

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: 4/26/23

The April Congregation Council Meeting was held on 4/19/23.

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

Absent: Harry Betz, CJ Hamilton

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Muller at 7:04 p.m. The scripture was read by Pastor Bo and the prayer was offered by Barbara Quinn.

PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL:

None

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

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

REPORTS:

President, Bob Muller –Attached

Pastor Bannister – Attached

Attendance – Attached

Finance Committee – Attached

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Vision and Values Statements – Many suggested words have been submitted for considered use in our Values statement. It was agreed to form a small group to work on what we would like St John's values to consist of. The group will be made up of Ashdon Bobbie, Alan Divver, Shannon O'Neill and Bruce Roper.

Youth Representatives on Council – The two potential youth representatives for Council will be invited to start attending with the May meeting.

75th Anniversary – Shannon O’Neill asked Council about the rules regarding fund raising. She also gave a verbal update on what the planning committee has been working on. Alcohol or BYOB has been discussed and it may be dependent on whether the celebration is limited to St John’s members or if it is opened up to the general public. Graeme Park, Warminster Park, and Masons Mill Park were all suggested locations. The planning committee is also looking into catered food. The event will probably be scheduled for a Sunday afternoon sometime in September. The committee is also working on a logo and the church’s history. Themes are also being worked on, as well as a cake. Budget, fund raisers, and publicity are still works in progress. A budget will hopefully be submitted at the June Council meeting.

Pastor Bo calling date – The current desired date to officially call Pastor Bo to St John’s this spring is not possible because more communication is needed with the ELCA. We will be getting them what is needed and then a date will be determined. When it is scheduled, the meeting will be held immediately after a Sunday service.

NEW BUSINESS:

Barbara Sheppard asked about the towing signs in the parking lot because neighborhood cars have been seen parked there recently and they are not being towed. We do have a verbal agreement with one neighbor, however other cars have been in our lot recently as well.

Constant Contact and Servant Keeper are being discontinued because these features will be handled by Aplos. This will be a savings because up to now we have been paying for these services. Harry Betz is also working with Aplos regarding keeping track of attendance.

Building keys were discussed and there are concerns that there are so many keys floating around, and also the cost of the electronic key reader. Replacing all locks/keys would be very expensive. Bob Muller will ask the Property Committee to look into getting a proposal/estimate for lock replacement, both mechanical and electronic key card.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Community Outreach Ministry – See report
- Constitution and Bylaws – No report
- Fellowship – No report
- Hatboro Community Cupboard – See report
- Kids & Family Ministry – See report. Barbara Quinn asked if volunteers have to be screened. Ashdon explained that they do, and links are on the website.
Jen Shaw asked about converting the library into a nursery and Ashdon explained that people would have to go through a secured door in the sanctuary.
VBS kits are in and we have about six volunteers signed up already.
- Memorials – No report
- Mutual Ministry – No report

- Property – See report – Bob also brought up the subject of the electric bill increasing substantially. Usage does not appear to be up in proportion to the increase of costs. The property committee is continuing to investigate further.
- Social Media – No report
- Stewardship – No report
- Women’s Ministry – No report
- Worship & Music – See report

CORRESPONDENCE:

AA would like to use Fellowship Hall for an event to be held Saturday August 5th from 10:00 to 2:00 p.m. for a group of about 80 people. Barbara Sheppard asked if we can suggest a donation for using the building since we do not normally charge AA for using the building. Building use was approved.

CARES AND CONCERNS:

Pastor Bo and council members shared their cares and concerns.

NEXT MEETING: May 17, 2023

Meeting Leader: Harry Betz

Scripture: Shannon O’Neill

Prayer: Pastor Bo

Refreshments: Barb Sheppard

*It was moved and seconded by Barbara Quinn / Ashdon to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Roper