

Congregational Council
St. John's Lutheran Church
November 28, 2023 | 7:00 p.m.

Members: Pr. Pam Fickenscher, Pr. Jonathan Davis, Kathy Shea, Dave Neuger, Marilyn Calcutt, Eric Sponheim, Trish Goodrich, Kristy Harms, Tamara Jackman, Dennis Rinehart, Jane Rizzo, Jerry Ugland, Steve Taggert, Dan Franklin

Present: Pr. Pam Fickenscher, Pr. Jonathan Davis, Kathy Shea, Dan Franklin, Marilyn Calcutt, Eric Sponheim, Trish Goodich, Tamara Jackman, Jane Rizzo, Jerry Ugland, Steve Taggert, Dennis Rinehart, Dave Neuger, Kristy Harms, Katherine Norrie (Children's Board representative)

Not Present: None

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm

1. Opening prayer led by Dan Franklin
2. Motion to approve the October 24, 2023 Minutes made by Jane Rizzo. Seconded by Kristy Harms. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Financial Report - Jane Rizzo
 - a. Summary bullet points following October financials were printed in Sunday's bulletin and sent via email.
 - b. Nothing of concern from the Business Management Board regarding the October financials at this point in the year.
4. Kristy Harms moved to approve the October financial report. Dave Neuger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
5. Council Updates & Action Items
 - a. Foundation/Funding Requests
 - i. **Worship & Arts Board** - would like to ask Council to approve the disbursement of \$1,070 in funds from the St. John's Foundation's designated music funds (the remainder of the available Foundation funds for the current year) allocated as follows:
 1. \$500 in music reparations (earmarked for either Hopewell Music, TruArt Speaks or a comparable non-profit organization)
 2. \$200 for an air purifier for the choir room
 3. \$370 for intern stipends for additional work conducted during the Advent and Christmas season.

The Board also respectfully asks the Council to make the request to the St. John's Foundation to release these designated funds.

Dave Neuger made the motion to approve the release of these designated funds totaling \$1,070. Dan Franklin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- ii. The following requests were also made:
 1. **Worship & Arts Board** - \$2,000 to hold a Hymn Festival in the early months of 2024 in honor of John Ferguson and his many contributions to St. John's music.
 2. **Youth Board** - \$400 for TORCH service project, \$100 for Torch designated fund overage, and \$600 for Northfield Retirement Center
 3. **Faith & Health Board** - \$1,500 for AED
 4. **Benevolence & Social Concerns Board** - \$7,000 for Bright Stars of Bethlehem, a school in Palestine.
 5. **Evangelism & Communications Board** - \$1,600 for a 75-in television, to be used for adult forums and other activities.
 6. **Stewardship Board** - \$80 for digital stewardship campaign materials. Jane suggests that expense should come from the Stewardship Board budget.
- iii. Upon receipt of these requests, Jane Rizzo offered funding suggestions for how to distribute expenses across the budget. Total requests will use up all remaining funds of \$11,370 from Foundation, and \$3,014 from other sources. See attached summary of requests and spending allocations.
- iv. Kristy Harms made the motion to approve the expenses to be allocated as recommended by Jane Rizzo. Jerry Ugland seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Pastor's Report (included in the materials for this meeting)

7. Board Reports (included in the materials for this meeting)

- a. **Adult Ministry Board** - Advent Book read - first session last week. 14 members participating. Advent cards will be passed out tomorrow for the Advent Fair and next Sunday.
- b. **Benevolence & Social Concerns Board** - has received seven proposals from non-profits for use of capital campaign sustainability grants; the board is reviewing all of them and beginning the interview process soon.
- c. **Stewardship Board** - are envelopes opt-in or opt-out? Pr. Pam - they are opt-in for all new members who join. For those who move to online giving, envelopes are automatically suspended. It costs the church approximately \$1,500 for the printing

and purchase of all envelopes. One benefit to having envelopes is for the special offerings.

