

Congregational Council
St. John's Lutheran Church
October 22, 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 Mode, Michelle Kramer-Prevost, Cheryl Buck, Pam Groves-Gaggioli

Present: Pam Groves-Gaggioli, Ellen Ellickson, Jill Enestvedt, Pr. Pam Fickenscher, Dan Franklin, Michelle Kramer-Prevost, Charles Wilson (Adult Ministry and Education), Rob Quanbeck, Daniel Hanson, Cheryl Buck, Andrea Hoff, Judd Lohmann, Pr. Jonathan Davis, Damian Jackson (Worship and Arts)

Not present: Alli Walters Mode, Eric Johnsrud

Meeting was called to order at 7:03pm

1. Opening: Dan Franklin opened us in prayer.
2. Motion to approve the September 24, 2024 Council Minutes was made by Michelle Kramer-Prevost; the motion was seconded by Jill Enestvedt; the motion passed unanimously.
3. Financial Report by Judd Lohmann, Treasurer
 - a. There do not appear to be any areas of concern through September.
 - b. Budget committee will be assembled by Michelle for next year's budget:
 - i. Regulars on the Budget Committee: Vice President, Pr. Pam, Treasurer, Chair of Properties and Grounds, Chair of Stewardship.
 - ii. Two additional slots: Evangelism and Communications Chair (Cheryl Buck); ask Worship and Arts Chair (Eric Johnsrud).
4. Council Updates and Action Items
 - a. Children's Ministry and Education Board is requesting \$350 in Youth and Ministry Foundation funds.
 - i. Chair not present (Allie). Pr. Jonathan explained that in response to needs expressed by the parents, the money will go toward a family devotional for St. John's families: Prayers for Faithful Families.
 - ii. Motion to approve the \$350 withdrawal from Youth and Ministry Foundation Funds by Cheryl Buck; Andrea Hoff seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

- b. Update on AV Ministry
 - i. The AV Ministry now has a home on the Evangelism and Communications Board.
 - ii. After careful thought and discussion, and with intention to acknowledge and address the needs of the AV team, Evangelism and Communications is recommending adding hours to an already employed staff member who could be trained in several specific AV duties.
 - iii. Dave Zdenek helped identify items a paid staff member could handle to support our AV Team as they deliver our live stream ministry.
5. Board Reports (included in materials submitted)
- a. Adult Ministry Board
 - i. Gratitude for the successful Genesis forum this Fall.
 - b. Faith and Health
 - i. Monday, November 4 is the annual service for those who have loved one who has passed away: Evening of Remembrance. It is also open to others. 6:30-8pm.
 - ii. Sunday, November 24 will be the celebration and gratitude of ten years of service for Julie Brehmer and Sally Lindell. S
 - c. Property and Grounds
 - i. “Coffee and Donuts event” is this Saturday (**Clean up Day**)
 - d. Stewardship
 - i. Stewardship cards were mailed at the beginning of October.
 - ii. Another temple talk will be forthcoming.
 - e. Youth Ministry and Education
 - i. Confirmation Breakfast/ Affirmation of Baptism this weekend.
6. Pastors’ Reports
- a. Pr. Pam:
 - i. October has been busy with usual and unexpected challenges. We are grateful for staff and volunteers who have stepped in.
 - ii. Experience in Colombia: Pr. Pam hopes to do a forum on her experience in late November. We accompany global churches to partner together. ELCA World Hunger helps fund missions and projects: Climate Justice; Violence Prevention; Migration. It was a reminder of how our denomination makes it possible to have these relationships. ELCA World Hunger’s 50th Anniversary is November 24. The organization gives 22 million a year including meeting needs in the US.
 - b. Pr. Jonathan:
 - i. Jonathan gave an update on his mom’s health.

- ii. The Bible forums have been great. There are three more to come. We are learning from each other.
 - iii. Wednesdays have been full. Thirty to forty people in St. John's Hall. Consistent.
 - iv. Baptisms coming up.
 - c. Nominating Committee updates (Pr. Pam)
 - i. Nominating committee hopes to be done by the end of this month. Positions are filling up well.
- 7. New Business/Old Business
 - a. New Business:
 - i. Members of the St. John's Foundation board are meeting about Foundation Funds. Because the Foundation is doing well, and funds are significantly expanding there is an increased need to attend to the questions of: What to be done with them / Who gets to decide. The Foundation Board will meet to talk this over with the goal of being clear to those who donate about how the money will be used. The board may decide to redo the bylaws of the Foundation.
 - ii. Some discussion followed about the priority of paying our excellent staff well as well as ensuring that the bylaws are not prohibitively restrictive. There will be increased payroll costs mandated by law in 2026.

Book Discussion: Chapter 7 of When Church Stops Working. (Pr. Pam)

We will discuss Chapter 8 next month.

Dan Franklin closed the meeting at 8:10pm

Future dates:

Next Board Night: November 12, 2024

Next Church Council Meeting: November 19, 2024

Respectfully submitted by Elaine Nesbit