

## St. John's Congregational Council Meeting

June 26, 2023

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

**Members Absent:** Karen Grossman

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Seth Jersild opened the meeting with prayer.

**Call to Order, Roll Call:** President Aaron Clark called the June Council meeting to order at 7:00 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.

**Accessibility Project Update:** Dan Yeater shared a construction update with Council.

**Additional Agenda Items:** None

**Devotions:** Pastor Seth Jersild led us in a devotion titled "Healthy Church Characteristics #1-Centrality of the Word." Members cited evidence they see to support the fact that St. John's holds the Word as central to the life of our congregation. We also shared ways that we strive to make the Word central in our personal relationship with the Lord.

**Senior Pastor's Report:** Pastor Seth reported that Laurie Pecuch and Diana Imbrock have both asked to reduce their total number of hours beginning in September 2023. They would continue to facilitate the youth programs for youth up to sixth grade. We will begin the process of opening our hearts and minds to a new full time Youth Minister to work with seventh graders through high schoolers. Laurie and Diana would continue to coordinate our youth service projects. To begin the process, two meetings have been scheduled for Sunday, July 30 and Sunday, August 6 at 6:30 P.M. The pastors will facilitate these meetings and anyone who is interested in having input in the process of "Looking Forward in Youth Ministry" is welcome to attend. Written surveys will also be used to gather input into our vision for the youth programming at St. John's. A Youth Ministry team of five or six people will be formed to guide the search for our new Youth Minister.

The Contemporary Worship service needs to add to their group of committed weekly volunteers. Diane Sexton will be coordinating this.

Volunteers are still needed for training on how to live stream the Traditional worship services.

Mark Meuser and Nick Grossman are planning a Talent Show for the fall. Details coming soon.

David Clark continues to update the website. Videos showing the progress of the construction have been added thanks to Keith Stenerson's dedication to documenting the progress.

**Associate Pastor's Report:** Pastor Patti reported that she will be meeting with the Internship team in early fall to explain their role and the expectations for the internship year. Karen Bentley and Pastor Patti will be applying to Trinity Lutheran's Outreach Fund on behalf of the Southeast Ohio Mission District for additional funds to support our intern in 2024. Our biggest prayer request at this time continues to be housing for the intern and his family of six.

Lutheran Week will be held in Oklahoma City, OK in early August. Pastor Patti will be attending. Due to the size of St. John's we are allotted space for eight delegates to represent us. Anyone interested in

attending should speak with Pastor Patti or Pastor Seth. The NALC will be electing a Bishop to serve for the next four years. Bishop Dan Selbo and The Rev. Dr. David Wendel have been nominated.

**Financial Reports:** Treasurer Kathy Myers prepared and emailed the Monthly Financial Statement and the Weekly Contribution Summary for May to all Council members. The April Monthly Financial Statement was also completed and emailed to Council members earlier in the month.

Kathy reported that the 2024 budget planning process will begin soon.

Kathy made a motion that Council approve that the Mexico Mission team spend funds that they have raised for their trip in the amount up to \$30,000, first from the Memorial Restricted Mission Trip Mexico Fund and then from the Memorial Restricted Mission Trip General Fund as monies are available. If both accounts are depleted, the remaining outstanding bills will then be the responsibility of the mission participants. Pastor Patti seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Paul Wittenberg made a motion to approve the Financial Report for May. Gary Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

David Clark made a motion to approve the Financial Report for April. Shirley Blake seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Membership Report:** None

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Council/Congregational Concerns:** Members have asked about the plans for how the various stained glass windows will be displayed in the new addition. Dan Yeater and team are working on this.

Aaron reminded Council members about the change in format to the Quarterly meetings. The July Quarterly meeting will be held after the 8:15 service. Meeting packets will be available at all services and Executive Team members will be available at each meeting for questions and comments.

\*\*\* Council will not meet in July.

Members shared updates about their lives and prayer requests.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 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)

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

Pray for wisdom, vision, and discernment in our search for a Youth Minister (All members of St. John's)

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)

Pray for wisdom, vision, & discernment as the NALC meets for Lutheran Week including electing a bishop for the next four years.

NEXT MEETING: **Monday, August 21, 2023** at 7:00 P.M in Rooms 103 & 104 in the FLC