

St. John's Congregational Council Meeting

September 18, 2023

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

Members Absent: David Clark

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

Additional Agenda Items: Dan Yeater was present to give Council members a tour of the new revisions in the Link and the new addition to the church. Members appreciated the opportunity to walk through the space, see the progress, and ask questions. (The business meeting resumed at 7:30.)

Call to Order, Roll Call: President Aaron Clark called the September 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. 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 August Minutes were approved by a majority of the Council members.

Devotions: Tabled until next month due to the building tour.

Senior Pastor's Report: Pastor Seth reported that a Youth Minister Search Team of six people has been formed. Christina Allman is the team leader. Dwight Henricksen, Rachel Katterhenrich, Kristina Little, Amy Wanner, and Cory Westerfeld are the other members of the team. They are currently putting together a financial package for the position.

Gini Rogers is filling the role of interim youth worker for Sunday mornings. Training for volunteer staff will take place before Wednesday night Explorers and Energizers begin the week of September 24.

Diane Sexton has resigned as the Director of Lay Ministry. The search process begins this week for a replacement.

Tom Lang began September 1 as our Building & Grounds Manager. He will be responsible for regular oversight of the inside and outside of the property during his 20 hours per week. Mike Esposito will be guiding him for this transition through the end of the year. Tom has been attending staff meetings and assembling a Property Team to help and advise him on issues around the property.

St. John's Ev. Lutheran will celebrate its 175th Anniversary in 2024. The team so far includes Pastor Seth, Pastor Don Allman, Linda Diehl, Fred Previts, and Hunter Thompson. They are still looking for a couple additional members and a team leader.

The Chancel area needs additional microphones for the area where the choir and special musicians are seated. Mark Meuser will research this and report back to Pastor Seth with recommendations.

Nick Grossman and Dave Shrum are beginning a week night Men's Group. The plan is to meet for eight sessions, every other week for 16 weeks.

Confirmation class update: there are currently seven 7th graders and seven 8th graders. The group consisted of 10 males and 4 females.

We are entering the drywall phase of the accessibility updates. More dust is expected and the cleaning schedule will be altered to make sure that areas are clean and ready for use throughout the week for the various activities.

Associate Pastor's Report: Pastor Patti gave an update on our Intern. Dale Stanley and his family will be in Grove City the weekend of November 11 & 12. They will be able to see the house that they will be renting and meet members of the congregation and the Internship Team. Pastor Patti will be meeting with the Internship Team in late October to prepare them for their role in guiding and supporting Dale's internship.

We welcome Kim Rose, a student from the Ashland Theological Seminary, who is serving in a volunteer role at St. John's as part of her program requirements. She will be participating in Wednesday night Explorers and Energizers. She will also lead the Adult Sunday School class that meets in the Fellowship Hall.

Pastor Patti is also researching material, possibly the GriefShare program, to be used with a Grief Support group. A member has donated funds for the cost of the material that is selected. This group will tentatively begin meeting in early 2024.

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

Kathy reported that we received a bequest for \$25,000. These funds will be added to the Endowment-Principle accounts.

We have had many repairs and regular bills all due in the past month, but all accounts remain steady.

Karen Grossman made a motion to approve the Financial Reports for August. Phil Pennington seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Membership Report: Members Incoming-None to report. Outgoing Members-None to report.

Pastor Seth reported that our Recorder Jan Miller continues to update the congregation rolls.

Remove from the rolls due to inactivity: List for September 2023 is available in the church office.

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

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Council/Congregational Concerns: Lighting in the Sanctuary was discussed. Lightbulbs in all fixtures have been changed to be brighter and uniform in color.

Members shared updates about their lives and prayer requests.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 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)

Finalize 175th Anniversary Team and begin planning events (Pastor Seth & team)

Pray for the Intern & his family that will be serving in the Southeast Ohio Mission District beginning February 2024 (All members)

NEXT MEETING: **Monday, October 16, 2023** at 7:00 P.M in Rooms 103 & 104 in the FLC