required to set the humidity to the appropriate level for the instruments in the Sanctuary.
- c. Terry Dell provided a tuck pointing update; the bid has been awarded to the vendor with the lowest bid. Carlton College has awarded contracts to ACME and continues to work with this vendor. Additional work has been identified as necessary in the next 5 years; the vendor has bid on the additional identified work and based on the bid, the additional work has been rolled into the bid for this year. The total bid for all projects is lower than expected and will be completed this fall.
- d. Interior signage to guide members and guests through St. John's is moving forward. Final proof-reading is underway at this time.
- e. The first 50% of funds authorized for the Immigration Law Center following last month's Council meeting, through the Grace Overflowing campaign have been sent to the organization. There will be a variety of volunteer opportunities related to this venture, including child care for parents accessing services, etc. The anticipated location of the services will be at the St. Dominic's Youth facility.
- f. School supply drive will be expanded to include supplies for college-bound TORCH students.
- g. Youth Transition Update: lively discussion at the June 6th session occurred. The session affirmed the reason for discussion and provided insight into adult needs related to Forum

topics. Next steps will be to convene the transition group to evaluate feedback and begin to draft a job description for the Youth Ministries position.

- h. Successful mission trips were completed to Milwaukee, WI and Houston, TX. In addition to volunteer opportunities, the trips offered relationship development between the youth and adult chaperones.
- i. Confirmation update. A lot of planning is underway for the 2018-2019 year. There will be four groupings of youth for this Confirmation year. The 6th grade group will be separate. 7th & 8th graders will be grouped together for the Faith & Science, Faith & Sexuality, Faith & Ethics and Faith & Death & Dying segments. 9th graders will be separate and the year will offer more bonding time.

4. Council Action Items and Updates

- a. Review recommendations for Funeral/Hospitality. Recommendations are included in the materials for the meeting. The biggest variation is that hot meals will no longer be provided by volunteers, but would be catered by approved catering vendors. The list of approved caterers includes a variety of price points, so that the options are affordable. Desserts could continue to be provided by St. John's or catered, as desired by the family. Families may opt to serve dessert and coffee, only, based on their desires and the time of day for funeral services. Shared Ministry will continue to be responsible for recruitment and scheduling of volunteers for funerals. Pr. Pam noted that the funeral home will coordinate the financial piece of arrangements with the families. Jenny Nystrom asked if there is a need to communicate the changes with the broader congregation; Pr. Pam and Rob Quanbeck agreed that broader communication of changes is appropriate. Terry Dell asked if the cited hours of 10 hours/month of paid staff time would be in addition to the existing time expectations for Shared Ministry staff; Pr. Pam explained that the responsibilities will be written into the job description. The fees detailed in the recommendations are labeled as donations; there are hardship considerations that will be applied to assure affordability of funeral services. The Council remarked that the Funeral/Hospitality committee submitted a complete and thoughtful set of recommendations for consideration. Kristy Harms moved to accept the recommendations made by the Funeral/Hospitality committee. Mark Gleason seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. Stewardship – Messaging for Stewardship campaign for 2019. Ralph Yernberg. St. John's follows the stewardship strategies developed by the Synod. The strategy for 2019 is under discussion and materials are being designed for printing in August. Last year the strategy focused on the Parish Nurse position and strengthening congregational care & support and supporting youth programs by rolling fundraising into the church budget. Ralph asked the Council to consider what excites people and encourages people to show up for church. Ideas introduced were: redefining youth programs and how St. John's plans to move forward; defining moments for members; re-engagement of younger retirees with the congregation; Parish Nurse stories; and focus on participation levels at St. John's. Sustaining St. John's is important. Ralph will look for further guidance from the Council in July.
- c. ACME contract/tuck pointing update – See Pastor's Report 3.c., above.
- d. Summer Bounty update – Sogne Valley Farms gleaning opportunities. Kristy advised that Sogne Valley Farm has made initial contact about summer produce donations. The donations involve pick up of produce that has been gathered by the picking team at the farm, or involves gleaning some of the crops offered by the farm. Pick up days are typically Tuesday and/or Thursday. Pr. Jonathan noted that Sundays are the best day for offering produce to members of St. John's. Kristy Harms will contact the farm to find out what produce is available now, what the anticipated schedule for donations will be. Kristy

Harms will contact CAC in Northfield to find out if donated produce can be shared with CAC. Plans for volunteers to: 1) pick up produce at the farm; 2) participate in gleanings in the fields at the farm; 3) drop produce at CAC, if possible. More information will be shared with the Council and with members at St. John's when available.

- e. Soli Seminary Fund – the Foundation funds for seminary students will be needed next month. The Council recommended that the funds be requested now, so that the money is available for dispersal in July/August. Ruthie Neuger made the motion to request release of the Foundation funds from the Soli Seminary fund now. Terry Dell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
 - f. Properties & Grounds update: Terry Dell advised that two of the capital campaign projects have been sidelined for additional discussion, and need to be given consideration.
 - i.) Seating/pew refinishing; and ii) Fellowship Hall flooring/space.
 - i. Mobility issues make the current pews problematic for people with walkers and wheelchairs. It has been noted that St. John's may need to consider other options that are friendlier for people with mobility challenges.
 - ii. Fellowship Hall floor: the floor must be replaced, but re-designing the space based on usage at the same time as floor replacement could make the space more useful.
- Pr. Pam recommended that two groups to study each issue and make recommendations about seating in the sanctuary and use and renovation for Fellowship Hall might be in order. The Council agreed with that assessment.

5. Consent Agenda Items for Council

- a. Treasurer's Report and Envelope Offerings, May 2018. There were no questions following review and discussion of the reports.
- b. Minutes from the May 22, 2018 meeting. There were no revisions of the May Minutes recommended by the Council.

Jenny Nystrom made the motion to accept the Consent Agenda items as submitted to the Council. Ruthie Neuger seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Prayer – The president leads the Council praying the prayer Jesus taught us.

7. Conclusion - Meeting concluded at 8:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Harms