

St. John's Congregational Council Meeting

May 15, 2023

Members Present: Warren Althoff, Karen Bentley, Shirley Blake, Aaron Clark, David Clark, Cindy Gonsowski, Karen Grossman, Tammy LeVally, Kathy Myers, Phil Pennington, Gary Smith, Paul Wittenberg, Pastor Seth Jersild, Pastor Patti Morlock

Members Absent: None

Call to Order, Roll Call: Pastor Seth Jersild opened the meeting with prayer. President Aaron Clark called the May Council meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. Secretary Karen Bentley passed around a sign in sheet for attendance. Members are reminded that the Minutes will be sent by email within 48 hours of the meeting. Please read over the Minutes and send Karen an email with your approval/additions/corrections within 48 hours of receiving the Minutes. She will amend and resend the Minutes as needed.

Last month's Minutes were approved by a majority of the Council members.

There were no Additional Agenda Items from the members.

Devotions: Pastor Seth Jersild led devotions from Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 about the sower and the seed. Members commented that the sower did not know where the seed would go or what would happen to it. That is in God's hands. It's the same thing with acts of kindness and generosity we show to our fellow man. We don't always know the results, it's in God's hands. Several people commented on the great abundance of the harvest for the amount of seed that was sown. Others mentioned that the types of soil the seeds fell on might represent us at various stages in our lives.

Senior Pastor's Report: Pastor Seth reported that Diane Sexton has been installed at all the worship services as our new Lay Director of Ministry. Elaine Bennet will mentor Diane through the various events during the coming seasons of the church year.

Sarah Wittenberg will begin Sunday, May 21 as our Nursery Attendant.

David Clark has volunteered to be the webmaster for St. John's and to update the various aspects of our website.

The Outreach/Evangelism Team is meeting monthly. They are planning a variety of events to invite community members to such as parenting classes and financial stewardship classes. Members are welcome to attend, but the idea is to go outside the walls of the church to reach the unchurched.

The Revelation Bible study has concluded. A summer Bible study is being planned for Sunday evenings.

The Sunday morning Traditional worship service at either 8:15 or 11:00 is being live-streamed each week. Larry Mitchell is willing to train a team of people who can facilitate this outreach.

Technology updates-Tim Althoff will be changing out the routers and updating the WI-FI when the building addition progresses to a point that he can begin that work.

Associate Pastor's Report: Pastor Patti reported that the Women's Retreat "Be Still and Know That I Am God" is planned for May 19 & 20 here in the FLC. Registration is almost full and the team is continuing to refine plans for this event. They are excited about the great response from the women of the church.

Pastor Patti presented a workshop about OUSC (Ordination Under Special Circumstance) team at the OMR Convocation on Saturday, May 6. She was also able to speak to our coming Intern Dale Stanley. Please pray that we find housing for the family of six beginning in late December/early January.

Financial Reports: Treasurer Kathy Myers prepared and emailed the Weekly Contribution Summary to all Council members. The April Financial Statement will be completed soon and emailed to Council members. Jan Miller and Bill Graul have been on vacation resulting in the delay.

St. John's has funds invested with two different advisors. The Finance Team met with the second of our two advisors this month for a yearly update on our investment accounts.

Membership Report: Pastor Seth presented the names of four of our youth who have completed their studies and are ready for the Rite of Confirmation this Sunday. They are: Brooklyn Cress, Stephanie Dent, Hunter Thompson, and Merrick Wilson. He made a motion that Council approve them for Confirmation. Kathy Myers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: None

New Business: Quarterly Meetings for 2023-Pastor Seth and the Executive Team have discussed concerns about the current arrangement of the Quarterly meeting times. Packets containing the meeting information will be available at all services and online. Members of the Executive Team will be available at each of the services. The January meeting is the Annual meeting following the Contemporary worship service. The April meeting will be held after the Saturday afternoon worship. The July meeting will be held after the 8:15 service. The October meeting will be after the 11:00 Traditional service.

Council/Congregational Concerns: Movement between the two buildings during construction seems to be going well. A permanent platform/step and railing will be added to the Parish House entrance soon. We would like to invite Dan Yeater to update Council on the construction of the new addition.

Members shared updates about their lives and prayer requests.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 P.M. following the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Bentley, Secretary

ACTION ITEMS:

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

Invite Tim Althoff to speak to Council regarding technology updates (Pastor Seth)

Invite Dan Yeater to speak to Council regarding the Accessibility project progress (Pastor Seth)

Train a team of members to live-stream Traditional worship services (Pastor Seth & Larry Mitchell)

Update members on parking and building access during construction (Pastor Seth & Members of the Accessibility Construction Team)

Pray for the Intern & his family that will be serving in the Southeast Ohio Mission District and especially for a place to live in the GC area for 2024 (All members)

NEXT MEETING: Monday, **June 26**, 2023 at 7:00 P.M in Rooms 103 & 104 in the FLC

**** PLEASE NOTE this is the **fourth** Monday of the month due to Juneteenth being a Federal Holiday on the third Monday of the month.