

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: 10/20/23

The October Congregation Council Meeting was held on 10/18/23

Council Members Present: Pastor Bannister, Harry Betz, Ashdon Bobbie, Melanie Boyer, Christine Casey, Alan Divver, Linda Morrison, Shannon O'Neill, Barbara Quinn, Bruce Roper, Jen Shaw, Tom Smith, Trish Strauss, and Maryanne Sweeney

Absent: CJ Hamilton and Bob Muller

The meeting was called to order by Jen Shaw at 7:02 p.m. The scripture was read by Linda Morrison and the prayer was offered by Ashdon Bobbie.

PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL:

None

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

*It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes from September 2023 as presented without changes. The motion was made and seconded by Tom Smith / Trish Strauss. **MOTION CARRIED**

REPORTS:

President, Bob Muller – No report

Pastor Bannister – Pastor gave a verbal report and will be submitting a copy to the office.

Attendance – Attached

Finance Committee – Attached and Harry Betz gave a verbal update as well.

*It was moved and seconded to accept the Finance Committee's report as presented. The motion was made and seconded by Alan Divver / Jen Shaw. **MOTION CARRIED**

A motion was made to pay the full allotment of \$2,000 to Meals-On-Wheels and Grace Lutheran by the end of the month. The motion was made and seconded by the Finance Committee / Trish Strauss. **MOTION CARRIED**

OLD BUSINESS:

75th Anniversary Update – Shannon O’Neill updated Council. The venue has been decided (Vereinigung Erzgebirge, a.k.a. The German Club) and the committee is working on details to reserve the date, decide on a menu, and estimate the number of people. The committee talked about fund raising and quarterly activities leading up to the anniversary date. Music and cake are set, and decorations are being discussed. A budget is being worked on but needs to be recalculated. And a monthly spotlight will be going into the newsletter, and also a vote for a new emblem to represent our church will be going out. The committee will also be gathering pictures from throughout the years.

Visions & Values Update – The following Vision Statement was proposed: “To give people a place to belong at any stage of their journey with God”. Council members were also asked to submit one word that encapsulates a value for St John’s.

A Motion was made to approve the vision statement as presented. It was moved and seconded by Trish Strauss / Maryanne Sweeney. - **MOTION CARRIED**

New Email Service Update – Ashdon Bobbie gave a verbal update that she is making progress and the emails should shortly come from St John’s rather than “comms”.

Electronic Sign Update – Harry Betz explained that an electron sign for in front of the church would cost between \$30,000-\$35,000.

Trespassing Issues & No Trespassing Signs – no update

PECO Audit Update – PECO presented a proposal for replacing many outdated, inefficient, and unattractive light fixtures, not just replacing bulbs with LEDs. The cost would be \$36,000 however PECO will give a \$13,000 credit, so that the actual cost would be \$23,000.

Harry Betz suggested doing a Capital Improvements campaign to raise funds to improve and update the church including potential projects such as the roof, the electronic sign, replacing light fixtures and redoing the tile hallway from the back door.

Pastor Call Date – This is still a work in progress and Bob Muller is working with the Synod.

NEW BUSINESS:

Forming a Welcome Team was discussed for visitor/guest follow up and to engage with them as quickly as possible.

Shannon O’Neill asked if there was a leak over the roof over the Sunday school room. There is mold growing over the paint and the Property committee is aware of it.

Alan Divver suggested bringing back the Christmas caroling this year and possibly Pastor reading Christmas stories in the sanctuary to the kids. Caroling would include visiting shut-ins. Linda Morrison explained that in the past, they broke down into smaller groups so each group would need to visit less houses and travel less far. Alan will follow up with Carol DePue.

Ashdon Bobbie spoke about spotlighting two committees each month November will be Needleworkers and Alter Guild to kick it off.

Trish Strauss spoke about the adopt-a-highway program and explained that she is having a difficult time getting it done due to lack of volunteers. She would like to see someone else take it on in the future.

On 11/19/23 St John's will be opening our building for the Hatboro Parade again this year and serving beverages, hot dogs and snacks.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Community Outreach Ministry – No report
- Constitution and Bylaws – No report
- Fellowship – No report
- Hatboro Community Cupboard –See report
- Kids & Family Ministry –See report
- Memorials – No report
- Mutual Ministry – No report
- Property – See report
- Social Media – 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: 11/15/23

Meeting Leader: Maryanne Sweeney

Scripture: CJ Hamilton

Prayer: Pastor Bo

Refreshments: Maryanne Sweeney

*It was moved and seconded by Tom Smith / Ashdon Bobbie to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m.
MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Roper