- d. **Faith & Health Board** - upcoming blood drive, Monday, January 8, 1-6pm.
 - i. Land Acknowledgement statement
 - 1. Council discussion: we should consider having it printed in the bulletin each week, and on the website. Council agrees that it should have more exposure. Council recommends inclusion of the official land acknowledgement in the bulletin and the website. Pastors will work with staff to execute both of these avenues.
 - e. **Evangelism & Communications Board** - minutes submitted after Council packet was prepared; November minutes attached (see Addendum A)
 - f. **Children's Board** - school year is off to a good start. Not pre-Covid numbers yet, but increasing. Some people are coming to Wednesday programming even though they are attending other churches on Sunday. After school snack budget was not meeting the need; Julie will be working to increase it for next year. How to engage parents during Sunday School hour? Many leave their kids and then disengage. Advent Fair tomorrow will be another great way to engage families.
 - g. **Property & Grounds Board** - the board would like to update the lights in the Narthex area (dark in the evening and on cloudy days). This includes lights hanging above the stairways heading to the balcony. Steve has different lighting options. Approx \$7,500 for the fixtures alone. Includes two sconces going down the stairs to the basement. Steve to run suggestions by Nathan. Budget might be able to cover installation. Pr. Pam: This was originally planned as a Grace Overflowing project. There is still some money from that campaign (\$8,200) - we should use these funds.
 - i. Jane Rizzo made the motion that we pay for the narthex light fixtures (approximately \$8,000) from the Grace Overflowing capital fund, with installation expenses from the maintenance budget. Katherine Norrie seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
8. New Business
- a. Capital Campaign update
 - i. Pr. Pam: We are continuing to get more information on project costs (parking lot, HVAC system, second energy audit, etc.) We are starting to get some rebates from the first energy audit.
 - ii. Continuing to think about the capital campaign appeal; members who led the last capital campaign appeal have been talking about how to move forward with this one. Looking for co-chairs and leaders. Targeting the end of the year to move forward with setting up committees.
 - b. Nominating Committee suggestions on Board size - any feedback from Boards?
 - i. Worship & Arts - reducing numbers isn't ideal; also, people who are involved give more. Their board would argue to keep numbers higher rather than make a wholesale reduction.

Future Dates:

- a. Boards: **Tuesday, December 12, 2023**
Please send notes of your Board meetings to Trish Goodrich so she can have them prepared for Council meetings
- b. Council: **Tuesday, December 19, 2023 | 7:00 p.m.** Prayer led by Tamara Jackman
- c. Annual reports due to Leah: **December 20, 2023**
- d. Annual Meeting: **Sunday, January 28, 2024 | 12:00 p.m.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.

Other Notes: none.

Respectfully submitted by Trish Goodrich

Addendum A

EVANGELISM & COMMUNICATIONS BOARD
St. John's Lutheran Church
November 21, 2023

Members present: Jill Enestvedt, Jon Kavanaugh, Chris Tacheny, Eric Sponheim (chair), Leah Garlie (staff liaison)

Absent: Sandi Gerdis, Evelyn Hoover

Call to order: Eric Sponheim (chair) convened the meeting at 7:02 on Zoom.

1. Informational items for council
 - a. Photography/website update – awaiting submission of pictures from Stephanie Bennett
 - b. Equipment items -- see below under resolutions
2. Discussion Items
 - a. Land Acknowledgement Statement publicity – We preliminarily discussed options such as weekly inclusion on the bulletin and signage at the two main entrances. No action taken.
3. Action items, motions
 - a. The board discussed and passed 3 items involving expenditures or budgeting:
 - i. Microphone: Jon moved and Chris seconded a motion to purchase a mic needed for streaming at a cost of \$159. Approved.
 - ii. TV replacement: Jil moved and Jon seconded a motion to purchase a replacement for the cracked large-screen TV that is used for adult forums and other activities. Cost identified as \$1,599. Leah recommended that the funding consist of these 3 elements:
 1. \$800 from the St. John's Foundation
 2. \$400 redirected from funds previously approved for PEEL but not spent
 3. \$400 from the ECB budget
 - iii. Next year's ECB budget: Chris moved and Jon seconded a motion to increase next year's ECB budget by \$2,000. Leah will be completing the budget worksheet to support this request, assisting newbie chair Eric.

Adjournment: Eric Sponheim (chair) adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm