

St. John's Congregation Council Meeting

February 26, 2023

Location: Pastor Seth Jersild's Home

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

Church Council Orientation: After a time of food and fellowship, Pastor Seth Jersild began the Orientation at 1:29 P.M. Each member shared where they are finding spiritual peace in their world at the present time. He used the handout, "Church Council Orientation" which included our Mission Statement, the Vision for St. John's, and our Purpose statement. The Bible passage from Acts 8:26-40 was read aloud. (This will be the anchor passage for our Evangelism Focus in the coming year(s).) Members shared their thoughts about the passage and the areas that they believe we are being called to focus on for our mission emphasis this year. Pastor Seth has prepared a handout outlining a strategy to guide us. He is inviting members to join him for an initial meeting on March 8 after the evening Lenten service to begin planning how to implement this outreach.

Pastor Seth then reviewed the sections of our Council notebooks and asked members to read over the Regulations & Resolutions sections of the notebook. All members need to be familiar with our governing documents. Members are asked to read "Guiding Principles for a Happy Church Council" to clarify their role. He urged us to remain focused on the big picture of the Church's mission here at St. John's, to stand united as a Church Council, and to be leaders and role models for fellow members in all our words and actions.

Business Meeting: President Aaron Clark continued by leading the February Council meeting. Secretary Karen Bentley passed around a paper for each member to sign in for attendance. She explained how we will handle approving the Minutes this year. Minutes will be sent by email to council members within 48 hours of each meeting. Members are expected to read the Minutes and send her an email with their approval/additions/corrections within 48 hours of receiving the Minutes. She will amend and resend the minutes as needed.

There were no additional Agenda items from the members.

President Aaron Clark highlighted the list of dates for 2023 Council meetings and Quarterly meetings he previously emailed to Council.

Senior Pastor's Report: Pastor Seth reported on the Accessibility Project-A ground breaking is planned for Palm Sunday. Construction is scheduled to begin after Easter as the weather permits.

Technology Team-New remote mics are in use. A fiber optic network will be installed in the Sanctuary and new addition when construction is completed. Tim Althoff is standing by ready to facilitate this upgrade. Members asked if Tim would come to Council and update us on the the technology plans.

Property Team-this is on hold until a variety of factors are resolved.

Associate Pastor's Report: Pastor Patti gave an Internship Team Update-Funds have been raised to support an Intern and his family for one year. The NALS (North American Lutheran Seminary) has a potential candidate for us who will finish his coursework in December 2023 and be ready for a year of Internship in January 2024. Pastor Patti will be the supervising pastor and a team is in

place to support him throughout the experience. Karen Bentley clarified that St. John's has previously pledged \$3000 a year as our portion of support for funding an Internship in the SEOMD (Southeast Ohio Mission District) each year. The money budgeted in 2022 & 2023 is still needed for that support. We need to remember to add \$3000 to the 2024 budget also.

A Women's Retreat is planned for May 19 & 20 in the FLC. The team is planning to focus on prayer.

Financial Reports: Treasurer Kathy Myers prepared and emailed the January Financial Statement to all Council members. She highlighted several items. The majority of the funds for the Accessibility Project are in an investment account that is safe and readily available per her motion of January 29, 2023. The amount of \$50,000 has been kept outside of that account for immediate payment of bills for the construction. The manager of this fund has been given a list of dates that we have contracted with McKnight for scheduled payments.

Bed Brigade is currently a designated fund in our budget. They have formed a 501(c)(3) corporation and become their own entity. As a result, Kathy made a motion that we replace ACTS which has not been active in recent years to Bed Brigade for \$1000 under our Benevolence giving. This action is recommended by the Finance Team. Paul Wittenberg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Altar Guild would like to purchase a smaller, light-weight funeral pall. Pastor Patti made a motion that Council approve up to \$1500 from the Memorial Unrestricted fund to make this purchase. Karen Grossman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Members were assured that the current funeral pall would be donated to another NALC church that would put it to good use.

Pastor Patti made a motion to approve the Financial reports. Gary Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Membership Report: Pastor Seth Jersild presented the following updates:

Members Incoming: none

Outgoing Members: Jill and her son Jack Beck, Robert Beck, Novi Fowler, Jim and Annette Heffernan, Jimmy Heffernan, Patrick Heffernan, Amy Shepherd-all inactive-no recorded attendance or contributions.

Eli Wanner sent a very heartfelt letter thanking St. John's for the role we have played in his faith journey. He is joining a church in North Carolina where he is serving.

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

Old Business:

Audit Team Update: President Aaron Clark reported that the Audit Team has completed an audit of the 2020 & 2021 financial records. A written report stating the procedures followed and the results of "No material errors or variances of the financial records was found" is on file in the church office.

New Business:

Council/Congregational Concerns: David Clark asked how the access to the church during construction will be communicated to the congregation. The Accessibility Team will be meeting this Thursday, March 2 to begin initial planning for movement around the church and parking restrictions. Communication will be ongoing and ever changing. FLEXIBILITY is key!

Election of a Vice President: Pastor Patti nominated Paul Wittenberg for the office of Vice President. Paul agreed to the nomination. Gary Smith seconded the nomination. The nomination passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:07 P.M. following The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Bentley, Secretary

ACTION ITEMS:

Read the Evangelism Focus handout, the "Guiding Principles for a Happy Church" handout, the Constitution & Continuing Resolutions, and "An Introduction to Finance at St. John's" in your Council notebook (All members)

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

Pray for the Intern & his family that will be serving in the Southeast Ohio Mission District (All members)

NEXT MEETING: Monday, March 20, 2023 at 7:00 P.M in Rooms 103 & 104 in the FLC