

## St. John's Congregational Council Meeting

April 15, 2024

**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

**Guest:** Intern Dale Stanley

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

**Presentation to Richard Moore, Construction Supervisor for McKnight Group:** Council thanked Richard for his dedication to excellence as our project supervisor and presented him with a \$5,000 check in recognition for his service above and beyond the scope of his responsibilities for the project.

**Call Meeting to Order, Roll Call:** President Aaron Clark called the April Council meeting to order at 7:11 P.M. Secretary Karen Bentley passed around a sign in sheet for attendance.

**Devotions:** Pastor Seth Jersild lead the devotions titled, "Loving Relationships." Members talked about opportunities and obstacles to meaningful fellowship in our church on Sundays and during the rest of the week.

**Additional Agenda Items: Restoration Team formation and the scope of their work-**Dan Yeater and Kathy Myers informed Council that St. John's will be blessed with several bequests in the coming months from members who have passed. Some bequests have been designated to go directly to the Endowment Fund-Principal. For a major portion of the bequests, the families have asked that their gifts go to tangible projects to benefit the church or community. As a starting point the Finance Team has identified that it would be appropriate to focus on bringing facilities up to good repair. Dan has agreed to lead a team to analyze, prioritize and plan to address all aspects of the physical structure of our church buildings to make our buildings sound for the next 175+ years of ministry. The team will not focus on cosmetic items. Also serving on the team are: Wayne Beavers, Dennis Imbrock, Doug Grossman, Tom Lang, Butch Myers, Larry Sutton, and Pastor Seth Jersild. As the financial details of the bequests are finalized the team will prepare a proposed plan to present to Council and the congregation. The Finance Team will be developing a robust plan to best utilize the balance of these gifts.

**Recognition of Approval of the Minutes from the March Meeting:** Secretary Karen Bentley reported that a majority of Council members approved the minutes of the March meeting. 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.

**Senior Pastor's Report:** Pastor Seth Jersild reported on the following items: a New Member's class took place yesterday. We have a group of people who will be officially joining our church on Sunday, April 21.

175th Anniversary Team: Pastor Seth thanked Carolyn Hartig and Mark Meuser for their excellent work organizing the April 7 concert by The Ohio State University musicians. It was well received by St. John's members and community members.

On Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12, we will have one special combined service at 11:00 in the Sanctuary. This service will commemorate the May 12, 1888 dedication of St. John's. Special music is being planned to enhance the worship service.

Temple Talks-Linda Diehl is conducting video interviews with a variety of members of St. John's. These will be available for viewing throughout the year.

We will be honoring our saints in June & July, including the refurbishment and beautification of the St. John's Cemetery.

Reformation Sunday, October 27 with NALC General Secretary Amy Little as our guest.

Confirmation will be May 19 at the 11:00 Traditional service. There will be a Faith Celebration for the confirmands in the Family Life Center during the Sunday School hour.

Youth Minister Search Team: The team continues to narrow the focus of what we are looking for. They are also assessing candidates to fill this role. Pr. Seth is thankful for the team's passion and dedication to this task.

**Associate Pastor's Report:** Pastor Patti gave several updates. She has also been involved with planning for the 175th Anniversary celebration commemorations including creating a large quilt (9.5' x 9.5') for the wall between the new entrances to the restrooms. She shared the tentative design with Council.

Internship Update: Intern Dale will be graduating from the seminary on May 18. One of his Internship goals is to preach once a month, either at St. John's or another church in the SEOMD. The GriefShare group is meeting weekly. Fourteen people have committed to attending the course. On Sundays, Dale is meeting with the adult SS class in the Fellowship Hall. He meets with Pastor Seth on Fridays to learn about the administrative aspects of the pastoral role.

**Intern Dale Stanley's Report:** Dale told Council how much he valued the opportunity to experience Holy Week and all the various services here at St. John's. He is pleased that the GriefShare class has been well received. He and Pastor Patti have created a schedule for preaching experiences through August.

**Financial Reports:** Treasurer Kathy Myers reported that the Financial Statement for March has not been finalized yet. She will send it to Council as soon as it is finished.

Kathy made a motion to create an investment fund account (similar to the fund that was created for Accessibility Project donations) for the money that comes in from bequests that have not been directed to the Endowment Fund. This fund will have a line on the monthly financial statement like the Accessibility Project did. Paul Wittenberg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Membership Report:** Pastor Seth made a motion to approve the following students for the Rite of Confirmation: Corban Allman, Caleb Ball, Brayden Gottshall, Layla Greer, Mackenzie Norman, and Addison White. Karen Grossman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Pastor Seth made a motion to approve the following Membership Updates. Shirley Blake seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Members Incoming:

Linda Lewis

Mike and Barbara Cunningham

Brett McCoy by Affirmation of Faith; children-Martin McCoy, Brodrick McCoy, Joselyn McCoy

Bill Wickham

Beth Hazel-transfer from St. John's, Dublin, Ohio

Sharon McGuire-transfer from West Park United Methodist, Columbus, Ohio

Outgoing Members: None to Report

**Old Business:** Security Policy-Executive Team and Pastor Seth are working on this.

**New Business:** Restoration Team formation (see above)

**Council/Congregational Concerns:** Several members shared questions and concerns.

Can we stream the worship services on the televisions mounted in the Welcome Center and the Link? Dave Clark will check with Tim Althoff to see if this is possible.

External doors have been re-keyed. Tom Lang is the person who is responsible for determining who should be receiving one of the new keys and distributing them.

Alarm system needs attention.

Maintenance and cleaning-Items of concern should be directed to Tom Lang-Facilities Manager.

**What's Going On In Your Life?** Members shared updates about their lives and any prayer requests.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 P.M. following members praying The Lord's Prayer together.

Karen Bentley, Secretary

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

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

Update banking and endowment account information (Jan Miller, Jamie Wise, Executive Team members)

Develop Security Policy to present to Council (Executive Team and Pastor Seth Jersild)

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

April 22 is the deadline to register to attend the OMR Mission Event and Convocation on Friday, May 3 and Saturday, May 4 here at St. John's. (All available members)

**April Quarterly Meeting: Saturday, April 27, after the 4:00 P.M. worship service. Executive Team members will be available for questions following each of the other services. Karen Bentley 8:15. Shirley Blake 11:00 Traditional. Aaron Clark 11:00 Contemporary. Meeting packets will be available at all services, at the entrances, and online.**

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:** Monday, May 20, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. in Rooms 103 & 104 in the FLC.