

St. John's Congregational Council Meeting

October 16, 2023

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

Members Absent: David Clark, Cindy Gonsowski, Gary Smith

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

Additional Agenda Items: Hosting the Ohio Mission Region (OMR) Convocation and Special Topics Sessions May 3 & 4, 2024

Call to Order, Roll Call: President Aaron Clark called the October Council meeting to order at 7:01 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 September Minutes were approved by a majority of the Council members.

Devotions: Kingdom Extension from Acts 8: 1b-8, 11:19-26. The early church spread due to persecution of believers. We need to constantly learn what it means to be disciples. Council members discussed aspects of personal evangelism being both organic and intentional. We also discussed how as members of St. John's we are evangelizing in our community.

Senior Pastor's Report: Pastor Seth reported that the Youth Minister Search Team now consists of seven people. Brad Wahl has joined the group. Christina Allman is the team leader. Dwight Henriksen, Rachel Katterhenrich, Kristina Little, Amy Wanner, and Cory Westerfeld are the other members of the team. They have created a job posting, put together a financial package, and determined where to publish the position.

Gini Rogers continues to fill the role of interim youth worker for Sunday mornings and Wednesday night Explorers and Energizers.

Megan Grossman is our new Director of Lay Ministry. She sent a letter to members of the congregation this week introducing herself.

St. John's Got Talent will take place this Saturday, October 21 at 7:00 P.M. Mark Meuser and Nick Grossman have worked very hard to put together this event.

St. John's Ev. Lutheran will celebrate its 175th Anniversary in 2024. The team includes Pastor Seth, Pastor Don Allman, Linda Diehl, Fred Previts, and Hunter Thompson. Bob Eesley, Lorina Allmon, and Mistie Clark have also joined the team. The team is still looking for a team leader.

Mark Meuser has researched microphones for the Chancel area. He has made a decision on a supplier and which equipment to purchase.

The Accessibility Project is entering the final phases and is expected to be completed before Christmas.

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

Tom Lang is working on assembling a Property Team.

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. They will also have the opportunity to meet the Internship Team, Council, and members of the congregation. Pastor Patti will be meeting with the Internship Team on Tuesday, October 24 to prepare them for their role in guiding and supporting Dale's internship.

Kim Rose, a student from the Ashland Theological Seminary, is serving in a volunteer role at St. John's as part of her program requirements. She has been participating in Wednesday night Explorers and Energizers. She is also leading the Adult Sunday School class that meets in the Fellowship Hall through a study of the book of James. She will be with us through December.

Pastoral Care has been a major focus in the past month. Several longtime members are nearing the end of their earthly journey and Pastor Patti has been spending time with them and their families. She has also visited members in the hospital, care facility, or their home.

This past week, Pastor Patti was once again involved in her role on the Ordination Under Special Circumstance (OUSC) team for the NALC. This time 20 candidates were accepted into the process and three were approved for ordination which is something to celebrate.

Financial Reports: Treasurer Kathy Myers prepared and emailed the Weekly Contribution Summary for September to all Council members. There was a computer glitch and Kathy was not able to complete the Financial Statement for September yet. She will send it to Council as soon as it is completed.

Kathy also presented the proposed budget for 2024. Council members are asked to review the document and send her any questions before the next Council meeting. She will also email the proposed budget to the members who are absent this evening.

Karen Bentley made a motion that St. John's send \$3000 from the Memorial Fund Unrestricted Savings to the Southeast Ohio Mission District as our Internship support pledge from 2022. Kathy Myers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Karen Bentley made a motion that St. John's send \$3000 from the line item in our 2023 budget for our yearly Internship support pledge to the Southeast Ohio Mission District. Pastor Patti seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Membership Report: Members Incoming-Michael and Barbara Cunningham-coming from St. Cecilia, Columbus, Ohio.

Outgoing Members-Daniel McMillin-remove at own request-no longer living in area.

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

Remove from the rolls due to inactivity: List for October 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: Hosting the OMR Convocation and Special Topics Sessions on Friday, May 3 and Saturday, May 4. Karen Bentley requested that St. John's Council consider and approve hosting the OMR meetings in May. Meeting space would be needed in the Sanctuary, the Family Life Center, the new Welcoming area, FLC rooms 101-102, 103-104, and possibly the Overflow area and the Chapel. Pastor Patti suggested that the Convocation end with attendees joining us for the 4:00 Saturday afternoon worship service. Council agreed that we would be willing to host this two day event. Karen will

coordinate details with the OMR Executive Council, St. John's pastors, Minister of Music, and Lay Director.

Council/Congregational Concerns: Lighting above the handicapped ramp door was discussed. When choir members leave practice that area is completely dark. Pastor Seth will have Tom check the lighting in that area.

Several members have expressed an interest in updating the bathrooms in the Family Life Center once the Accessibility Project is completed. Funds have already been pledged for this. The plans include replacing the countertops, cabinets, sinks, faucets, mirrors, and lighting. (The toilets were all replaced at the same time that the restroom in the basement was redone in 2019.)

Mulching around the church will be completed by volunteers this week. Suggestions were made about involving groups that use the church facilities in helping to maintain the landscaping. The Boy Scout troop already has an area that they maintain. Once construction is completed and that hole is refilled they will resume taking care of that area.

Communicating events going on at the church was discussed. The website is being updated. We need to make sure that information about events taking place at St. John's are posted on the website/Facebook inviting people to join us at St. John's.

Nominating Team that was elected in January 2023 will begin meeting soon. Council needs to appoint one of our members rotating off of Council to the Nominating team.

Reminder that the October Quarterly Meeting will be held in the Sanctuary after the 11:00 this Sunday, October 22. Executive Team members will be available after each of the other services. Packets of information will be available at all services and online.

Members shared updates about their lives and prayer requests.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 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 Leadership 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)

Plan to attend the Sunday, November 12 Luncheon to meet Intern Dale Stanley and his family (All Council members and Internship Team members)

Review the Proposed 2024 Budget and send any questions to Treasurer Kathy Myers before the November Council meeting (All Council members)

NEXT MEETING: **Monday, November 20, 2023** at 7:00 P.M in Rooms 103 & 104 in the FLC