

Congregational Council
St. John's Lutheran Church
September 26, 2023 | 7:00 p.m.

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

Present: Pr. Pam Fickenscher, Pr. Jonathan Davis, Dave Neuger, Eric Sponheim, Trish Goodrich, Kristy Harms, Tamara Jackman, Dennis Rinehart, Jerry Ugland, Steve Taggert, Dan Franklin, Maggie Odell (for Adult Ministry),

Not Present: Candace Godfrey, Jane Rizzo, Kathy Shea, Marilyn Calcutt

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm

1. Opening devotion and prayer led by Dave Neuger
2. Motion to approve the August 22, 2023 Minutes made by Dave Neuger. Seconded by Steve Taggert. Pr. Pam suggests the following edit: in 5.a.4, change “forum” to “quorum”. The motion passes unanimously.
3. Financial Report
 - a. Pr. Pam: The monthly communication to the congregation regarding how we are tracking to the budget seems to be working. The months of July and August are both above budget, which is unusual. This seems to be a sign that people are paying attention to the updates we've been giving them.
4. Kristy Harms moved to approve the August financial report. Tamara Jackman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
5. Council Updates & Action Items
 - a. Facilities Use Policy (DRAFT) from Business Management Board (included in Council materials)
 - i. Sharing draft policy now, further Council discussion in October
 - ii. Main changes include:
 1. Comprehensive (includes all types of uses and spaces)
 2. Transparent (clearly states user responsibilities, fees, legal notices, availability, substance policy), which help staff manage user expectations
 3. Suggested donation from non-profits

4. Required fee for all groups requesting recurring use of space
 - iii. Aim to make this effective January 1
 - b. Benevolence Board
 - i. Requests \$250 from the St. John's Foundation, to add to \$1,750 from the budget for our contract to support Kaitlynn Larson in Columbia. This is to fulfill the obligation of \$2,000 which was not paid last year.
 - ii. Kristy Harms made the motion to authorize the release of \$250 from the World Missions designated fund in the St. John's Foundation for the fulfillment of the mission commitment. Dave Neuger seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
 - c. Faith & Health Board
 - i. Proposed Land Acknowledgement - read to the Council by Dennis Rinehart
 1. Council consensus is that it is wonderfully short but not terse; short so people will read it and small enough to print easily
 2. Jonathan recommended that this be brought forward to the congregation at the annual meeting
 3. Eric Sponheim moved to approve the Land Acknowledgement as presented in materials here; Kristy Harms 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 & Education - upcoming adult forums: should they be live-streamed or recorded? Jonathan will connect with the Board to discuss details
 - b. Stewardship Board - how was the Ministry Fair? Youth & Children mentioned it was low yield for high effort.
 - c. Worship & Arts - focusing on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) work as it relates to visuals around the church; the barrier to changing or updating this has been finding funds; they will be looking at the upcoming capital campaign to see if there might be an opportunity to tie in with facilities improvements there
 - d. Benevolence - with the passing of the resolution for the upcoming capital campaign, they will be developing a list of agencies to contact and see what their needs are
 - e. Youth Ministry - discussion of 9th graders and mentors and how best to set up positive experiences for both
 - f. Evangelism & Communication - updating photos on website; discussion about consent and opting in versus opting out of photo permissions
8. New Business
 - a. Update on Congregational Meeting Approval for Facilities Sustainability Projects

- i. All Energy Solar
 - 1. The most recent sales proposal indicates that the project will be less expensive than originally estimated, and will provide more energy than previously expected
 - 2. To move forward we need to secure a 3% deposit; the gift has already been offered, however we need to officially set up the appeal designated fund so that we can track what is given for this purpose in particular
- ii. Setting up new designated fund for gifts
 - 1. Steve Harner made a motion to create a fund where appeals money will be directed. Tamara Jackman seconded the motion. Discussion: can we leave it up to the capital committee to officially name it? Council agrees to tentatively call it the Appeal Fund, with the idea that a capital committee might formally name it later; Motion passes unanimously.
- iii. Setting up committees - Pr. Pam
 - 1. Fundraising Committee - this committee would focus on the fundraising itself, as well as constructing the “why” of the campaign so that we have consistent messaging across multiple areas
 - 2. Steering Committee - this committee would oversee the campaign over the long haul, making sure we are spending the money that we said we would; as funding comes in at different rates, this committee decides what gets spent and when; if we exceed the appeal, this committee also decides what to do with extra funds, etc. A Steering Committee might meet periodically; it might be less intense but could meet longer over the course of time
- b. Nominating Committee Work - no updates; they continue to do their work
- c. Stewardship Campaign
 - i. Proceeding as planned; see Stewardship Board Minutes for specifics
- d. Personnel committee - summary of interviews with staff
 - i. Consider adding a staff directory and office locations in staff information

Future Dates:

- a. Boards: **Tuesday, October 10, 2023**
Please send notes of your Board meetings to Trish Goodrich so she can have them prepared for Council meetings
- b. Council: **Tuesday, October 24, 2023 | 7:00 p.m.** Prayer led by Jane Rizzo

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm

Other Notes: none.

Respectfully submitted by Trish Goodrich