

St. John's Congregation Council Meeting

February 20, 2022

Location: Pastor Seth Jersild's Home

Members Present: Warren Althoff, Wayne Beavers, Karen Bentley, Shirley Blake, Aaron Clark, Michael Grimm, Kathy Myers, Sky Singleton, Gary Smith, Paul Wittenberg, Pastor Seth Jersild, Pastor Patti Morlock

Members Absent: Doug Cress, David Clark (left the meeting due to illness)

Council Orientation: After a time of lunch and fellowship, Pastor Seth Jersild began the Orientation at 1:22 P.M. Each member shared a bit of personal information and where they are finding peace in their world at the present time. He used the handout, "Church Council Orientation" which included our Mission Statement, the Vision for St. John's, and our Purpose statement. Three Bible passages were included in the handout. Pastor Patti Morlock read the passage from Luke 5: 1-11 aloud. (This is also the anchor passage for our Going Deeper studies.) Members shared their thoughts about the passage and the areas that they believe we are being called to focus on for our mission emphasis this year. Pastor Seth asked council members to read and meditate on the Matthew 25: 14-30 passage for the March Council meeting devotion time. Be prepared to share any insights you have on question #1 below the passage.

President Aaron Clark spoke briefly about each section in our Council notebooks. Pastor Seth ask new members to read over the Regulations section of the notebook, including becoming familiar with our Constitution. He asked returning members to be sure that they re-familiarize themselves with our governing documents.

Next Pastor Seth shared the handout "Guiding Principles for a Happy Church Council." He urged us to remain focused on the big picture of the Church's mission here at St. John's, to stand united as a Church Council, and to be leaders and role models for fellow members in all our words and actions.

Business Meeting: President Aaron Clark called the February Council meeting to order at 2:37 P.M. Secretary Karen Bentley passed around a paper for each member to sign in for attendance. There were no additional Agenda items from the members.

Pastor Seth and Aaron explained how we will handle approving the Minutes this year. Minutes will be sent by email to council members within 48 hours of each meeting. Members are expected to read the Minutes and send Secretary Karen Bentley an email with their approval/additions/corrections within 48 hours of receiving the Minutes. She will amend and resend the minutes as needed.

President Aaron Clark included a list of dates for 2022 Council meetings and Quarterly meetings in the packet he passed out to Council.

Senior Pastor's Report: Pastor Seth reported, "All is well!" He is looking forward to summer and the continuing reopening/restarting of activities and events at St. John's. He is also excited for the Accessibility Funding Team to form and begin exploring the possibilities for bringing the proposal, approved by the congregation at the Annual Meeting, to the next stage.

Associate Pastor's Report: Pastor Patti also reported, "All is well!" She shared that she has been appointed to chair a committee for the NALC regarding "Ordination Under Special Circumstances." This involves determining issues related to ordaining people who wish to become pastors, but have not followed the traditional path of attending seminary.

Lent and Easter plans are in process. The theme for the Lenten services this year will be “Psalms of Lamentation.” A simple supper of soup and bread will be offered before the Wednesday evening services.

Financial Report: Treasurer Kathy Myers (with guidance from Dan Yeater) prepared the January Financial Statement. She reported “All is well!” as she presented it to the members. Paul Wittenberg made a motion to approve the Financial report. Shirley Blake seconded the motion. The vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

Membership Report: Pastor Seth Jersild presented the following updates:

Members Incoming: Alice Loomis

Outgoing Members: Ray and Judy Collier, Mark and Kim Meadows, Joyce Coleman, John Will

Kathy Myers made a motion to accept these Membership updates. Warren Althoff seconded the motion. The vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

Old Business:

Technology Team Report: Pastor Seth Jersild reported that offerings continue to be received that are designated for technology updates. Larry Mitchell has located a sound board and microphones for us. A closet in the Business Manager’s office will be cleaned out and become the hub for the technology updates. Tim Althoff will begin wiring when that area is cleared.

New Business:

Election of a Vice President: Shirley Blake nominated Paul Wittenberg for the office of Vice President. Paul agreed to the nomination. Pastor Patti seconded the nomination. The vote to approve the nomination was unanimous.

Appoint Finance Team for 2022: Kathy Myers made a motion to appoint the following members to the Finance Team for 2022-Tony Bennett, Shawn Brace, Cynthia Hutson, David Keil, Lois Moore, Kathy Myers, Nate Wanner, and Dan Yeater. Michael Grimm seconded the motion. The vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

Appoint Endowment Team for 2022: Kathy Myers made a motion to appoint the following members to the Endowment Team for 2022-Tony Bennett, Shawn Brace, Kathy Myers, and Dan Yeater. Paul Wittenberg seconded the motion. The vote to approve the motion passed unanimously.

Property Team Formation: President Aaron Clark made the motion that Pastor Seth will work on forming this team and report the members at the March meeting. Kathy Myers seconded the motion. The vote to approve the motion passed unanimously.

Accessibility Proposal Funding Team: Pastor Seth Jersild, Dan Yeater, and Wayne Beavers are continuing on to the next phase of the Accessibility Proposal which is exploring how to fund the project. The team’s next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 26. They will report back in March on other team members. Their plan is to consult with McKnight, since they also have experience with funding the proposals they develop. President Aaron Clark made a motion that the members continuing on to the next phase form a team to look into funding the proposal. Michael Grimm seconded the motion. The vote to approve the motion passed unanimously.

Internship Team: Pastor Patti Morlock will work on forming this team and report the team members at the next meeting.

Change from “Masks Recommended” to “Masks Optional” on church property: President Aaron Clark made a motion that we change our current “Masks Recommended” statement to “Masks Optional” on the St. John’s property. Karen Bentley seconded the motion. The vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

Council/Congregational Concerns: The Pastors are planning a return to receiving Communion at the Communion rail during Lent.

Members discussed the snow/ice removal plan for the sidewalks around the church. Pastor Seth Jersild will look into the situation.

President Aaron Clark shared with the new Council members that we will end each meeting with a time of sharing praise and prayer concerns.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:08 P.M. following The Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Bentley, Secretary

ACTION ITEMS:

Meditate on the Matthew 25: 14-30 Bible passage in the “Church Council Orientation” handout. Be prepared to share your thoughts in response to Question #1 below the reading (All members)

Review the Minutes and respond to Secretary Karen Bentley within 48 hours with approval/additions/corrections. (All members)

Form & begin meeting Property Team (Pastor Seth)

Form & begin meeting Accessibility Proposal Funding Team (Pastor Seth & Members of the Accessibility Team that are continuing on to this next phase)

Form & begin meeting Internship Team (Pastor Patti)

Update the notice on the website and throughout the building that we are now “Masks Optional” (Pastor Seth & Jan Miller)

Refine plans for snow removal on all the sidewalks around the church (Pastor Seth)

NEXT MEETING: Monday, March 21, 2022 at 7:00 P.M in Rooms 103 & 104 in the FLC