

Minutes

Congregation Council

St. John's Lutheran Church, Northfield, MN

May 24, 2016

Present: Brent Nystrom, Ruthie Neuger, Michael Berger, Anita Helle, Pr. Jon Davis, Pr. Pam Fickenscher, Anita Hellie, Bill Malecha, Lynette Marks, Alyssa Ness, Jane Rinehart, Kristy Harms,

Absent: Joe Gasior, Sara Redetzke, Bill Carlson, Andrea Hoff

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Brent Nystrom.

Opening Prayer

Devotion and prayer: Jane Rinehart

2. Future dates

a. Boards – **Tuesday June 14**, 7:00pm; Fellowship and Treats (6:45) –*Children's Ministry Board provides treats and Devotion. Board meetings will begin at 6:45 for refreshments, and Board meetings will begin at 7:00.*

b. Council – **Tuesday, June 28**, 7:00pm; prayer – Sara Redtzke

3. Consent Agenda Items for Council

- a. Treasurer's Report: April 2016. Bill Carlson presented the Treasurer's report. Bill Carlson noted that giving patterns for May 2016 have increased.
- b. Minutes from the April 26, 2016 reviewed. Minor correction requested to reflect future dates in May 2016, not March. .
- c. Confirmation of Martin Thorsheim to the Adult Education Board.

Ruthie Neuger made the motion to approve all of the Consent Agenda items. Dan Van Tassel seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Pastor's Report

- a. Youth Board update provided by Pastor Pam
 - i. Youth Ministry is planning to join the Laura Baker respite event.
 - ii. Planning Lutheran college road trip in July to encourage consideration of Lutheran colleges.
 - iii. Board will not meeting in June due to schedule conflicts.
- b. My Neighbor is Muslim study update. Very popular topic. The group filled quickly. Another study group on this topic may be added for the fall.
- c. Pam and Jonathan will be conducting Pub Theology at The Cow on the 1st Monday of each month from 6:00 – 7:30.
- d. Stephen Ministry training continues. St. Johns has trained 140 people since the 1980's.

There are currently 18 active/current Stephen Ministers at St. John's.

5. Congregational Mission Visioning

- a. RIC process
- b. Results from Forum to review Welcome Statement. Three distinct draft statements reviewed and reaction solicited. Draft 1 focuses on "You" and is very inclusive. Draft 2 focuses on the journey. Draft 3 is very metaphorical.
- c. Messaging about what it means to be a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation is a next step. Moving beyond the Welcome Statement to what identification as an RIC congregation means is next. Minutes from Council meetings in 2011 and 2013 were shared with the current Council supporting Council decisions surrounding RIC and gender issues. ELCA voted on a sexuality statement in 2009 that included ordination of GLBT identifying people.

Zumbrota congregation planned for and experienced a 4 year process. 1 year discussion about becoming an RIC congregation. Council had the authority to make that decision. 1 year developing Welcome Statement. 1 year discussion same gender marriage.

- i. This topic will be part of the fall Forum series. Two Forums: One to address traditional marriage. One (a second Forum) to address same gender marriage.
- ii. Annual Meeting Vote: Council will need to decide whether the annual meeting vote will address: 1) Welcome Statement; 2) RIC Congregation identification.

6. Council Action Items and Updates

- a. St. John's 150th anniversary planning discussion. Boards will be involved in capital fundraising and history function. *Property and Grounds will have recommendations for projects that have been identified and prioritized as potential projects to receive funding through the capital fundraising campaigns.*
- b. Emergency Plan. Faith and Health Board continues to work on emergency planning. Updates will follow in months to come based on their work.
- c. Refugee partnership. Jane provided an update. The Refugee Committee is of the opinion that there may be more financial need than the designated \$4,000 for the LSS sponsorship. Financial gifts for this purpose are appropriate, and there may be a need for fundraising. Pastor Pam noted that timing for fundraising will be sensitive to avoid interference with existing fundraising campaigns. No action required at this time.
- d. Professional development. Pastors Pam and Jonathan have an opportunity to participate in professional development that would benefit both St. Johns and the Pastors. Ruthie made a motion to authorize funds from St. John's Foundation to cover the cost of the professional development opportunity for the pastors. Approval of up to \$1,400.00 for the purpose of professional development was proposed. Ruthie made the motion to approve up to \$1,400 for professional development. Jane seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- e. Informational:
 - i. Capital Projects. Lynette noted that the existing panic system doesn't include a PA system. Bill solicited input from the Council on additional items.

- f. Gift to the Kline's Global Mission Fund of \$250 will be made to defray travel expenses for the Kline's visit. A donation of \$500 from the Foundation has been requested. Ruthie made a motion to authorize a donation of \$500 from the Foundation for this purpose. Dan Van Tassel seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Meeting closed with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Submitted respectfully by Kristy Harms.