

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: 3/22/22

The March Congregation Council Meeting was held on 3/16/2022

Council Members Present: Pastor Bannister, Denise Betz, Harry Betz, Ashdon Bobbie, Melanie Boyer, Christine Casey, Carole DePue, Lisa Fritz, CJ Hamilton, Linda Morrison, Bob Muller, Shannon O'Neill, Bruce Roper, Trish Strauss, and Maryanne Sweeney

Absent: None

The meeting was called to order by President Harry Betz at 7:03 p.m. The scripture was read by Carole DePue and the prayer was offered by Trish Strauss.

PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL:

Committee Chairpersons presented to Council

The following committee chairs spoke to Council explaining what their committees do.

Alan Eickhoff – Food Pantry – where it has been and its current status. He also mentioned the volume of food and guests utilizing the program

Alan Eickhoff – Property – recent projects, current projects, future projects

Linda Eickhoff – Hospitality (lunches after funerals)

Sue Cern – Social Ministry (Mother's Day, backpacks, Thanksgiving, and Christmas for various organizations)

Pat Ross – Worship and Music (And Alter Guild, headed by Christine Brinkworth)

Joe Kircher – Constitution and Bylaws

Joe Kircher spoke for Carolyn Kircher regarding Women's Ministry – Soup and Sandwich and the Book Club

Harry Betz – Finance Committee, goal is to review previous month's reporting (budget vs. actual) and financial situation of the church.

Abbie Metheny – Chris Ed – How we run our education of our children: VBS, Confirmation, Sunday School, Confirmation, etc.

Media Group – Bob Muller – Social media and web site.

Volunteer help is always welcome by the committees and is much needed by the Media Group.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Date: 2/16/22

The minutes from February were approved without changes. The motion was made and seconded by Denise Betz / Carole DePue. **MOTION CARRIED**

REPORTS:

President, Harry Betz –Attached, and Attendance Report attached as well.

Pastor Bannister – Attached

OLD BUSINESS:

Stewardship - St John's has an excess of \$2,516 from 2021. Harry Betz suggested we try to give more to the Synod because they helped St John's tremendously through the pastoral process.

A motion was made that we move the full amount of \$2,516 to the Synod. It was moved and seconded by Harry Betz / Shannon O'Neill. MOTION CARRIED.

Organ Removal –The current estimate to repair the organ is \$100,000. The current electronic organ has been used with great success. Space is needed for the Media Group. If we were to remove the organ from the choir loft it would allow the media equipment to be moved up there and clear the equipment out of the side chapel.

A motion was made to remove the organ from the choir loft. (All salvageable parts will be sold/repurposed/donated.) It was moved and seconded by Worship and Music / Trish Strauss. MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made that St John's Easter Dedications be donated to the Breathing Room and towards Aid for Ukraine via the ELCA. It was moved and seconded by Social Ministry / Bob Muller. MOTION CARRIED.

Memorial Committee update – Denise Betz gave a verbal update on the status of the Memorial Committee. They are off to a good start with five members. They have identified funds in the more recent memorials and they will be working backwards to clean up past memorials. Also, the committee would like to develop a new form for memorials and protocols for follow up with grieving families.

NEW BUSINESS:

Church Protocols for COVID – Now that masks have become voluntary at most places it was suggested that moving forward the mask policy for St John's follows the CDC's "Covid Community Risk Levels" color coding system. Council members all gave their opinions and discussed the matter.

A motion was made that we change our policy now (and moving forward) so that masks become optional if, utilizing the CDC's "Covid Community Risk Levels" color coding system, the CDC risk level for Montgomery County is green and that masks become mandatory if the CDC risk

level for Montgomery County is a higher level than green. It was moved and seconded by Worship and Music / Trish Strauss. **MOTION CARRIED**

It was agreed that starting Maundy Thursday Pastor will distribute communion (both bread and wine) at the rail as was past practice, with the option of receiving prepackaged communion if preferred.

Pastor Bo's Installation will be held on Thursday May 26, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Pastor will need at least one representative from the congregation to participate. There will also be a dinner beforehand and reception afterwards. The bishop will also be in attendance.

Pews in Fellowship Hall – the four pews are being donated/repurposed and will be removed from Fellowship Hall before Easter.

A motion was made to approve the bid from DeLeone Landscape Construction for \$4,500 (continuous pour) to repair the broken sidewalk blocks and portion of the parking lot apron at the exit ramp. It was moved and seconded by the Property committee / CJ Hamilton. **MOTION CARRIED**

A motion was made that all children in Sunday School remain masked for the remainder of the school year. It was moved and seconded by Chris Ed / Shannon O'Neill. **MOTION CARRIED**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

An application was received from the LGBT AA meeting team to hold weekly meetings Saturday nights in Fellowship Hall from 7-8p.m.

A motion was made to allow the LGBT AA meeting team to meet weekly on Saturday nights in Fellowship Hall from 7:00-8:00 p.m. It was moved and seconded by Harry Betz / Ashdon Bobbie. **MOTION CARRIED**

The District 20 Alanon Group meeting would like to meet the second Monday every other month, starting in May and would also like to be able to post communications in the church.

A motion was made to all the District 20 Alanon Group to meet the second Monday every other month, starting in May, to meet in a room in the back of the church (an old classroom) and allow them to post communications in the church as well as in our church bulletin. It was moved and seconded by Harry Betz / Shannon O'Neill. **MOTION CARRIED**

An offer was received to go to a Trenton Thunder game at a cost of \$8 on Saturday July 30 at 6:30. This is their Faith and Family night. Chris Ed will review and take charge of this event.

CARES AND CONCERNS:

Pastor Bo and council members shared their cares and concerns.

NEXT MEETING: **Date:** Wednesday April 20, 2022

Scripture: Harry Betz

Prayer: Harry Betz

Refreshments: CJ Hamilton

*It was moved and seconded by Bob Muller / CJ Hamilton to adjourn the meeting at 10:07 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Roper