

## St. John's Congregational Council Meeting

April 17, 2023

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

**Members Absent:** Cindy Gonsowski, Paul Wittenberg, Pastor Seth Jersild

**Call to Order, Roll Call:** President Aaron Clark called the April Council meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. Secretary Karen Bentley passed around a sign in sheet for attendance. Members are reminded that the Minutes will be sent by email within 48 hours of the meeting. 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.

Last month's Minutes were approved by a majority of the Council members.

There were no additional Agenda items from the members.

**Devotions:** Pastor Patti Morlock asked all members to share their favorite scripture verse and the reason why it speaks to us. She challenged us to make sure we had completely memorized that verse, including being able to readily state the chapter and verse(s). That way we will be ready to share it with others in conversations. Our witness will be much stronger with a direct quote rather than the general statement, "In the Bible it says..." Pastor Patti closed this time of sharing with prayer.

**Senior Pastor's Report:** Pastor Seth was on vacation and did not attend the meeting.

Accessibility Project-Aaron reported that Dan Yeater will attend each of the Quarterly meetings this weekend (April 22/23) to share an update on the progress of the project. Changes regarding traffic patterns/parking/building entrances/exits will be communicated regularly throughout the project.

**Associate Pastor's Report:** Pastor Patti reported that in addition to Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter she officiated at two baptisms and three funerals. She is involved in the ongoing ministry of providing spiritual guidance and support. She asked us to keep Pastor Ray Rosenthal in our prayers after a recent fall since Jan's funeral.

A Women's Retreat "Be Still and Know That I Am God" is planned for May 19 & 20 here in the FLC. The team is continuing to plan for this event.

Also ongoing is her service to the NALC's OUSC (Ordination Under Special Circumstance) team. With Pastor Jeff's new role as Director of Vocational Discernment & Student Recruitment for the North American Lutheran Seminary (NALS), their missions are complimenting and connecting in many ways.

Pastor Patti reminded Council members of the Ohio Mission Region's Annual Convocation on Saturday, May 6. For the first time ever in Ohio, a Faith Formation Festival will be held on Friday, May 5. Both events will take place at Grace Lutheran in Westerville. RESERVATION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, APRIL 21. She reminded us that as leaders in our congregation and as members of the NALC we need to be mindful of our roles to represent and further the mission of the church. Members were given a copy of the registration brochure at the March meeting. Copies are available at the entrances or online at [thenalcoholio.org](http://thenalcoholio.org).

The Martins visited St. John's on Sunday, April 16 to share ways families can further their worship time together. Pastor Patti passed around a copy of God of Generations that is a summary of their teaching.

**Financial Reports:** Treasurer Kathy Myers prepared and emailed the March Financial Statement to all Council members.

St. John's has funds invested with two different advisors. The Finance Team met with one of the advisors this month for a yearly update on our investment accounts. In May they will meet for an update from the other advisor.

The Finance Team is working on getting a QR code that can be printed in the bulletin each week as another way of giving tithes and offerings.

Gary Smith made a motion to approve the March Financial reports. Shirley Bake seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Membership Report:**

Members Incoming: Debbie Goebbel asked to be reinstated to active membership.

Outgoing Members: None

Pastor Patti made a motion to approve this change of status. Kathy Myers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Old Business:**

**Internship Update:** Pastor Patti reported that the person who has tentatively been matched to the Southeast Ohio Mission District as our intern was at the Oromo church with several other NALS students this past weekend. He is attending seminary in Pittsburg and is on track to complete his coursework and be ready for internship in January of 2024. He has a wife and four children and we need to be thinking about their living arrangements for the duration of the internship.

**New Business:** None

**Council/Congregational Concerns:** David Clark has joined the newly formed Evangelism Team. He asked about updating members' pictures in the online directory and adding pictures of the various ministry teams to the Groups section. We also need to keep the St. John's website current.

Members shared updates about their lives and prayer requests.

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)

Invite Tim Althoff to speak to Council regarding technology updates (Pastor Seth)

Update members on parking and building access during construction (Pastor Seth & Members of the Accessibility Construction Team)

Register by FRIDAY, APRIL 21 for the Faith Formation Festival and/or the Ohio Mission Region Convocation (All who are able to attend)

Register for the Women's Retreat at St. John's May 19 & 20 (All women who are able to attend)

Pray for the Intern & his family that will be serving in the Southeast Ohio Mission District and especially for a place to live in the GC area for 2024 (All members)

NEXT MEETING: Monday, May 15, 2023 at 7:00 P.M in Rooms 103 & 104 in the FLC