

St. John's Congregational Council Meeting

November 20, 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

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

Additional Agenda Items: None

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

Devotions: Loving Relationships-John 13:34-35 and I Corinthians 13:4-7. Members discussed the opportunities for meaningful relationships within our church family-known here at St. John's as Faith Webbing. Members shared a variety of examples of members being aware and inclusive of people going through various trials. They also discussed any obstacles to loving relationships and what might be done about them. The completion of the Accessibility Project should address several of those issues.

Senior Pastor's Report: Pastor Seth reported that the Youth Minister Search Team has several candidates of interest and they are working diligently to identify our next Youth Minister.

Men's Discussion Group has had five out of the planned eight discussions. Council members who attend the group were very positive about the response and the conversations.

St. John's Ev. Lutheran will celebrate its 175th Anniversary in 2024. The planning team has met twice. On May 12 we will have a special combined worship celebration for the anniversary of the dedication of St. John's. The team created a calendar of events throughout the year and leaders are stepping up to facilitate each of those events. They have plans for ongoing displays of pictorial history items.

Technology-Microphones are now in place in the Chancel area. A switchboard and mixer will also be purchased. Funds for these items are being donated. Shepherd's Staff is being backed up. Financial records have been restored through September and full restoration will be completed soon. Plans for updating and replacing technology will be on a five year rotation.

The Accessibility Project is entering the final phases and the team is hopeful that it will be completed for Christmas.

Tom Lang is working on assembling a Property Team.

Confirmation students are working on their Statements of Faith.

Thanksgiving Eve service this Wednesday evening, November 22. Service of Comfort and Remembrance this coming weekend on Sunday afternoon, November 26.

Pastor Seth reminded us that many in our congregation are experiencing losses and many are struggling through a wide variety of situations.

Associate Pastor's Report: Pastor Patti gave an update on our Intern's visit to Grove City. The Stanley Family is very excited about their move here. Pastor Patti thanked the members of council for their participation in the luncheon.

Pastor Patti is previewing the materials for the Grief Support Group. She has spoken to Dale about the possibility of this being one of his specific areas of focus during his internship.

Angel Tree-six families have been referred and three have responded. Pastor Patti is coordinating Adopt a Family support with Megan Grossman-Director of Lay Ministry.

Pastor Patti and Pastor Jeff will be attending the Pastor's Conference Retreat in Orlando, FL in mid-January.

Both pastors have been involved in multiple funerals over the last several weeks.

Financial Reports: Treasurer Kathy Myers prepared and emailed the Weekly Contribution Summary for October to all Council members. Financial Statements for September, October, and November should be available in the near future. She will send them to Council as soon as they are completed.

Kathy also presented a couple small changes to the proposed budget for 2024. Warren Althoff made a motion to approve the Proposed 2024 Budget. Gary Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimous. Council members thanked Kathy and the Finance Team for all their time and effort making sure that St. John's is on a solid financial foundation.

We continue to get questions about whether we have a way to contribute and to pay for items at fundraising events with some type of payment service. Kathy made a motion to add a line to the church's cell phone plan for a church Venmo account. Warren Althoff seconded the motion. After discussion the motion was tabled and a committee was formed to research the best way of handling this. Kathy Myers, Aaron Clark, and David Clark will research and make recommendations at the January 2024 Council meeting.

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 November 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: None

Reminders: There will be a **Council meeting on January 15, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.** All current members continue on Council until the election at the **Annual Meeting on January 28, 2024** in the Family Life Center after worship services.

Members shared updates about their lives including holiday plans and prayer requests.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 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)

175th Anniversary Team plan events and communicate them to the congregation (Pastor Seth & team)

Pray for the Intern & his family that will be serving in the Southeast Ohio Mission District beginning February 2024 and funding to support him through the year (All members)

Research electronic payment options and make a recommendation to Council in January 2024. (Kathy Myers, Aaron Clark, David Clark)

NEXT MEETINGS: **Monday, January 15, 2024** at 7:00 P.M in Rooms 103 & 104 in the FLC

Sunday, January 28, 2024 after the late services in the FLC