

St. John's Congregational Council Online Motion

August 3, 2023

President Aaron Clark made an online motion to approve up to \$6,000 to have repairs done to the brick around the church. The repairs will be funded through the Unrestricted Memorial Fund. The motion was seconded by Pastor Patti Morlock. The motion passed.

St. John's Congregational Council Meeting

August 21, 2023

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

Members Absent: Phil Pennington, Pastor Patti Morlock

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

Call to Order, Roll Call: President Aaron Clark called the August Council meeting to order at 7:04 P.M. Secretary Karen Bentley passed around a sign in sheet for attendance. Members are reminded that the Minutes will be sent by email. 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.

The June Minutes were approved by a majority of the Council members.

Additional Agenda Items: New Business-Add Quarterly Meeting format feedback

Devotions: Pastor Seth Jersild began the devotion titled "Mission and Vision" by reading from Acts 1: 1-8. Several members read the accompanying commentary. Council discussed our Mission and Vision statements, including where to find them on the website and in the bulletin. We discussed ways to bring our Mission and Vision to the congregation's attention more often as a reminder of what we're here to accomplish.

Senior Pastor's Report: Pastor Seth reminded Council that Laurie Pecuch and Diana Imbrock will be reducing their total number of hours beginning September 2023. They would continue to facilitate the youth programs for youth up to sixth grade and service projects. Two meetings titled "Looking Forward in Youth Ministry" were held. The results of those meetings will be shared in various ways, including in the October Eagle. This information will guide the Search & Interview Team and potential candidates as to what the congregation values in a youth program/youth leader. A Youth Ministry team of five or six people will also be formed as an ongoing way to oversee our youth programming.

We will be hiring Gini Rogers as an interim youth worker for Sunday mornings and for Wednesday night Explorers and Energizers. She has been very involved with this already and will be available for grades 7-12 during this time of transition.

Tom Lang will begin in September as our Building & Grounds Manager. He will be responsible for regular oversight of the inside and outside of the property. Mike Esposito will be guiding him for this transition through the end of the year.

St. John's Ev. Lutheran will celebrate its 175th Anniversary in 2024. A team is forming to organize special celebrations throughout the year.

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

David Clark continues to update the website.

There will be a New Member's class in October.

Associate Pastor's Report: Pastor Patti was ill and unable to attend the meeting. She asked Karen Bentley to give an update on the Internship Team. We are anticipating that Dale Stanley and his family will move to the Grove City area in January. He will begin his internship in February. Pastor Patti will be meeting with the Internship Team in the fall to prepare them for their role in guiding and supporting Dale's internship.

Financial Reports: Treasurer Kathy Myers prepared and emailed the Monthly Financial Statement and the Weekly Contribution Summary for June and July to all Council members.

Kathy reported that we received an unexpected check of \$20,911.30 associated with realized gains for Endowment funds because a fund manager's (not to be confused with St. John's Endowment Investment Advisors) mix up. That money will be added to the four Endowment-Available Income funds.

Kathy made a motion that Council approve up to \$10,000 to repair or replace the fire detection system. This would be paid from the Endowment-Property-Available Income fund. Karen Grossman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Kathy made a motion that Council approve up to \$1500 for stone work on the sides of the front steps to match the foundation stone as closely as possible from the Unrestricted Memorial fund. The total cost of the project is approximately \$3500. A donation of \$2000 toward that cost has been received. Paul Wittenberg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Kathy made a motion to approve up to \$3500 for a new keyboard for Contemporary worship services from the Memorial Restricted Music fund. Gary Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Paul Wittenberg made a motion to approve the Financial Reports for June and July. Karen Grossman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Membership Report: Members Incoming: Jared and Allyson Vance and children, Nala Skidmore and Robert Vance-affirmation of faith and Sean and Kelsie O'Hanlon-Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Reinstate to active membership: Glenn Fulton, Jr.

Outgoing members: none

Remove from the rolls due to inactivity: List is available in the church office.

Pastor Seth made a motion to approve these Membership report status updates. Karen Bentley seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: None

New Business: Quarterly Meeting format feedback-Members discussed the new format of Quarterly meetings. Communication needs to be clear about when the meeting will be held and which member

of the Executive Team will be at each of the other services to represent the Council and answer questions the members of the congregation might have.

Council/Congregational Concerns: Members shared updates about their lives and prayer requests.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 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)

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 beginning February 2024 (All members)

NEXT MEETING: **Monday, September 18, 2023** at 7:00 P.M in Rooms 103 & 104 in the FLC