

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: 2/20/25

The February Congregation Council Meeting was held on 2/19/25

Council Members Present: Pastor Bo, Ashdon Bobbie, Alan Divver, Shannon O'Neill, Barbara Quinn, Bruce Roper, Carol Schlegel, Jenn Shaw, Tom Smith, Janice Valone, Mark Valone, and Ken Woods.

Absent: Kiran Bodamer, Carolyn Cutilli, Anna Sweeney, Louise Woods

The meeting was called to order by President Shannon O'Neill at 6:01 p.m. The scripture was read by Pastor Bo and the prayer was offered by Jenn Shaw.

PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL:

None

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

*It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes from January 2025 as presented without changes. The motion was made and seconded by Ken Woods / Janice Valone.

MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS:

President, Shannon O'Neill –Attached

Pastor Bannister – Attached

Attendance – Attached

Finance Committee – Attached

Carol Schlegel went over this year's finances. She explained that when we have a deficit, it is coming out of restricted funds, which is Memorials. It was asked if there is any point in keeping the five or six memorials separate or if it would be better to combine them into one. Pastor pointed out that we should ask the people that gave for the memorials. Janice asked how much is in memorials and Carol said that we have \$177,000 total. The deficit is being covered by taking money out of memorials.

Carol explained that we were projected to have a \$14,000 deficit in January (with only a \$20,000 deficit for the year) but the deficit for January was only \$4,000. It should be closer to \$8,000-\$10,000 because some bills have not come in yet, but things are looking good.

Currently, her major concern is the cost of snow removal and that we did not get competitive bids from other contractors this year. Our current contract, which we are locked into for the year, calls for plowing at 2". Our first bill was \$2,250. Although plowing has not been needed too frequently, salting has. And the cost is \$755 every time

they come to salt. The past three months have run costs of \$2,000, \$3,000 and \$5,000. Mark, who has now plowed for a very long time, agreed that we are over paying by quite a lot. Carol's priority is that next year our contract be negotiated and also more specific.

Shannon asked if Carol is still doing the budget summary for the bulletin and she is.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- Continuing Resolutions – Shannon informed the group that the directory should be done the first week of March
- Staff Job Descriptions

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

A motion was made to come out of Executive Session. It was moved and seconded by Bruce Roper / Shannon O'Neill. **MOTION CARRIED**

- Security Checks Update – It was briefly discussed and the importance of them was pointed out.

NEW BUSINESS:

- ICE Policy – It was pointed out that government policies are in a fluid state and changing. Shannon has researched that ICE can come in with an Administrative Warrant and can come into any public area, but a Judicial Warrant is needed to enter a "private" area. Carol said that the Community Cupboard's guidance was that we cannot stop them from coming in and what they'll want is a list of the clients, which also contains their addresses. But a work around is to lock records up in a private office and have the documents labeled as private.

Pastor's priority is that everyone should feel safe here.

Alan suggested that we should have a procedure written so that it can be followed if/when the situation arises. Shannon will draft something for approval at the next meeting.

A motion was made to have a policy for ICE established that employees and volunteers can follow. It was moved and seconded by Shannon O'Neill / Ashdon Bobbie.

MOTION CARRIED.

- 2025 Devotions – A sign-up sheet was circulated among Council members.
- 2025 Contact Info – A list of contact information was circulated among Council members.

- Easter Flower Dedications – The Lutheran Disaster Relief Fund was used last year. Christmas was for the LA fires. Relief for families impacted by the recent SPS fire was suggested.

A motion was made to designate the Easter Flower Dedications to the Lutheran Disaster Relief Fund again this year to be used for the families impacted by the recent SPS fire. It was moved and seconded by Shannon O’Neill / Jenn Shaw. **MOTION CARRIED.**

- Tom Smith pointed out that there were 104 birthday wishes sent out to people over 80 this past year. He is concerned that the larger percentage of our income is from this 80+ age group. Going forward, we need a strategic plan of where future income will come from as this age group leaves St John’s. This led to discussion that we need to replace the proceeds from these people. Council needs to be aware of where our money is coming from and that it could go away quickly. Newer members do not normally give as much as the older members for a number of reasons. Any and all suggests are welcome. Most churches are fighting the same battle. Kids and Family Ministry is a large part of helping our future.

Janice asked if we promote St John’s through the food pantry. Carol said not a lot because we do not want to promote St John’s over the other churches since it is a 4-church effort. She also pointed out that CJ does have the devotionals out at the pantry.

- Shannon suggested to poll the congregation with our yellow attendance cards regarding family dinners and what might work better or what people would like to see in an effort to increase attendance. Several of the participants in the Chili Cook-Off have moved from the area. Having it catered and ask for a donation was one suggestion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Community Outreach Ministry – No report
- Constitution and Bylaws – No report
- Fellowship – No report
- Hatboro Community Cupboard – See report – Carol explained that we partner with three other churches which prompted the name change to Hatboro Community Cupboard. We had a setback with one of the freezers failing and we lost several thousand dollars’ worth of meat and the repair was \$900. Clients have been down significantly the last few weeks. The feeling was that a lot of the clients being Hispanic may be the cause. Excess food has been funneled to other pantries in the area.
- Kids & Family Ministry – See report – Lenton Family Night will be April 6.

- Memorials – No report
- Mutual Ministry – No See report
- Property – See report – Ken expounded on the report that the heat was not working today and a part is being ordered by Peters to make the repair.
- Social Media – No report
- Stewardship – No report
- Women’s Ministry – No report
- Worship & Music – See report – Tom Smith said that they talked about Fastnacht. Fellowship will eventually oversee food for events. Shannon would like to see Fellowship/Coffee Hour/and maybe others under one umbrella committee to oversee it all. Tom also brought up that in the past St John’s had progressive dinners which was a tremendous social event. Shannon added that there was a suggestion for dining with new members. Also, four new members are needed for Alter Guild. Tom said that he would also like to see other Council members involved in serving communion. Ashdon added that reading and ushering would also be good to do. Sign-ups for reading is through Ashdon. Joe Kircher is chair of the Usher committee and greeters at the back door would be part of the welcome committee. A sign-up sheet may be needed for that as well.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

CARES AND CONCERNS:

Pastor Bo and council members shared their cares and concerns.

NEXT MEETING: Date: March 19, 2025

Meeting Leader: Shannon O’Neill

Scripture: Ashdon Bobbie

Prayer: Pastor Bo

Refreshments: Shannon O’Neill

*It was moved and seconded by Tom Smith / Ken Woods to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Roper

Council Secretary