

St. John's Congregational Council Meeting

March 20, 2023

Members Present: Warren Althoff, Karen Bentley, Shirley Blake, Aaron Clark, David Clark, Cindy Gonsowski, Karen Grossman, Tammy LeVally, Kathy Myers, Phil Pennington, Paul Wittenberg, Pastor Patti Morlock

Members Absent: Gary Smith, Pastor Seth Jersild

Call to Order, Roll Call: President Aaron Clark called the March Council meeting to order at 6:59 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 read Psalm 137 aloud together. She drew our attention to the fact that in the reading the psalmist dreams, the psalmist cries, and the psalmist sings. She asked us to reflect on what we are dreaming of, crying about, and singing about currently in our lives. Members shared reflections and then Pastor Patti closed the time of devotions with prayer.

Senior Pastor's Report: Pastor Seth was unable to attend the meeting and submitted a written report. Progress is being made on discerning a new Director of Lay Ministries. The hiring and transitional period will happen in March/April.

Accessibility Project-A ground breaking is planned for Palm Sunday. Construction is scheduled to begin after Easter on April 10, as the weather permits. Updates regarding traffic patterns/parking/building entrances/exits will be communicated regularly throughout the project.

A new Bible study of Revelation has started on Wednesday nights. Over 30 people attended the first session.

Confirmation students are preparing for their Faith Celebrations and the Rite of Confirmation on May 21.

Technology Team-Tim Althoff will be installing new Wi-Fi transmitters throughout the building. He will also be replacing three old staff computers. Larry Mitchell has replaced all the remote microphones in the main sanctuary and the sound quality has improved considerably.

Evangelism Team-The team will be distributing doorknob hanger invitations in Grove City neighborhoods inviting people to Holy Week and Easter services. There will also be hangers available for members to distribute to friends and neighbors. The team will narrow their focus to two or three special outreach projects as their emphasis for the remainder of this year.

Associate Pastor's Report: Pastor Patti reported that in addition to the ongoing ministry of providing spiritual guidance and support, she is working on plans for Holy Week and Easter services. Palm Sunday worship will be very different this year.

A Women's Retreat is planned for May 19 & 20 here in the FLC. The team is continuing to plan for this event.

Last week Pastor Patti was again involved with meetings for the NALC OUSC (Ordination Under Special Circumstance). This continues to be a major focus of the NALC to provide pastoral support to all congregations.

Financial Reports: Treasurer Kathy Myers prepared and emailed the February Financial Statement to all Council members. She highlighted several items. Approximately half of the “miracle” funds for the Accessibility Project are reflected in the February Financial Statement. The remainder will appear on the March statement. These funds are being held in an investment account that is safe and readily available. The manager of this fund has been given a list of dates that we have contracted with McKnight for scheduled monthly payments. The amount of \$50,000 is being kept outside of that account for immediate payment of bills for the construction.

Kathy also noted that on the Weekly Comparison Summary our attendance is gradually increasing back to pre-COVID levels. Praise the Lord!

Paul Wittenberg made a motion to approve the February Financial reports. Karen Grossman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

President Aaron Clark made a motion that Council appoint the following members to the Endowment Team for 2023: Dan Yeater, Shawn Brace, and Anthony Bennett. Shirley Blake seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Aaron then made a motion that Council appoint the following members to the Finance Team for 2023: Dan Yeater, Cynthia Hutson, Dave Keil, Nate Wanner, Shawn Brace, and Anthony Bennett. Paul Wittenberg seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The vote was 11 in favor and 1 opposed to the motion. This motion also passed.

Membership Report: None

Old Business: None

New Business:

Secretary Karen Bentley passed around a thank you card for Council members to sign for Trinity Lutheran Church in Ashland, Ohio. Their Outreach Fund contributed over \$9000 to our Accessibility Project. We are thankful for their support!

Karen also passed out the registration brochure for the Faith Formation Festival (Friday, May 5) and the yearly Convocation of the Ohio Mission Region (Saturday, May 6). This is the first year that the OMR has sponsored a Faith Formation Festival. Much planning has gone into selecting topics that are timely and relevant for all who are ministering to youth. Members of Council and the congregation are encouraged to attend. Registration information is on the OMR website. Hard copies of the brochure will be available in the Link also.

Council/Congregational Concerns: Handicapped parking spaces will be available in front of the FLC and along the west side of the church during construction.

Members shared updates about their lives and prayer requests.

Pastor Patti made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kathy Myers seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 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 friends and family to Holy Week and Easter worship services (All members)

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

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

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

Mark your calendar 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 (All members)

NEXT MEETING: Monday, April 17, 2023 at 7:00 P.M in Rooms 103 & 104 in the FLC