

# Minutes

## *Congregation Council*

St. John's Lutheran Church, Northfield, MN  
September 27, 2016

**Present:** Brent Nystrom, Lynette Marks, Bill Carlson, Pr. Pam Fickenscher, Pr. Jonathan Davis, Alyssa Ness, Ruthie Neuger, Joe Gasior, Jennifer Sorenson, Dan Van Tassel

**Absent:** Bill Malecha, Andrea Hoff, Jane Rinehart

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Brent Nystrom.

### **1. Opening Prayer**

Lynette Marks offered a devotion and Brent Nystrom led us in an opening prayer.

### **2. Future dates**

- a. Boards – **Tuesday, October 11**, Fellowship and treats at 6:45 pm, Property and Grounds Board to provide treats and devotion. Meeting at 7:00 pm.
- b. Council – **Tuesday, October 25**, 7:00pm; prayer – Bill Malecha

### **3. Consent Agenda Items**

- a. Treasurer's Report. Deficit due to reduced offerings continues. The projected deficit for Calendar Year (CY) 2016 stands at \$30,000.

Ruthie reminded Board Chairs to submit their proposed budget for CY 2017 after the next Board meeting (October 25, 2016).

- b. Minutes from 8/23/2016. Minor revisions requested.

Ruthie moved to approve both items. Joe Gasior seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### **4. Pastors' Report**

- a. Official Acts – two funerals in September.
- b. Personnel Committee has reviewed benefit offerings for staff and recommends no changes to offerings for 2017. The Committee will consider policies related to changes in the Fair Labor Standards Act at the October meeting. Policies must be in place by December 1.
- c. Baptismal Confirmation is scheduled for October 16 for around 13 10<sup>th</sup> Graders.
- d. New Members: Sandra Nyvall and Jo Franklin will facilitate the Accompany class for new families planning to join St. John's.
- e. Special events related to the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation are planned. St. John's has been invited to join St. Dominic's to share the Thanksgiving Eve services. In January, St. John's and St. Dominic's will share two confirmation sessions to learn about where Lutherans and Catholics come together and what is different between us.
- f. Manna and Mercy workshop is drawing interest from beyond St. John's. Around 50 registrants will participate in the workshop, and enrollment is expected to grow.
- g. Pr. Jonathan will be attending a workshop at Luther Seminary next week.

### **5. Council Action Items and Updates**

- a. Nominating Committee Update: Committee met last week. Every Board has been assigned to a member of the nominating committee to address open positions. A coordinated solicitation of members is planned to address openings. The Committee plans to have all positions requested before Thanksgiving.
- b. Stewardship Board – Stewardship for All Seasons (SAS): Brochure addressing giving has been finalized and is available for use as a durable piece of information. Stewardship

Board has had three meetings to complete planning for the Stewardship drive. The Board has identified value in the Synod SAS program.

- c. Property and Grounds Update:
  - i. Window repair will begin in October. Wet weather has delayed the repair.
  - ii. Sidewalk repair has been completed
  - iii. A/C for Music Director's office and adjoining room has been completed.
  - iv. Nursery roof and interior wall repair has been completed. Scott Swanson stepped in to address this issue. Cost was limited to \$1,000. Nursery is functioning following the repair to water damage.
- d. Communication Board update:
  - i. New outdoor sign to be installed on Saturday.
  - ii. Monitors in the building to address daily activities - \$4,000 for equipment and \$500 for electrical work.
  - iii. Interior signage - \$7,500 required to complete the project.
  - iv. Furnishings for Commons – quote for furnishings are \$30,000. Furnishings will repurpose the space and change the image of this area in a material manner. This is not included in the 2016 budget.
- e. Choral program structure update: Cathy Rodland's resignation has provided an opportunity to examine the current structure of the choral programs. Thoughtful review of the demands of youth time and scheduling may impact the job description. Ruth Legvold's retirement necessitated some schedule shifts to address Nathan's leadership of the Senior Choir and the High School choir. Carol Benson is filling in with the youth choir.
- f. St. John's Constitution: The Synod has made policy changes that should be taken into consideration and applied to the St. John's Constitution. Council consideration of the recommended revisions and discussion/decision-making about next steps should be taken to address Synod policy changes are needed.
- g. 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee.
  - i. Research stage for themes and goals for the celebration
  - ii. Celebration date – March is a significant date for St. John's, but coincides with Lent. Winter dates may exclude snow birds. Fall may be a more desirable time to schedule a celebration.
  - iii. Presiding Bishop cannot attend any event in fall 2019.
  - iv. St. John's History – decisions needed to determine whether a book, a pictorial book, or video to represent history is appropriate. Brent asked whether the group handling history needs more members to plan and organize this element for the celebration. Ruthie proposed a motion to give the Committee authority to select a date in fall 2019 for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Dan seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

## **6. Congregational Mission Visioning**

- a. Reconciling in Christ (RIC) update and next steps.
  - i. Welcome Statement(s) – Committee has distilled the sample statements based on congregational comment/recommendations. Two statements have been developed for distribution, but no further comment.
  - ii. Fall Events – 2 Adult Forum sessions are available this fall to set stage for final decision. Following discussion, the Council recommended that a spectrum ballot be distributed to the congregation to determine whether the congregation is ready for this step.
    - 1. November Forum discussion to clarify what RIC means and to advise that a ballot will be distributed to the congregation in December to measure

congregation readiness for this decision. Frequently Asked Question summary about RIC re-introduced to congregation.

2. December Forum: intro about why St. John's is discussing RIC, and explanation/distribution of ballot. In addition, the Welcome Statement could be discussion with the congregation.
- iii. Communication to RIC Committee before the next Council meeting to advise about intent to use two fall Adult Forum sessions to discuss issue with congregation and to advise that the Council will make the final decision on this issue, based on the spectrum ballot outcome.

## **7. Other Business**

- a. Foundation Update
- b. Reserve Fund Policy discussion is ongoing.
- c. Sara Redetzke has resigned from the Children's Ministry Board.

**8. A closing prayer was offered by Brent Nystrom, and he led us in the Lord's Prayer.**

## **9. Meeting concluded.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Harms