

Minutes
Congregation Council

St. John's Lutheran Church, Northfield, MN

April 25, 2017

Present: Ruthie Neuger, Rob Quanbeck, Bill Carlson, Anita Helle, Jane Rinehart, Sue Brockman, Pr. Pam Fickenscher, Dan Van Tassel, Jenny Nystrom, Jennifer Edwins, Andrea Hoff, Pr. Jonathan Davis, Alyssa Ness, Kristy Harms

Absent: Nancy Ordahl Knoch, David Legvold

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

1. Opening Prayer

Jane Rinehart led us in an opening prayer.

2. Future dates

- a. Council – **May 23, 2017**, 7:00pm; Dan Van Tassel, prayer
- b. Boards – May 9, 2017 7:00pm (at chairs' discretion) Fellowship and treats at 6:45 pm, Stewardship 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.

3. Pastors' Reports

- One funeral and one baptism in the past 30 days.
- Accompany Class affirmed their baptisms at Easter service.
- Robust attendance for Holy Week and Easter services
- St. John's hosted Easter Vigil
- Positive feedback received regarding Lenten vespers
- Robust attendance for Wednesday services
- 3-4 Wednesdays of programming left for this season before the summer break. Planning is underway for next fall.

4. Consent Agenda Items for Council

- a. Treasurer's Report, March 2017 – Review of Envelope Income through March 2017 table and the Treasurer's Report. Income is very strong for the year to date.
- b. Benevolence and Social Concerns decisions about spending Mission Funds (\$6000 in budget):
 - i. \$2000 to ELCA Missionary Sponsorship to support Stubbs in Tanzania
 - ii. \$2000 to ELCA Missionary Sponsorship to support Kline's in Colombia
 - iii. \$1000 to SE MN Synod for the Tanzania undesignated fund
 - iv. \$500 to SE MN Synod for the synod assembly offering to equipping ministers. Give the check to Pr Pam to bring to the assembly.

- c. Gift Acceptance Policy – Business Management Board – Bill Carlson explained the proposed policy. The purpose of the policy is to acknowledge the importance of gifts, and limitations of St. John’s to manage complex gifts.
Jenny Nystrom asked for framework behind the proposed policy. Bill explained that the policy is based on policies developed and used by other congregations. The policy is intended to permit the Council to make the final decision on gifts, and to assure that gifts can be managed by the existing structures in place at St. John’s.
Jonathan asked whether the policy was intended to address gifts to staff. The Synod has gift guidelines. Ruthie recommended that the Council table this discussion at this time. The Staff will initiate discussion regarding gifts to staff.
- d. Minutes from the March 28, 2017 meeting

Motion: Dan Van Tassel moved to accept the Treasurer’s reports; the decisions from Benevolence & Social Concerns regarding funds supporting missions; the Gift Acceptance Policy, as proposed by the Business Board; and the March Council Minutes.

Jennifer Edwins seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Council Action Items and Updates

- a. Board and Council schedule will continue throughout the summer months.
- b. Board updates – brief description of current and planned Board activities and discussions.
 - i. Dan/Stewardship – Plan established to communicate with members that made pledges for 2017.
 - ii. Jenny/Youth Ministry & Education – Discussion about Wednesday night activities for youth that engage adults/parents, including young adults. Possibility of linking science, faith and ethics, following model from Association of Congregations.
 - iii. Jennifer/Faith & Health – Tabling event to distribute a variety of materials to members has been successful. Board is studying parish nursing and exploring what other congregations are doing relative to this issue.
 - iv. Andrea/Evangelism & Communication – Internal signage continues to be examined.
- c. Evangelism & Communication update on status of monitors – funding and progress. Council authorization of funding proposal for project. Monitors have arrived, and computer to drive the monitors has been ordered. Daniel Edwins has volunteered to complete the programming needed to make monitors functional.
- d. Update on new website development – what will the new website do for St. John’s? Two meetings have occurred to address website development. Timeline for website deliverable has been established.

6. Visioning and Other business

- a. 150th Anniversary Planning – Pr. Pam introduced an activity that the Council executed to help identify the scope of the anniversary.
 - i. Scope of anniversary – Short, broad and memorable is the ideal theme.
- b. Benevolence and Social Concerns recommendations for review and evaluation of grant proposals from non-profit organizations for Anniversary grants.
Grant proposals have been received and narrowed to five proposals for the final selection

process. Grant presentations are scheduled for May 09, 2017.

7. A closing prayer was offered by Ruthie Neuger, and she led us in the Lord's Prayer.

8. Meeting concluded.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Harms