

## St. John's Congregational Council Meeting

November 21, 2022, 7:00 P.M.

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

**Members Absent:** Doug Cress, Michael Grimm

**Call to Order, Roll Call, Opening Prayer, and Devotions:** President Aaron Clark called the November Council meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. Secretary Karen Bentley passed around a sign in sheet for attendance. Pastor Seth Jersild opened the meeting with prayer followed by a devotion on this coming week's gospel lesson from Matthew 24: 36-44. Wayne Beavers read the passage aloud. Discussion included the following: the Old Testament and New Testament are brought together in this passage, don't wait until tomorrow...tomorrow might not come for you, always be ready, when troubled by worry know that all things are in God's hands and will occur according to God's timing, even Jesus doesn't know the day or the hour.

**Additional Agenda Items:** None

**Approval of the Minutes from the October meeting:** Secretary Karen Bentley reported that the October minutes were approved by a majority of the Council members. Members were reminded that each person needs to read the emailed minutes and respond to Karen with their approval of the minutes within 48 hours.

**Senior Pastor's Report:** Pastor Seth Jersild provided the following updates.

Accessibility Project-The City of Grove City has approved our plans. McKnight continues to finalize the plans for the project. The team is expecting to receive bids in by the end of December.

Treasurer Kathy Myers made a motion to amend the motion that Council approved in October 2021 to state (new wording in bold): It is moved that the congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church approve the sale of the city lot that is a portion of parcel #40-000073-00 that fronts Columbus Street. Sale of property would be moved forward with the congregation's approval and **a fair market value is received. The Congregational Council will make final determination whether to accept an offer or not.** David Clark seconded the motion. The motion to amend to motion passed unanimously.

Dan Yeater will hold informational meetings before the Annual Meeting to answer questions regarding this motion.

Technology Team-Pastor Seth reported that a member will be installing a camera in the sanctuary for streaming worship services. The goal is to have it operational for Christmas worship.

Property Team-nothing to report at this time.

Pastor Seth is planning to begin Confirmation Classes for adults on a week night beginning in January.

New Members were received into membership on Sunday, November 20. Council members commented on how much they appreciated the biographical information provided by these new members.

**Associate Pastor's Report:** Pastor Patti Morlock shared the following updates.

Internship Team-Pastor Patti had a conversation with the intern candidate that has been matched with St. John's. He is very excited about the ministry opportunities in our mission district. Our Intern Candidate plans to finish his schooling in December 2023 and begin internship in January of 2024. He is married and has four children ages 12 and under. Pastor Patti is working on finding a place for the family to live during the internship year.

Arrangements are being finalized for the Angel Tree donation opportunities for Christmas 2022.

Pastor Patti is planning to attend the NALC Pastors' Convention in San Antonio, Texas in late January/early February.

Webmaster-Joanne's health situation is slowly improving and she has been able to do some updates on the website. She will continue to work on posting items as she is able.

**Financial Reports:** Treasurer Kathy Myers emailed the October Financial Statement and the Weekly Contribution Summary to Council members. She reported that we are still operating below budget, but we are starting to catch up on the expenses.

Pastor Patti made a motion to approve the Financial reports. Paul Wittenberg seconded the motion. The vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

Treasurer Kathy Myers made a motion to approve up to \$3000 from the Unrestricted Memorial Fund for Altar Guild room renovations. Paul Wittenberg seconded the motion. The vote to approve the motion was unanimous. Money that was donated to install heat in the room has already been spent on that renovation.

Approval of 2023 Budget: Kathy asked if there were any questions about the proposed 2023 budget. There were no questions. Paul Wittenberg made a motion to approve the proposed 2023 budget to be presented to the congregation at the Annual meeting on Sunday, January 29, 2023. Warren Althoff seconded the motion. The vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

**Membership Report:** Pastor Seth presented the following:

Members Incoming:

Jeff Morlock – transfer from Upper Arlington Lutheran Church  
Linda Ballou – transfer from Grace of God  
Steven Henry – transfer from Grace of God  
David Clifton – transfer from St. Jacob Lutheran, Massillon, Ohio  
Chris Fields – Transfer from Living Christ Lutheran, Columbus, Ohio  
Dorreen Zimmer – transfer from First Lutheran, Burnet, Texas  
George and Cindy Gonsowski – letter of release from St. Stephen Catholic, Ona, WV  
Judy Graessle – affirmation of faith  
Chris Jenkins – affirmation of faith  
Curtis and Amy Hughes and sons Will and Ian – affirmation of faith

Outgoing Members: None to report

Kathy Myers made a motion to approve these Membership updates. Shirley Blake seconded the motion. The motion to approve these updates was unanimous.

In October, Council members were given a spreadsheet of Inactive members that Recorder Jan Miller has compiled. Various attempts including a letter and phone calls have been made to determine if those listed wish to remain on the roll as Active members.

David Clark made a motion to move all listed as Active on the spreadsheet to Inactive and all listed as Inactive to be removed from the St. John's membership roll. Kathy Myers seconded the motion. The vote to approve these changes in status was unanimous. The spreadsheet list will be available in the church office and attached to these minutes in the permanent Council records.

### **Old Business-**

**Audit Team Update:** no update at this time.

### **New Business-**

**Congregational Concerns:** David Clark asked if the people that were just received into membership will be added to the church pictorial directory. Elaine took pictures of them on Sunday and they will be added to the directory soon.

2023 Lutheran Week will be held August 7-11 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. We need delegates from St. John's to attend this important gathering.

Ohio Mission Region Convocation is scheduled for Saturday, May 6 with a tentative plan for a Faith Formation Festival for Youth Leaders and Sunday School teachers on Friday, May 5.

Karen Bentley expressed appreciation for the special informational presentation about the organ's capabilities during Sunday's Traditional services on November 13.

**Council Member's Sharing and Updates:** Each member had an opportunity to give an update on what's going on in his/her life and state any prayer requests.

**Reminder:** Council will not meet in December or January. Council meetings will resume in February 2023.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 P.M. after members prayed The Lord's Prayer together.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Bentley, Secretary

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

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

Set guidelines for approving improvements to the church property inside/outside (?)

Turn in your Council notebook to the Church Office (All Council members)