

Congregational Council
St. John's Lutheran Church
May 28, 2024

Members: Pr. Pam Fickenscher, Pr. Jonathan Davis, Ellen Ellickson, Jill Enestvedt, Dan Franklin, Daniel Hanson, Andrea Hoff, Tamara Jackson, Eric Johnsrud, Judd Lohmann, Elaine Nesbit, Rob Quanbeck, Alli Walters, Michelle Kramer-Prevost

Present: Dan Franklin, Pr. Pam Fickenscher, Judd Lohmann, Ellen Ellickson, Andrea Hoff, Jill Enestvedt, Rob Quanbeck, Daniel Hanson, Elaine Nesbit, Eric Johnsrud, Pr. Jonathan Davis

Not present: Alli Walters, Tamara Jackson, Michelle Kramer-Prevost

Meeting was called to order at 7:04pm.

1. Opening: Dan Franklin opened us in prayer.
2. Motion to approve the March 19, 2024 Council Minutes made by Eric Johnsrud; the motion was seconded by Andrea Hoff, the motion passed unanimously.
3. Financial Report by Judd Lohmann, Treasurer
 - a. Offering for April was \$1000 above budget. YTD offering and Total Operating Income continues to be below budget. The deficit is due to monies not yet released from designated funds and is not of concern.
\$300,000 has already been donated for Sustaining Grace, eliminating the need for a loan.
 - b. Overall Finances look good.
 - c. Andrea motioned to approve the financial report; Dan Hanson seconded; the motion passed unanimously.
4. Council Updates and Action Items
 - a. Sustaining Grace: Jeff McGlaughlin
 - i. Complication with insurance not covering the panels. (Church Mutual Insurance Co.) Jeff will inquire about other churches and other ways to insure the panels, then meet with Judd Lohmann. Contracted date of installation is June 17. If necessary, we will call an emergency meeting for the council for a decision on the solar panel/insurance issue.
 - ii. Good news: We have significantly surpassed the \$750,000 fundraising goal.
 - b. Request from Emmanuel Kaghondi for St. John's to provide funds to rectify Social Security funding issues from 2020-2022. We have a 2021 surplus. Pr. Pam summarized the history of the situation for the Council.

Business management has recommended that we release those funds; Judd made a motion to approve the decision; Rob Quanbeck seconded the motion. Discussion followed confirming that we have a written letter as documentation. The motion was approved unanimously.

- c. The sound team has been discussing the need for a paid sound person. Pr. Pam and others suggested that a representative from the audio visual team, (Dave Zdeneck), meet with a representative from E&C Board, the Worship and Arts Board and a staff member to clarify the actual needs before moving to hire. Policy needs to be considered. It was suggested that those individuals could connect on Board Meeting Night.
5. Pastors' Reports
 - a. Pr. Pam: (included in materials for the meeting)
 - b. Pr. Jonathan:
 - i. Honoring high school seniors this Sunday
 - ii. Sixth graders welcoming fifth graders to confirmation
 - iii. Camping and canoeing trip with middle schoolers and high schoolers (one more chaperone needed).
 6. Board Reports (included in materials submitted)
 - a. Benevolence and Social Concerns - planning the distribution of funds a year at a time.
 - b. Faith and Health Board -AED Narcan Training and Advance Care Planning
Presentation: They will speak with Jonathan about adult forum dates. The AED training may be in the summer so that more volunteers can attend.
Sacred Sites Tour Saturday 10-2, meeting at Bethel.
 - c. Property and Grounds Board -
 - i. Acoustical panels (St. John's hall) Please don't put pins on the boards. Use the rail at the perimeter. (The panels are fragile)
 - ii. Discussion of HVAC system: Needs a common interface and Wifi use to control. Funding is part of the Sustaining Grace budget. Property and Grounds will review and prioritize, bringing to Council the larger projects for approval.
 - iii. Accessibility for the choir has been requested, but has already been researched and found to be prohibitively complicated and expensive.
 - d. Adult Ministry and Education
 - i. Summer suppers will be back in swing. Opportunities to meet one another. Keep in mind being a host or a guest.
 - ii. A subgroup from the board will be looking at the adult forums.
 - e. Evangelism - Not much interest in outdoor service, but possibly a picnic.

7. New Business/Old Business
 - a. Judd will talk with Dan Hanson regarding signage about guns being banned on the premises.

Book Discussion: Chapter 3 of When Church Stops Working. We will discuss Chapter 4 next week.

Future dates:

May Board Night: June 11,, 2024

May Church Council Meeting: June 25 , 2024

Dan Franklin closed with the meeting at 8:42pm

Respectfully submitted by Elaine Nesbit