

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: 1/21/25

The January Congregation Council Meeting was held on 1/15/25

Council Members Present: Pastor Bannister, Ashdon Bobbie, Melanie Boyer, Alan Divver, CJ Hamilton, Bob Muller, Shannon O'Neill, Barbara Quinn, Bruce Roper, Carol Schlegel, Jenn Shaw, Tom Smith, Maryanne Sweeney, Ken Woods, and Louise Woods.

Absent: Kiran Bodamer, Anna Sweeney

The meeting was called to order by Shannon O'Neill at 6:02 p.m. The scripture was read by Jenn Shaw 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 December 2024 as presented without changes. The motion was made and seconded by CJ Hamilton / Ken Woods.

MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS:

President, Bob Muller –Pending

Pastor Bannister – Attached

Attendance – Attached

Finance Committee – Attached. Carol Schlegel pointed out that income for December exceeded expenses, which was good news. This brought the total deficit down from \$55,000 to \$37,000.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Continuing Resolutions – Scouting of America – Bob informed us that Alan Eickhoff became the new charter organization representative

Staff Job Descriptions – Shannon O’Neill said that the Executive Committee is looking at them now and will send them out to mutual ministry to discuss with staff with the goal to have them ready for approval for February’s Council meeting. They will be distributed a week prior to Council’s meeting to allow time for everyone to review.

Offering Envelopes Update – Ashdon Bobbie said that we went through the first box of 1,000 envelopes and we are half way through the second box. One homebound person has requested to receive them monthly by mail.

Budget – Carol Schlegel said that there was no mistake in the budget as thought last month, so our deficit is not as bad as she was expecting. A bill from Free Flow has been paid but the crack in the sewer line has not been repaired yet and the \$3,400 estimate is budgeted for April, however we are going to hold off as long as we can before incurring the expense. Finance has added benevolence (both Synod and Pastor’s Discretionary Fund) and the cost for musicians (for when Michael takes a vacation) into the budget.

Shannon asked how best to communicate adjusted budget to the congregation and Carol said that she will speak to it at the Annual Meeting in February.

Barbara Quinn asked if the signs in the bathrooms could be put on the inside of the door so that they are more visible and Shannon said that she will do that.

Security Checks – Nightly walk-throughs of the building. More volunteers are needed, as well as training for anyone new. Ken Woods would like to have a meeting after a service to train and maybe do an actual walkthrough with new volunteers. Ideally, we would have a list of substitutes in addition to the primary volunteers doing the security checks. Carol asked what time the walkthrough should be done and Ken said that they should be done after everyone is out of building each evening, whenever the last groups leave. People doing the checks will need a master key. There is one in the library, but maybe all security volunteers will need one.

Current volunteers are Sunday – CJ Hamilton, Monday – Needed, Tuesday – Shannon O’Neill, Wednesday – Darren Shaw, Thursday – needed, Friday – Ken Woods, Saturday – Needed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Parking Lot – Shannon brought up that there have been multiple vehicles lately in our parking lot. One vehicle was given notice that he is not allowed to park there. Two other cars have been parking there. One person has submitted an application. Moving forward, we are no longer allowing outside people to park in the church parking lot. Ashdon has notified the people she has contact information for.

New Council members – Bob Muller would like a bio on them before the Annual Meeting. Shannon asked if anyone at council has any other nominations. Carol Schlegel would like to nominate Carolyn Cutilli. Bo has also spoken to her.

Bob explained that we will also need to open up council member nominations to the floor at the annual meeting. We will use a paper ballot to vote if too many people are wanting to be on council than needed.

Bob pointed out that with the current members that are staying and the three potential new members that we will be over the number called for in the Constitution. Council agreed that having more than the number required in the Constitution would be acceptable.

Ken asked about pictures in hall and Shannon explained that she is reaching out to Jess to get them taken and put up.

A Motion was made to go into Executive Session. It was moved and seconded by Shannon O'Neill / Bruce Roper

A Motion made to come out of Executive Session. It was moved and seconded by Shannon O'Neill / CJ Hamilton

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Community Outreach Ministry – No report
- Constitution and Bylaws – No report
- Fellowship – No report
- Hatboro Community Cupboard – See report. Carol mentioned that there have been numerous food drives by different organizations which has helped us with stock.
- Kids & Family Ministry – See report.
- Memorials – No report
- Mutual Ministry – No report
- Property – See report. Ken Woods, heating units in narthex, controlled by a thermostat, head ushers should now turn it up when they come in.
- Social Media – No report
- Stewardship – No report
- Women's Ministry – No report

- Worship & Music – See report. They will be preparing for the Fastnacht Talent Show which will be on March 2nd.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The office was contacted asking if St John's would want to put an ad in the Hatboro Horsham Cheerleaders program at a cost of \$390 for a 1/8-page ad.

A motion was made to have an advertisement in the cheerleading program. It was moved and seconded by Shannon O'Neill / Bob Muller. Motion declined. Council discussed if we could afford it and Carol advised it would have to be taken from benevolence either Pastor's discretionary or Synod. Neither was acceptable. Alan clarified that the money would not go to the cheerleaders but instead to the advertiser.

A request was submitted for the use of Fellowship Hall for a 60th birthday party for Gina Eickhoff with about 70 people sometime in July. More information is needed including the times and they also need to be informed that we no longer have a playground.

A request was submitted to use Fellowship Hall on 2/20 from 5-9 pm for a surprise 70th birthday party for up to 60 people. The request was approved.

CARES AND CONCERNS:

Pastor Bo and council members shared their cares and concerns.

NEXT MEETING: Date: 2/19/25

Meeting Leader: Shannon O'Neill

Scripture: Pastor Bo

Prayer: Jenn Shaw

Refreshments: Jenn Shaw

*It was moved and seconded by Bob Muller / Ashdon Bobbie to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m. **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Roper