

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: 9/25/2022

The September Congregation Council Meeting was held on 9/21/22

Council Members Present: Pastor Bannister, Denise Betz, Harry Betz, Ashdon Bobbie, Melanie Boyer, Christine Casey, Linda Morrison, Bob Muller, Bruce Roper, Trish Strauss, and Maryanne Sweeney

Absent: Carole DePue, Lisa Fritz, CJ Hamilton, Shannon O’Neill

The meeting was called to order by President Harry Betz at 7:03 p.m. The scripture was read by Ashdon Bobbie and the prayer was offered by Harry Betz.

PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL:

Abbie Metheny – Action on Space planning for Sunday School – Abbie Metheny spoke to Council explaining that Sunday School currently has grades 1-3 meeting in the room with the door to the courtyard and grades 4-6 meeting in the large room across the hall. Chris Ed is proposing making the current “library” room adjacent to the office a “multi-purpose” room which can be used as a nursery on Sunday mornings. This would require minimal changes with the only possible significant expenses being a larger area rug for the room. The door knob would be switched out for a lockable door knob and other details would be addressed. See attached proposal from Chris Ed.

A Motion was made to repurpose the library into a multi-purpose room which can also be used as a nursery.

The motion was moved and seconded by Chris Ed/ Bob Muller. **MOTION CARRIED**

Pastor Marcia Bell and Pastor Norbert Hahn, Representatives of SEPA Synod – Both pastors were in attendance to facilitate a 9-month review of Pastor Bo and his relationship with the church. Council members took turns giving feedback on what they each thought of Pastor Bo and his job performance so far. Likewise, Pastor Bo also gave feedback from his perspective.

Pastor Hahn asked Council about our mission/strategic plan for moving forward. Council explained that we have been working on an agenda and some items are already taking fruition, such as the Faith Explorers group. Also, we are working on building the congregation’s membership/attendance to help shore up our financial situation.

Our vision – While St John’s has a previous vision statement, it has not been reviewed recently. But plans have been discussed to grow programs, and an updated vision statement will be a future action item. Pastor Hahn suggested we need a focused vision to maintain purpose and avoid distraction. A clear vision would help keep us on track.

Next, Council and Pastor Bell had a discussion without Pastor Bo in the room to openly express any fears or concerns anyone may have.

Finally, Pastor Hahn asked us to look towards the future for any possible causes of anxiety. He suggested we discuss what they could be, and develop action plans as necessary now so that we can better address any crunch points should they arise.

Harry Betz then asked about the timing of officially calling Pastor Bo as the permanent pastor for St John's. Pastor Bell explained that she would contact Yvonne Curtis of the Synod to find out procedures and if we can/should expedite his calling in less than 2 years.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Date: 8/17/22

*The minutes from August were approved without changes. The motion was made and seconded by Harry Betz / Ashdon Bobbie. **MOTION CARRIED**

REPORTS:

Pastor Bannister – Attached

President, Harry Betz –Attached

Attendance - Attached

Finance Committee – Attached

*It was moved and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report and the Financial Secretary's report as presented. (Finance Committee / Denise Betz) **MOTION CARRIED**

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

- Christmas Eve (Saturday 12/24) and Christmas Day (Sunday 12/25) Services – It is Worship and Music's Recommendation to hold Christmas Eve services at 2:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., and 8:00 p.m. The 5:00 service would be geared towards children, have no sermon, and instead have a nativity reenactment.
Christmas Day service would be at 10:00 a.m. with lessons and carols but no communion.
A Motion was made to accept the Christmas worship schedule as proposed by the Worship and Music Committee.
The motion was moved and seconded by the Worship and Music Committee / Linda Morrison. **MOTION CARRIED**
- Benevolence Spending – A discussion was held regarding distribution of benevolence. \$1,000 Meals on Wheels and \$2,000 to Grace Lutheran was suggested.
A motion was made to give \$1,000 to Meals on Wheels and \$2,000 to Grace Lutheran. It was moved and seconded by the Finance Committee / Trish Strauss. **MOTION CARRIED**

- Council Members for 2023 – Potential new Council members were suggested and will be discussed at our next council meeting.
- Calendar – The October calendar was reviewed and revised.
- A Motion was made to go into Executive Session. It was moved and seconded by Harry Betz / Bob Muller. **MOTION CARRIED**
- A Motion was made to come out of Executive Session. It was moved and seconded by Bob Muller / Harry Betz. **MOTION CARRIED**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Constitution and Bylaws – No report
- Christian Education – See report
- Fellowship – No report
- Food Pantry Report - See report
- Media Group – See report
- Memorials – No report
- Mutual Ministry – No report
- Property - See report
- Social Media – See report
- Social Ministry – No report
- Stewardship – No report
- Women’s Ministry – No report
- Worship & Music – See report

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

CARES AND CONCERNS:

Pastor Bo and council members shared their cares and concerns.

NEXT MEETING: Date: October 19, 2022

Scripture: Bob Muller

Prayer: Pastor Bo

Refreshments: Linda Morrison

*It was moved and seconded by Harry Betz / Denise Betz to adjourn the meeting at 9:39 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Roper