

Minutes

Congregation Council

St. John's Lutheran Church, Northfield, MN
November 29, 2016

Present: Brent Nystrom, Ruthie Neuger, Joe Gasior, Bill Carlson, Pr. Pam Fickenscher, Andrea Hoff, Lynette Marks, Jane Rinehart, Jenni Sorensen,

Absent: Pr. Jonathan Davis

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

1. Opening Prayer

Joe Gasior led us in an opening prayer.

2. Future dates

- Council – **January 10, 2017**, 7:00pm; Andrea Hoff, prayer
- Boards – **January 24, 2017**, 7:00 pm: Note inversion of nights). Fellowship and treats at 6:45 pm, Evangelism & Communication Board to provide treats and Devotion. Meeting at 7:00 pm
- Annual Meeting – Sunday, January 22, 2017, following the second service.

3. Consent Agenda Items for Council

- Treasure's Report, November 2016
- Minutes from October 25, 2015 meeting
- Approval of Children's Board member as Council Representative through January meeting. Todd Menssen was approved.

Ruthie moved to approve these Consent Agenda items. Jane Rinehart seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Pastors' Reports

- Choir is growing. Space is an issue, but this is a good problem. Wednesdays are community making.
- No FLSA as of this date. Court injunction has been filed to stop or hold on this requirement.
- Pr. Pam and Pr. Jonathan attended Synod theology conference.
- Pr. Pam is serving as Police Chaplain.
- Conversation taking place about the possibility of St. John's becoming a sanctuary church. Northfield is engaged in this conversation, also.
- Jenni & Troy Sorensen donated the Christmas trees for St. John's. Thank you!

5. Congregational Mission Visioning and Discussion

- New Council Retreat – Saturday February 11, 2017.
- Year end discussion.
 - By-laws – Changes to by-laws are easy, but changes to the Constitution are more difficult. Should the governance structure be changed? Does the structure need tweaking?

- ELCA will require some language changes to the Constitution.
- Some Boards float, while others have easy access to goals. Board chairs may not always be confident about goals/direction. For example, the Stewardship has clear goals, making their direction easy to discern.
- Youth Board – should this Board include youth at the appropriate age level(s)?
- Brent urged Council to use CCB to communicate with Board members.

6. Action Items and Updates for Council

- 236 pledges for 2017 have been submitted, to date (!). There are 500 giving units in St. John's Congregation. 232 were submitted for last year. The pledge amounts represent an increase over 2016, so far.
- Reconciling in Christ (RIC). Spectrum ballot will be released to congregation on Sunday December 4. Brett and Ruthie will count. Council will vote on the results on January 10, 2017. Results of ballot and vote will be announced to the congregation before the Annual meeting. Council members are urged to encourage members to vote on the spectrum ballot.
- Monitors for St. John's. Project requires \$4,000.00 for monitors and \$500.00 for electrician for completion. Funding to complete project proposed: \$439 from Media fund, \$500.00 from Youth Ministry fund, and \$3,623 from St. John's Fund. Andrea moved to approve this funding proposal. Bill Carlson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- 150TH Anniversary – Worship & Arts Board has identified some great ideas for the celebration. Activity continues.

7. Other Business

- St. John's Foundation – Funds are going down, but there are still balances to be used for 2016.
- Facilities list. The dollar amount to borrow to complete projects will be based on the identified projects, the 2017 budget and the dollar amount that we can afford to borrow and repay.

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

9. Meeting concluded.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Harms (with the assistance of Ruthie Neuger)