

St. John's Congregational Council Meeting

February 19, 2024

Members Present: Warren Althoff, Karen Bentley, Shirley Blake, Aaron Clark, David Clark, Karen Grossman, Tammy LeVally, Kathy Myers, Phil Pennington, Gary Smith, Paul Wittenberg, Pastor Patti Morlock, Intern Dale Stanley

Members Absent: Cindy Gonsowski, Pastor Seth Jersild

Church Council Orientation: The orientation was postponed due to Pastor Seth Jersild's absence due to illness.

Business Meeting: President Aaron Clark opened the meeting with prayer. He called the February Council meeting to order at 6:31 P.M. Secretary Karen Bentley passed around a sign in sheet for attendance. She will continue to send the minutes by email within 48 hours of each meeting. Members are expected to read the minutes and send Karen an email with their approval/additions/corrections within 48 hours of receiving the minutes. She will amend and resend the minutes as needed.

Devotions: Pastor Patti Morlock lead our devotion thoughts on the Transfiguration from Mark 9: 2-13. Several members shared their thoughts on this passage. Members then reflected on three questions: How would you describe your relationship with God now? What helps you feel close to God? Have you ever had an experience of God where you knew he was speaking, acting, moving? A time of sharing experiences followed our reflection time. Pastor Patti closed our time of devotions with prayer.

Additional Agenda Items: One item from Shirley Blake regarding a new program through the City of Grove City.

Senior Pastor's Report: No report

Associate Pastor's Report: Pastor Patti gave an Internship update. She will be the supervising pastor for Intern Dale this year. Dale has spent these first weeks shadowing Pastor Patti which has included hospital and home visits. He has participated in worship services and will be preaching at next week's Lenten services. He will be at Grace Westerville for two weeks, learning from Pastor David Wendel.

A Women's Retreat is in the early planning stages, as well as, preparations for Lent and Easter.

Intern Dale reported that he appreciated the opportunity to be present at hospital visits. He will be responsible for a GriefShare group ministry for his Internship year project. He also appreciates how specific, helpful, and intentional his initial training has been.

Financial Reports: Treasurer Kathy Myers explained that there was a delay in the preparation of the February Financial Statement (for the month of January). It will be sent to council members as soon as it is ready.

Kathy made a motion to approve the following members of the Finance Team for 2024: Kathy Myers, Dan Yeater, Anthony Bennett, Nate Wanner, Shawn Brace, Dave Keil, and Cynthia Hutson. Karen Grossman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Kathy made a motion to approve the following members of the Endowment Team for 2024: Anthony Bennett, Shawn Brace, and Dan Yeater. Paul Wittenberg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Audit Team members for 2024 are still to be determined.

We welcome Jamie Wise who has been hired as our new Recorder. Jan Miller is training her and the transition is going well.

Membership Report: Pastor Patti presented the following updates:

Reinstate to Active Membership: Tami Gillispie (daughter of Barb Armentrout) attending regularly

Outgoing Member: Lynn Ehrlich-transfer to King of Glory Lutheran Church, North Myrtle Beach, SC

Pastor Patti made a motion to accept these Membership updates. Karen Grossman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Accessibility Team and Technology Team: Kathy Myers stated that now is the time that these two teams need to coordinate and facilitate the final phase as we move into using our new space. This includes completing technology upgrades that had been postponed until construction was completed. Aaron will make sure this is relayed to Dan Yeater.

Members also had questions on various aspects of the transition into using the new space. These included: Where/when will the person answering phones be able to do so from the Welcome Desk? Security cameras status? Access during the week-which doors will be unlocked? Keys vs key pads etc. for entrance?

A team will be meeting to address security issues next week.

New Business:

Election of a Vice President: Karen Bentley nominated Shirley Blake for the office of Vice President. Shirley agreed to the nomination. Paul Wittenberg seconded the nomination. The election passed unanimously.

Council/Congregational Concerns: Communication will be ongoing and changing as we settle into the new space. FLEXIBILITY is key! There was concern about the step treads into the sanctuary for those with vision issues.

Pastor Patti explained how the lift beside the handicapped restroom operates. Operating instructions are posted on the lift. Basically the directions are: turn the outside key, enter the lift, then turn the inside key.

Karen Bentley reminded members that the Ohio Mission Region (OMR) Mission Event and Convocation are being hosted by St. John's on Friday, May 3 and Saturday, May 4. The focus for Friday's 1:00-5:00 session will be Ministering to the Aging Church. Saturday's Convocation will be from 9-5 and will focus on church planting and mission starts. Pastor Brad Hales will be the keynote speaker both days. Council members have the opportunity to provide hospitality and leadership as hosts and hostesses to our brothers and sisters in Christ who attend. Please mark this on your calendar and plan to attend. Karen will provide updates and share specific ways we will need help as the planning progresses.

Outreach Plans by the City of Grove City: Shirley Blake reported that she had attended a meeting with Jeff Cahill who has been hired part time by Grove City to help homeowners that are in need of making repairs to their properties. This sounds like they want to have an ongoing community service similar to ACTS that the churches used to organize once a year. Shirley wanted to make us aware of these plans and this opportunity for serving as things progress.

Pastor Patti made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kathy Myers seconded the motion. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 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 Intern Dale Stanley and his family (Rosalind, Evie, Miles, Liat & Devar) as they move to Grove City and settle into this new phase of life serving in the Southeast Ohio Mission District. (All members)

Send a list of dates for 2024 Council meetings, Quarterly meetings, and the 2025 Annual meeting and an updated 2024 Council Members and Terms roster to Council members. (Aaron Clark)

Research electronic payment services (Vanco?) and report at the March meeting. (Aaron Clark and David Clark)

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the OMR Mission Event and Convocation on Friday, May 3 and Saturday, May 4 here at St. John's. (All members)

NEXT MEETING: Monday, March 18, 2024 at 7:00 P.M in Rooms 103 & 104 in the FLC