

Minutes
Congregation Council

St. John's Lutheran Church, Northfield, MN
June 27, 2017

Present: Ruthie Neuger, Bill Carlson, Rob Quanbeck, Jennifer Edwins, Jenny Nystrom, Pr. Jonathan Davis, Sue Brockman, Andrea Hoff, Dan Van Tassel, Nancy Ordahl Kmoch, Jane Rinehart, Alyssa Ness,

Guest: Sandy Gerdes

Absent: David Legvold

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

1. Opening Prayer

Bill Carlson led us in an opening prayer.

2. Future dates

- a. Boards – July 11, 2017 7:00pm (at chairs' discretion) Fellowship and treats at 6:45 pm, Children's 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 – **July 25, 2017**, 7:00pm; Sue Brockman, prayer

3. Action Items and Updates for Council

- a. Update: 150th Anniversary planning. Sandy Gerdes
 - i. Scope and Authority documents for the Steering Committee and for the Fundraising Committee were presented to the Council for review and approval
 - ii. Motion to accept the Scope and Authority document for the Steering Committee and the Fundraising Committee, and to authorize the committees to proceed with the identified work made by Kristy Harms, seconded by Jane Rinehart. Motion carried unanimously.
 - iii. Reverse calendar created to identify critical planning milestones. The Sesquicentennial Steering Committee will need Boards to submit planned activities related to the celebration by **September 2017**. Boards should keep this deadline in mind as discussion and planning continues.
 - 1. September 2017 – submission of planned celebration activities to Steering Committee
 - 2. January 2018 – Launch Benevolence grant projects
 - 3. January 2018 – Launch commissioning process for Worship and Arts projects
 - 4. Easter 2019 – unveil refurbished Resurrection window (proposed date)
 - 5. October 2019 – Celebration date
 - iv. Fundraising Committee. Pr. Pam Fickenschier, Dave Neuger, Jeff Sauve and Cheryl Buck are current members for this committee.
 - v. History: Jeff Sauve and Jon Rondesvedt have agreed to work on the history document for the celebration.

The Council formally thanked Sandy Gerdes for leading the Steering Committee, and for all of her work relative to this important milestone for St. John's Lutheran Church.

- b. Announcement of identified Grant Recipients (Jane Rinehart/Benevolence Board). Letters have been sent to the four recipients awarded grants. The recipients are as follows:
 - i. TORCH - \$40,000/Contact – Dan Franklin
 - ii. Laura Baker School Art program - \$17,000/Contact – not identified at this time.
 - iii. CAC - \$20,000 donor for emergency shelter/Contact – Don Sahling
 - iv. Habitat for Humanity - \$20,000/Contact – Brent Nystrom
- c. Communication to Congregation and community. Articles to the Northfield News will be drafted and submitted for inclusion in future editions of the newspaper. Congregation communications are being developed.
- d. Stewardship
 - i. Theme/emphasis for 2018. Dan Van Tassel shared the proposed theme for 2018. Embracing the Past, Extending Into the Future. The Council reacted favorably to this proposed theme.
 - ii. Other themes for 2018?
 - iii. 2017 theme success highlights
- e. Parish Nurse function. Job description has been drafted and submitted to Pr. Pam for review and comment. Parish nurse position has been under discussion to identify the most appropriate function of this role for St. John's.
- f. Nominating Committee update. Sue Renander is the Chair of the Nominating Committee. Please submit suggestions for Board, or Columbarium Committee members to Sue.
 - i. Stewardship Board – 1 open position
 - ii. Adult Ed Board – 1 open position. This position has been open for an extended period of time.
 - iii. Columbarium committee needs one more participant. It was suggested that participants be solicited from families that have opted to have interment in the columbarium.
- g. Personnel Committee updates. Pastor John Quam has submitted a letter of resignation to the Council. Ruthie read the letter to the Council. Plans are being made to thank Pr. Quam for his years of dedication and service at St. John's.

Motion was made by Bill Carlson to accept the letter of resignation submitted by Pastor Quam, and to express the Council's deep appreciation for Pastor Quam's years of service to the Lutheran church, and to St. John's Lutheran Church. Jane seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Pastors' Reports

- a. Official Acts
 - i. Funeral for Warren Wold – May 31
 - ii. Visitation for Siri Thompson Raskob – June 16
 - iii. Burial for Laura Tverberg – June 17
 - iv. Inurnment for Basil Mroz – June 20
- b. Staff.
 - i. Staff program kick-off date set: August 28. Full and part-time staff will participate in this session.
 - ii. Staff reviews are being completed
 - iii. Children, Youth and Family events have been occurring in recent weeks.
 - 1st. VBS
 - 2nd. Mission trip to Nashville
 - 3rd. Greenlake camp experience
 - 4th. Shores of Saint Andrews Bible Camp
- c. Summer Connecting
 - i. Manna and Mercy Mondays
 - ii. Pub Theology

- iii. St. John's Summer Supper. This new event was well-received and much appreciated. A second Summer Supper is planned for August.
- d. Anniversary planning. The Steering Committee has met several times, and the Fundraising Committee is being formed.
- e. Pastoral leadership program. Pr. Pam and Pr. Jonathan completed the year-long SHAPE for Leadership program this month. The program was valuable and resulted in individual and pastoral team growth. Both Pr. Pam and Pr. Jonathan thanked the Council for supporting their participation in this program.

5. Consent Agenda Items for Council

- a. Treasurer's Report; May, 2017. Envelope offerings are ahead of the projected budget for 2017. The Treasurer's report for May 2017 is positive, with a budget surplus, for the year to date. The congregation is in a very positive financial position at this time.
- b. Minutes from the May 23, 2017 meeting. Minor revisions requested for greater accuracy of the Minutes. Kristy will make the requested revisions, and the revised Minutes will be posted to the website and the Google shared drive for the St. John's Council.

Motion made to accept consent agenda items by Alyssa Ness; motion was seconded; motion carried unanimously.

6. Congregational Mission Visioning and Discussion

- a. Little Food shelf (based on concept of Little Library). Julie Brehmer proposed this concept some time ago, and the idea has gained momentum, recently. Based on the Little Library concept, it would allow non-perishable foodstuffs to be donated and made available to people. The idea of having more than one point of access was discussed. Location of the box was discussed. This concept fits in with the Stewardship goals for 2017 of Feeding the Congregation. This could be supported by Children's Ministries with donations from Sunday school participants. The idea will be discussed with our Scouting partners, as well.

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

8. Meeting concluded.

Council member made a motion that we adjourn, Council member seconded it. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Harms