

St. John's Church Council Minutes – February 23, 2021

Council members present: Amy Bazile, Tracy Conradt, Nancy Helms, Mary Hoppe, Melissa Pfeiler, Wanda Tucker, Tom Pamperin, Shirl Tischauser, Kelly Trebus, Pastor Sara Gorman (Ex Officio). **Also present:** Sheri Fuhrman, Sharon Piastowski.

Meeting called to order by President Trebus at 6:30 pm and opened with prayer by Pastor Sara.

The mission statement was read together.

Member Concerns: None

Secretary's Report: A motion was made by Wanda, seconded by Shirl, to approve the January Council minutes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Nancy, seconded by Amy, to approve the 2021 Annual Meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Various items within the financial statements were discussed, including the monthly giving, sanctuary project pledge status, loan balances and remaining loan terms. A motion was made by Amy, seconded by Nancy, to approve the January 2021 financial statements as presented. Motion carried.

Strategic Discussion: Kelly and Pastor Sara gave an overview of plans to regularly discuss strategic items impacting the congregation during the coming year. Questions will be posed to encourage discussion beyond the day-to-day operations of the church. Pastor asked "When someone says 'St. John's', what comes to mind?" and Council members shared and discussed the responses. Next month's questions will be 1) What are the best things about St. John's? and 2) What can St. John's improve at?

Pastoral Report: Pastor gave an update on her activities over the past month, including a change in her office hours, a planned absence from worship on March 13/14, completion of the second (of three) continuing education sections on the family unit, the invitation to participate in planning Bishop Ann's installation, the status of the book club and That Thursday Night Thing, the turnout for the recent drive-by communion and the next planned one for Palm Sunday weekend, the status of in-person confirmation class, the setting of May 15 as confirmation Sunday, the commencement of first communion and a planned meeting to discuss the National Youth Gathering occurring in Minneapolis in 2022.

Pastor then gave an update on the planned return to in-person worship. There will be a service on February 28 with Council members, Worship and Music members and Task Force members with a meeting after to assess the effectiveness of the worship plans. Services will then begin on the following Saturday nights in the Sanctuary at 6:00 pm and Sunday mornings in the Parish Hall at 9:30 am. Services will be reviewed and adjusted as needed to remain safe and effective.

Easter day service will be outdoor. Advance sign up for service will be required and initially a limit of 50 people will apply.

Pastor informed the Council that fellow Council member Dave “Curly” Krueger had passed on February 22, 2021.

Vital Statistics: None

Old Business: Items of Old Business considered were:

- Return to Worship Task Force Report – Most recent meeting was held in February. Much of the information from the task force was reported during Pastor’s report. The next meeting is scheduled for March to review the results of in-person worship to-date.

New Business: Items of New Business considered were:

- Carol Polzin has submitted her resignation from Council. A motion was made by Tom, seconded by Tracy, to accept Carol’s resignation and appoint Sharon Piastowski to complete the remainder of Carol’s term. Motion carried.
- Council was authorized at the Annual Meeting to name two additional members to the Nominating Committee. A motion was made by Tom, seconded by Amy, to name Shirl Tischauser to one of the open positions. Motion carried.
- St. John’s did not have a named delegate to the Shawano Area Conference as there were no volunteers from the Annual Meeting or Council, although Michelle Sasse serves as Secretary to the Conference. It was noted that the Conference is looking for a male volunteer to serve on the Discipline Committee and a female volunteer to serve as a delegate to the church-wide assembly.
- The process for maintenance to handle the purchase of parts, materials or other hardware items for projects was discussed. A motion was made by Tom, seconded by Sharon, to authorize the purchase of gift cards to be used for maintenance purposes, with receipts submitted for recordkeeping and subsequent reloading of the cards. Motion carried.
- The current form and function of the Action Teams were discussed. It was noted that Action Team participation, outside of those with regular functions (Property, Worship & Music and Finance), are challenged for membership. Projects and committees for specific purposes function well but the Teams seem to lack direction and purpose. Kelly proposed the possible combination of some Teams and will draft a plan for what a reorganized Team structure would look like for further discussion at a future meeting.
- The schedule meetings as well as for devotions and opening prayers for Council meetings in the coming year were planned, discussed and accepted.
- Shirl provided a recommendation from the Property Committee to move forward with a \$3,675 proposal from Olson Electric to update the switches in the sanctuary in order to handle the changes in lighting and electrical the have occurred. The availability of funds in the budget as well as using the Endowment Fund were discussed. A motion was made by

Amy, seconded by Tracy, to authorize accepting Olson's Electric proposal while seeking funds for all or some of the project from Endowment. Motion carried.

Action Team Reports: The following Action Team reports were provided:

- **Property** – The Property Team met and had a productive meeting. Shirl gave an update on various projects that are being monitored or considered, including a water softener, the rubber roof, tuck pointing of brickwork and upcoming painting.
- **Worship & Music** – The Team met during the previous week and discussed the needs for the in-person worship planned. Musicians have been planned through March 2021 and the Holden Evening Prayer service has been recorded. The next meeting is planned for March 22.

Closed Session: N/A

The next meeting will be March 16, 2021, at 6:30 pm.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

A motion was made by Tom, seconded by Sharon, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Tom Pamperin, Secretary.