

Congregational Council
St. John's Lutheran Church
October 24, 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, Dan Franklin, Kathy Shea, Marilyn Calcutt, Trish Goodrich, Kristy Harms, Dennis Rinehart, Jane Rizzo, Jerry Ugland, Adam Loy, Dave Neuger, Tamara Jackman, Eric Sponheim

Not Present: Steve Taggert

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm

1. Opening devotion and prayer led by Jane Rizzo
2. Motion to approve the September 26, 2023 Minutes made by Dave Neuger. Seconded by Dan Franklin. Dave Neuger suggests the following edits:
 - a. In 7.c., change the typo “workl” to “work”
 - b. In 8.a.ii, change “Steve Harner” to “Steve Taggert”.The motion passes unanimously.
3. Financial Report - Jane Rizzo
 - a. We are in good shape for both income and expenses; each Chair should be reviewing their budgets with their boards as the end of the year approaches. Many boards still have money in their designated funds.
 - b. Budget committee is made up of the following: the President Elect, and the chairs from Business Management, Stewardship, Property & Grounds, and two other boards (Dennis Rinehart/Faith & Health and Eric Sponheim/Evangelism & Communication). The committee will start meeting in December.
4. Kristy Harms moved to approve the September financial report. Dennis Rinehart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
5. Council Updates & Action Items
 - a. Business Management Board
 - i. Facilities Usage Policy (shared in September)
 1. Recommendation to attach the form for groups to fill out
 2. New policy will go into effect January 1, 2024.

3. Dennis Rinehart moves to approve the policy. Kristy Harms seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously.
 - ii. Vote on opening a savings account at Merchant's Bank (same location as current checking account for ease of balance transfers) for cash management options.
 1. Dave Neuger moves to approve the opening of a savings account. Tamara Jackman seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously.
 - iii. Release of designated funds
 1. Jane Rizzo suggested that the Council release from restriction the following funds that have already been expended:
 - a. \$38,000 from the 2021 operating surplus
 - b. \$10,000 from undesignated memorials
 - c. \$8,600 from PPP loan forgiveness
 - d. \$5,040 from Thrivent choice
 - e. \$9,062 from Music for choir director salary, and partial spending through September of choir music, instrument repair, special occasion musicians expense
 - f. Request from Foundation: \$15,000 for Synod benevolence.
 2. Dennis Rinehart moves to approve the release of these funds. Dave Neuger seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously.
6. Pastor's Report (included in the materials for this meeting)
 - a. The Nominating Committee has a request to prioritize their work for leadership positions, which might result in five committed board members rather than six.
 - i. Discussion amongst Council: majority of Chairs are in agreement that the focus should be on committed members and not just filling open positions for numbers.
 - ii. Consider this as a bylaw change? Chairs to discuss with their Boards
7. Board Reports (included in the materials for this meeting)
 - a. Youth Ministry - minutes submitted late - copied below

Ministry with Youth & Families Board Minutes
St. John's Lutheran Church
October 10, 2023

Present: Todd Menssen, Tamara Jackman, Betsy McLaughlin, Beret Froehle, Kristin Partlo, and Jonathan Davis.

Unable to Attend: Suzy Taggart

The meeting was called to order by Tamara Jackman at 7pm.

Information items for council:

- Served ~150 people breakfast at Welcome Fest—in the future we will more clearly communicate to participants that it is a gift.
- Looking forward to the Confirmation retreat on 10/15, breakfast on 10/28, and affirmation on 10/29.
- Youth volunteers will help facilitate Trunk or Treat
- CYAN group meetings are resuming, unclear about the long-term plan
- SJ staff will connect with the new director of The Key, Kelly Pedracki.
- November event: Bowling on 11/6 at 1pm (no school)
- December: youth Christmas party on 12/10 at 1pm
- Adopt A Highway: SJ staff will order materials and then we will set a date

Discussion items for council: None

Action items for council: None

The next meeting will be held at St John's on November 14, 2023 at 7pm.

The meeting was adjourned by Tamara Jackman.

Minutes submitted by: Tamara Jackman

8. New Business

a. Facilities Sustainability Projects Updates

- i. Cost of energy assessment - \$3,500. How are we going to pay for it? Jane Rizzo suggests it can come out of the Property & Grounds Board's Repairs & Maintenance Budget. Dave Neuger suggests that we consider instead pulling the funds from the St. John's Fund from the St. John's Foundation. It was decided that we will wait and confirm this at the November meeting.

b. Land Acknowledgement - Introduction, Education

- i. Will be included in the November Voice
- ii. It will also be introduced at the Thanksgiving Eve service, via verbal introduction and written in bulletin
- iii. Kathy Shea asked if we should bring it to the congregation to approve at the Annual Meeting? Dave Neuger responded that since the Council has approved it, we might instead ask for affirmation at the Annual Meeting. It would be a shame to wait for three more months when we've already approved it, and we should start using it now.

Future Dates:

- a. Boards: **Tuesday, November 14, 2023**

Please send notes of your Board meetings to Trish Goodrich so she can have them prepared for Council meetings

- b. Council: **Tuesday, November 28, 2023 | 7:00 p.m.** Prayer led by Dan Franklin

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm

Other Notes: none.

Respectfully submitted by Trish Goodrich