

## **St. John's Congregational Council Online Motion**

**January 5, 2024**

Treasurer Kathy Myers made an online motion for the Youth Minister Search Committee to spend up to \$500 from the Unrestricted Memorial Fund for travel expenses for Youth Minister candidates. The motion was seconded by Aaron Clark. The motion was approved by a majority of the Council members.

## **St. John's Congregational Council Meeting**

**January 15, 2024**

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

**Members Absent:**, Aaron Clark, Pastor Patti Morlock

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

**Call to Order, Roll Call:** Vice President Paul Wittenberg called the January Council meeting to order at 6:58 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 November 2023 Minutes were approved by a majority of the Council members.

**Additional Agenda Items:** New Business-Add: Funds for Youth Volunteer Background Checks

**Devotions:** No Devotions this evening

**Senior Pastor's Report:** Pastor Seth reported that all Council members whose terms are expiring have agreed to serve another term for 2024-2026. The Nominating Team has also had a strong response of many people being willing to serve as delegates representing St. John's at the OMR Convocation in May and for the online NALC Lutheran Week in August.

The Youth Minister Search team has several candidates for Youth Minister that they will be interviewing in the coming weeks. Some are from Ohio and one is from out of state. The team has done lots of networking looking for the best possible candidates.

The staff had a Retirement breakfast for Mike Esposito in December. The members of the congregation sent cards/gifts of thanks to Mike's for his many years of dedicated service to St. John's.

Tom Lang is doing a fantastic job as our Building & Grounds Manager. He is overseeing a variety of projects. He is also assembling a Property Team and working to set a meeting schedule for the team.

St. John's Ev. Lutheran will celebrate its 175th Anniversary in 2024. The planning team has already put several events on the church calendar. The first scheduled event is the Dedication of the new addition on Sunday, March 3 after a combined worship service at 11:00 in the Sanctuary. Following the Dedication, members are invited to a dinner in the Family Life Center. Dan Yeater and the Accessibility Team are planning for a short program of Thanksgiving.

Lenten Worship begins with Ash Wednesday, February 14.

Technology-The Accessibility Project is entering a phase where Tim Althoff can now begin to upgrade the WI-FI. David Clark continues work on updating the website and Facebook account. Streaming of Traditional Worship services is going well. Streaming of Contemporary Worship still needs attention.

2023 was a year of transition. We appreciate the congregation's flexibility. We are ready to invite, welcome, equip, and serve as we make disciples in 2024!

**Associate Pastor's Report:** Pastor Patti is attending the NALC Clergy Retreat in Florida and was unable to attend the meeting. She asked Karen Bentley to give an update on the Internship Team. This morning Karen received an email from Trinity Ashland that the SEOMD would be receiving a very generous grant to support the Internship in 2024. Praise the Lord for this generous support from our fellow Ohio Mission Region brothers and sisters in Christ.

Intern Dale Stanley and his family will be moving to Grove City on January 27. He will begin his internship February 1. Karen passed around a sign up sheet for volunteers to provide a meal for moving day and she also asked for a couple of helpers to unload the moving truck.

Treasurer Kathy Myers made a motion to create a Designated Account at St. John's for the Ministry Intern. Karen Grossman seconded the motion. Kathy explained that the SEOMD does not have any way to handle payroll for the Intern's expenses. The SEOMD has raised the funds to pay for the Intern's salary and expenses and will be sending quarterly allotments to St. John's for them per the NALC Internship-Candidacy Financial Matters Guidelines of 2019. The motion passed unanimously.

**Financial Reports:** Treasurer Kathy Myers reported that the Financial reports have been restored. She prepared and emailed the Monthly Financial Statements for September, October, November and December to all Council members. Kathy made a motion to approve the Financial Statement for September. David Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Kathy made a motion to approve Financial Statement for October. Shirley Blake seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Kathy made a motion to approve the Financial Statement for November. Gary Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Kathy made a motion to approve the Financial Statement for December. Cindy Gonsowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Kathy noted that we finished 2023 in a strong financial position. She also reported that the Accessibility Project is on track to be completed without the need for a bank loan.

Kathy made a motion that \$1000 be moved from the Memorial Unrestricted Fund to the Memorial Restricted OWLS fund. Shirley Blake seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Kathy passed out copies of the Proposed 2024 Budget with a few small revisions from what was approved at the November Council meeting. She made a motion to accept this revised Proposed Budget for 2024 to be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 28. David Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Membership Report:** Members Incoming: Rachel Katterhenrich and daughter, Hope-transfer from First Presbyterian, Grove City and Nicolas Marchese-transferring from The Church Next Door.

Outgoing members: none to report

Remove from the rolls due to inactivity: List dated January 2024 is available in the church office.

Pastor Seth made a motion to approve these Membership report status updates. Tammy LaVally seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Other Reports:** Treasurer Kathy Myers reported that Jan Miller has submitted notice of her retirement in May of 2024. The Finance Team and Pastor Seth have a Job Description and are actively looking for a replacement.

**Old Business:** Family Life Center Bathroom Updates-A team has been exploring upgrades to the FLC bathrooms. This would include new cabinets, countertops, sinks, faucets, lighting, and mirrors. Funds have been set aside for these upgrades. The goal would be to have the upgrades done by the beginning of May when St. John's hosts the Ohio Mission Region Convocation.

Landscaping around the new addition will take place when the weather warms up in the spring. Volunteers are needed to help with the installation of the new plantings.

**New Business:** Funds for Youth Volunteer Background Checks-Pastor Seth reported that it is time to update the background checks on our volunteers working with the Youth. Treasurer Kathy Myers made a motion that Council approve up to \$900 from the Unrestricted Memorial for Background Checks of Youth Volunteers. Paul Wittenberg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Council/Congregational Concerns:** None reported

**What's Going on in Your Life-Sharing:** Members shared updates about their lives and prayer requests.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 P.M. following the Lord's Prayer.

**Next Meeting:** Since all current Council members will be returning in 2024, we will not need an Orientation Council Retreat. The next Council meeting will be Monday, February 19 at 7:00 in Rooms 103-104.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Bentley, Secretary

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

Review the Minutes and respond to Secretary Karen Bentley within 48 hours with approval/additions/corrections. (All Council 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 of the SEOMD)

Pray for a favorable response to grant applications for funds to support our Internship in 2024 in the SEOMD (All members of the SEOMD)

**ANNUAL MEETING:** Sunday, January 28 following the 11:00 worship services in the Family Life Center

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:** Monday, February 19 at 7:00 P.M in Rooms 103 & 104 in the FLC