

Minutes

Congregation Council

St. John's Lutheran Church, Northfield, MN
March 28, 2017

Present: Nancy Ordahl-Kmoch, Bill Carlson, Ruthie Neuger, Pr. Pam Fickenscher, Anita Helle, David Legvold, Sue Brockman, Jennifer Edwins, Jane Rinehart, Alyssa Ness, Andrea Hoff, Jenny Nystrom, Dan Van Tassel

Absent: Rob Quanbeck, Jonathan Davis

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Ruthie Neuger.

1. Opening Prayer

Nancy Ordahl-Kmoch led us in an opening prayer.

- a. Boards – April 4, 2017 7:00pm (at chairs' discretion) Fellowship and treats at 6:45 pm, Adult Ministry and Education Board to provide treats and Devotion. Meeting at 7:00 pm
Reminder: Please call or e-mail your board members prior to the meeting and remind them.
- b. Council – **April 25, 2017**, 7:00pm; Alyssa Ness, prayer

3. Pastor's Report

4. Consent Agenda Items for Council

- a. Treasurer's Report, February 2017 – Comparative Balance Sheet: Cash on hand is very strong at this point, for a variety of reasons. Treasurer's Report approved unanimously by Council.
- b. Minutes from the February 28, 2017 meeting. Minutes reviewed and accepted unanimously by Council.
- c. New Board Benevolence Board member, Sue Sharrow, approved unanimously by Council.

6. Council Action Items and Updates

- a. Continued Sponsorship of refugee family – Benevolence/Jane. Update provided. Family is planning to move closer to family residing in St. Cloud.
- b. Evangelism & Communication updates – Andrea Hoff
 - a. Application of new graphic identity to St. John's website - Funding for project. Kick-off meetings scheduled for early April to initiate the website plans. Andrea advised that a written proposal outlining costs will be available following the meetings in April.
 - b. RIC next steps –
 - i. Application process completed to identify St. John's as an RIC congregation on the RIC website.
 - ii. Next steps:
 - Press release for Northfield News. Brent Nystrom has offered to draft the press release. Press release for South Metro Star Tribune, college newspapers
 - Newspaper ads for seasonal worship (Easter, Christmas)

- Post Welcome Statement to new website website. Add update to current website to display new Welcome Statement on an interim basis.
 - Add Welcome Statement to the Voice, worship bulletin, etc.
 - Add Welcome Statement to new monitors, when installed.
 - KYMN interview
 - Visible outside signage – use of existing banners to display RIC logo under consideration
 - Update Facebook site for St. John’s to include RIC status
 - Adult Ed will be considering Forum topics to address RIC status
- c. Pastoral Hospitality Fund – This would be a small fund to provide financial resources for pastoral discretionary use to buy refreshments for parishioners, and for the purchase of small gifts by staff. Kristy to follow up with Bernie to determine whether existing funds could be leveraged to cover such items. Follow up to be provided at April Council meeting.
- d. St. John’s Foundation presumptions:
- a. Habitat for Humanity-\$1,000
 - b. Three Links-\$1,000
 - c. Northfield Retirement Center-\$1,000
 - d. Laura Baker-\$1,000
 - e. Green Lake Bible Camp-\$2,500
 - f. Seminarian Grants-\$2,000
 - g. College Scholarships-\$2,600
 - h. Pajama Project-\$5,000
- Total \$16,100
- St. John’s committed to a three year sponsorship for the Pajama Project. Continued sponsorship of this community project beyond this year will be discussed.
- Benevolence and Social Concerns Board increased their requests for funding for 2017 based on the Stewardship campaign. Jan will take the discussion to Bernie and follow up with the Council in April. No decision requested or made related to this topic.
- e. Sanctuary discussion. St. John’s has established a safety net for identified at-risk members. Further discussion about the issue of sanctuary will occur, as appropriate.

7. Mission and Visioning

A generative discussion about our congregational mission, long term goals, and the role we serve.

- a. 150th Anniversary Celebration. Boards have been engaged to envision celebration activities and functions.
 - i. Worship and Arts Board – Nancy noted that events for the 125th Anniversary celebration focused on worship and arts. Programs from that celebration have been accessed for ideas for the 150th celebration.
 - ii. Restoration of the historic stained glass windows – Windows can be restored. Estimates for restoration and back-lighting are being obtained.
 - iii. Stories about the Stewardship campaign being solicited
 - iv. Streaming special services associated with the 150th Anniversary is a possibility
 - v. Benevolence & Social Concerns has received grant proposals. Grant review and evaluation will be determined.
 - vi. Stewardship will examine the relationship between the annual stewardship drive and the special drive

Pr. Pam noted that this should be the focus of next months’ meeting.

- Scope of celebration
 - Special fund projects
 - Necessary projects
 - Consider engagement of 1) previous pastors, and 2) pastors that have been part of congregation as youth
- b. WELCA update – Anita Helle advised that WELCA is working to make events more inclusive, i.e., the art crawl. WELCA is considering how to address senior ministries.

8. Prayer – The president leads a prayer asking God’s grace and help on our ministry. Items could include specific congregation needs / issues / items for thanksgiving; specific ministry areas of the congregation needing to be lifted to God; and/or any individual needs or requests council members would like to share in prayer.

Lord’s Prayer: After the president’s prayer is concluded, we finish the meeting praying the prayer Jesus taught us.

10. Meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Harms