

Minutes
Congregation Council

St. John's Lutheran Church, Northfield, MN
July 24, 2018

Present: Rob Quanbeck, Ruthie Neuger, Pr. Pam Fickenscher, Jennifer Edwins, Eric Holleque, Nancy Ordahl Kmoch, Terry Dell, Dan Van Tassel, Pr. Jonathan Davis, Alyssa Ness, Kristy Harms

Not Present: Jane Rinehart, Martha Erickson, Jenny Nystrom

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Rob Quanbeck.

Silence, then opening prayer led by Erik Holleque. A time of silence for prayer and for gathering our hearts and minds together will precede the prayer.

2. Future dates

a. Boards – August 14, 2018 7:00pm (at chairs' discretion). Treats provided by Faith & Health Board at 6:45 pm.

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

***Please note:** August 14 is the Minnesota Primary election; St. John's will host a voting precinct in St. John's Hall. Boards will meet in alternative locations on this evening.*

b. Council – **August 28, 2018** 7:00pm; Jennifer Edwins, prayer

3. Pastor's Report

- a. Pastor Pam and Pastor Jonathan have been enjoying time away during July.
- b. Capital projects update:
 - i. Air conditioner/air handler project is getting closer to completion.
 - ii. Interior signage is getting closer to completion. Andrea Hoff is finishing proofing the materials.
- c. Notification has been received regarding a bequest from the estate of Margaret O'Leary. Pr. Pam noted that the amount of the bequest will be confirmed for the next meeting.
- d. The Nominating Committee met on 7/24 (this evening). The Nominating Committee must fill an opening on their own committee, and then begin the search for candidates to fill openings on Boards. The Nominating Committee is responsible for recruiting candidates for Board positions; recommendations for potential candidates may be submitted to the Nominating Committee. Rob noted that there is a discernment process in place to make sure that nominated candidates are a good fit for the identified Boards. Terry Dell noted that there is a position on the Properties & Grounds Board that needs to be filled for a partial term to complete the original member's term. Rob recommended that Board Chairs bring a list of Board member terms to the next meeting to confirm openings on each Board. Pr. Jonathan asked whether the Nominating Committee is responsible for asking Board members to step down; there is not currently a formal process for asking Board members to step down.
- e. Pr. Jonathan provided an update on the status of the Youth Ministries re-visioning process. Middle School youth has asked for a group to meet on Sundays.
- f. Pr. Pam and Pr. Jonathan have been planning confirmation curriculum. Both Pr. Pam and Pr. Jonathan had the opportunity to spend time with a MN Educator of the Year to enrich teaching skills.

4. Council Action Items and Updates

- a. Stewardship drive messaging – follow up from June meeting. Ralph Yernberg’s attendance at the June meeting was helpful. Ralph will return to the Council in August to solicit Council guidance and endorsement of stewardship messaging for 2019. Dan Van Tassel confirmed that the Stewardship Board will look for tangible goals from the Council. Pr. Pam proposed messaging around sustaining the vital ministries in place at St. John’s. Staffing will be a larger issue for 2019 as decisions around Youth Ministries are finalized. Ideas about where St. John’s is headed and stories from last year that lift up that direction will be important.
- b. Property & Grounds update
 - i. Process to determine the way forward for fellowship hall flooring and sanctuary seating.
 01. Fellowship Hall: Basic work has been completed and financial limitations have been established for this project. Consultation with the Spending Committee needs to occur. Groups that use the space are: Scouts, quilters, and youth. A group that has a stake in the use of this space should be identified and charged with defining the scope of this project.
 02. Sanctuary Seating: Worship & Arts Board does not support replacement of the existing pews. A worship space for all life situations is driving this issue; having a space that supports all of our worshippers is important. Jonathan proposed granting permission to the Children’s Board and Worship & Arts Board to experiment with options to address mobility and access issues.
 - One.* Mobility issues: space for walkers is needed. Seating with arms to help those who need help to stand from a seated position is important.
 - Two.* Space for families. A space that permits children to move and feel welcome at worship is desirable.
 - ii. Property and Grounds projects that need attention but are not budgeted for 2018. Terry Dell noted that the project that would have the largest impact, and will have the highest cost is C) automatic door openers for the bathrooms off of the Commons area.
 - A) Curb cut (3): a curb cut for handicapped access 1) on the west side of the building outside Door 1; 2) near the handicapped parking spots on the southwest side of the church; and 3) on the West/NW side, near the kitchen entrance. The curb cut on the West/NW side of the parking lot would also help with water drainage and reduce residual ice in the winter. Cost for all three: \$8,500. **Motion:** Rob proposed that the funds needed to complete the curb cut project be released from St. John’s fund. Kristy seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
 - B) Louver vent: A fan in the bell tower has been repaired to keep out the weather and bats (in the belfry – I couldn’t resist) is needed. Cost: \$600. **Motion:** Rob made the motion to release funds from the Building & Properties fund to pay for this project. Ruthie seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
 - C) Automatic door openers for bathrooms closest to the Commons/St. John’s Hall. The doors to these rest rooms are heavy. There have been instances of frail or elderly (or young) members getting stuck in the rest rooms because the doors are too heavy to open. The doors meet code requirements, but accessibility to the rest rooms is important to all of our members. First quote for this job is \$10,000. Additional quotes will be solicited. **Motion:** Ruthie made the motion for Council to

authorize Properties & Grounds to install automatic door openers on the restroom doors outside the Commons/St. John's Hall using funds from St. John's Fund and designated fund balances. Jennifer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- c. Funeral/Hospitality. Mary Kelvie has advised that it is necessary to re-think the way that volunteers are recruited for funerals and other hospitality functions.

5. Consent Agenda Items for Council

- a. Treasurer's Report, June 2018
- b. Minutes from the June 24, 2018 meeting. Nancy Ordahl Knoch noted that there are revisions required to identify Council members who attended the meeting in June; both Nancy and Jane Rinehart were present. Eric Holleque noted that he is erroneously identified as present at the meeting. Kristy will make those revisions to the Minutes.

Motion: Ruthie made the motion to accept the June Treasurer's Report as submitted to the Council, and to accept the June Council Minutes, with recommended revisions. Jennifer Edwins seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

7. A closing prayer was offered by Rob Quanbeck, and he led us in the Lord's Prayer.

8. Meeting concluded.

Council member made a motion that we adjourn, Council member seconded it. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Harms