

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

**April 20, 2026 Room 103/104**

**Members present:** President Dr. Scott Hirth, Vice President David Clark, Treasurer Teresa Orahod, Secretary Rachel Katterhenrich, Cindy Gonsowski, Dennis Imbrock, Abby Johnston, Doug Knisely, Susan Previts, Dave Stallard, Bonnie Swanson, Amy Wanner, Pastor Patti Morlock

**Members Absent:** none

**Call meeting to order:** Dr. Hirth called the Council Meeting to order at 6:30pm.

**Opening prayer and devotions:** Teresa Orahod led a devotion from Luke 24:13-16, 25-27. Members discussed their favorite Old Testament passages and how Jesus is the connecting theme through the whole Bible.

**Approval of March minutes:** The minutes were approved without objection.

**Changes to agenda:** Dr. Hirth first noted that we have many teams and liaisons and we value working collaboratively with all teams, but also gave a reminder that per our constitution all decisions ultimately lie with the council body. Approving confirmands was added to the agenda.

**Donation:** A basket was passed around to collect a donation for Lutheran Social Services.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Patti reported on the following:

- Property team and representatives from executive council have interviewed a candidate for the facilities manager position. Pending a background check and other paperwork, they plan to hire this person.

- Recent activities and work, including a busy Holy Week

- The pastoral intern, Billie Fisch, has resigned due to personal reasons

- 1st Communion class is happening soon, as well as several baptisms in May

- We've had lots of visitors recently!

**Finance Report:** Treasurer Teresa Orahod distributed the monthly report and gave an overview. Teresa motioned for approval of the report, Dennis Imbrock seconded and it was approved.

- Teresa reported that the #2 HVAC unit was discovered to have a bad compressor. The property team has gotten three quotes for the work to be done. Teresa motioned to spend up to \$8000 to fix the unit, from the endowment available fund. Dennis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Teresa then motioned to spend \$2100 from the Fritz Buck Music Memorial fund towards the purchase of an electronic keyboard in the choir room. David Clark seconded. The motion carried.

**Membership report:** Dr. Hirth acknowledged the membership report which was distributed to members. The report was accepted with no objections.

**Prayer requests:** Members shared personal prayer requests and follow-up from previous shared requests.

**Unfinished Business:**

**Call Team update:** Dr. Hirth updated council that the call team is moving forward with a candidate and are planning to have this person visit St. John's, but probably not until June due to scheduling conflicts.

**Camera Policy:** David Clark has put together a policy for the use of security cameras, which was distributed to council members. He highlighted a few points and then motioned for approval. Abby Johnston seconded and the motion passed.

**Background checks (budget and record keeping):** Dr. Hirth recommended using the general operating fund going forward to fund background checks, as they are being required and apply to many different departments. Bonnie motioned for background checks to be paid from the general operating fund and Doug Knisely seconded. The motion passed. David Clark and Recorder Jamie Wise are working on digital and physical record keeping for the checks.

**Sanctuary Sound System:** Quotes are still being sought, no action taken.

**Missions funds:** David Clark rescinds his previous motion to create a benevolence line item. Teresa requested to have time to work with the finance committee to find the best solution to present to the congregation.

**Audit Team:** Pastor Patti motioned to approve Don Carducci, Dave Keil, and Don Allman for the audit team. Teresa seconded. Discussion followed. There was a question as to whether there is a conflict of interest for Pastor Allman to be on the team, as he receives payment from the church at times for pastoral service. Teresa explained that the work can be divided so each person deals with different areas. The motion carried with the caveat that Pastor Allman should be assigned a portion that does not involve payroll.

### **New Business:**

**Library Renovations:** Susan Previts gave an overview of renovations that the property team is planning, along with her insight as church librarian, to the library. These include new flooring, removing an old shelf, moving some of the shelves to better facilitate movement around the room, new table and chairs, and painting a wall. An anonymous donor has offered to pay for these renovations. Susan motioned to allow property team to make these renovations with funding from a personal donor. Bonnie seconded. Discussion followed and Susan answered several questions from members. The motion carried.

**Confirmation:** Dr. Hirth presented the following young people to be confirmed by affirmation of faith:

Lukas Althoff, Addy Gottshall, Adelaide Westerfeld, and Jake Westerfeld

**Safety Policy:** Dr. Hirth invited discussion on the safety policy. It was distributed to members before the meeting. He noted that not many people are aware of the policy yet and currently it doesn't mention doing any drills, which may be useful in implementation. Another note was that the choir room is listed as a safe place during inclement weather, but we may need alternatives because it is now often locked. The policy could be more broad, directing people to the lower level but not specifically the choir room. It was also discussed that close, accessible options are needed for less mobile members. During church services, the hallway near the bell closet may be a good option as it is structurally strong and has no windows. Another need to address is that every room should have a building map with direction to exits.

**Property Team:** Property team would like to add David Clark to the team. There were no objections.

**Quarterly Meeting:** The quarterly meeting will be held on April 26 after the early service and reports are due by Wednesday.

Pastor Patti made a motion to adjourn the meeting. David seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

**Action Items:**

All members – send minutes corrections to Rachel

All members – attend quarterly meeting

Dennis – report back to property team about approved motions so work can move forward

David – work on updates to security policy and integrating camera policy

David/Pastor Patti – work on quotes for sanctuary sound system and pass to finance

Teresa – work with finance team on missions funds proposal

Susan – report back to property team about library renovations so work can move forward

Next meeting: May 18, 2026 6:30 pm