

## St. John's Church Council Minutes – April 20th, 2021

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

Meeting called to order by Kelly Trebus at 6:30p.m. Wanda opened with devotions and prayer.

The mission statement was read together.

**Member Concerns:** None

**Secretary's Report:** Last month's minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Amy, seconded by Sharon, to approve the March 2021 Council minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Various items within the financial statements were discussed, including the monthly giving, cash balance on hand in the general fund, loan balances and remaining loan terms. A motion was made by Amy, seconded by Shirl, to approve the March 2021 financial statements as presented. Motion carried.

**Strategic Discussion:** Pastor Sara lead the discussion of strategic items impacting the congregation during the coming year. Questions were posed to encourage discussion beyond the day-to-day operations of the church. Pastor asked the following questions: 1) "How would you like St. John's to be known in the community?" and 2) "What do you see St. John's as five years from now?" Council members shared and discussed responses.

**Pastoral Report:** Pastor gave an update on her activities over the past month, including the plan for Milestone May where Bible distribution, First Communion, Mother's Day, Confirmation and graduate recognition will take place, Pastor's and the congregations participation at Synod Assembly, Pastor's involvement at Bishop Annie's installation, the success of the Easter Day outdoor service, home visit updates and CD distributions, book club updates and upcoming youth activities, including a meeting to discuss the National Youth Gathering occurring in Minneapolis in 2022. Changes recommended by the Return to Worship Task Force have been implemented including the rotation of worship spaces, capacity limits of 75 people and the summer schedule of Sunday and Wednesday services. Pastor noted she will be out of the office April 26 – 28 for continuing education. A question was raised about attendance limits for confirmation given attendance is usually higher. Our attendance has been well within our limits to date but if needed, we can accommodate higher attendance if needed.

**Vital Statistics:** Releases for Anthony Vazquez, Cassie and Logan Lorge and transfers for David and Cathy Jensen and Carol, Jared and Emily Sawall were noted.

**Old Business:** Items of Old Business considered were:

- Return to Worship Task Force Report – The Task Force has not met since the last Council meeting. Updates to worship activities were presented by Pastor during her report.
- Appointment of 1 Member for the Nominating Committee - Council was authorized at the Annual Meeting to name one additional member to the Nominating Committee. A candidate has not been named yet but additional Council members offered to serve if needed.
- Changes to the Action Teams – Council members continued to discuss the structure and makeup of the Action Teams. The difficulty in attracting people to serve on the teams was highlighted. Discussion of the congregation’s ability to accomplish specific tasks without spending time in meetings was also highlighted. Teams that continue to function and meet are centered on worship, music and property. Council will continue to discuss at future meetings with a focus on tasks and activities that occur on a regular basis, encourage people to participate in those, lessen dependency on Council member leadership and celebrate accomplishment.
- Action Team Assignments - Tabled while Action Team changes are discussed.
- Money Counter – A motion was made by Wanda, seconded by Mary, to approve Joan Mengert as a money counter. Motion carried.
- Council Installation – May 23, 2021 was selected as the service for Council installation.
- Other Old Business – Shirl gave an update on property items that have been completed and that need attention. The electrical work in the sanctuary is complete with Endowment contributing toward the cost and the remainder coming from the property improvement fund. Items that need attention (cost) include a water softener for the entire church (\$4,400), tuckpointing for the building (\$15-25,000), vacuum for the mower (unknown) and rekeying the building. After discussion on the items of need, the tuckpointing and vacuum will be deferred, the rekeying will be returned to the Property committee to obtain quotes and the water softener will be purchased. A motion was made by Amy, seconded by Ron, to spend up to \$4,400 from the property improvement fund to purchase a water softener with a request to Endowment for funds. Motion carried.

**New Business:** Items of New Business considered were:

- Lawn Mowing – Ron and Brenda Krueger have volunteered to mow the grass at church. Appreciation was expressed by the Council.
- End of Sunday School/Graduation – With no Sunday School, this event is not occurring. However, graduate recognition is and a summer picnic is still hopeful.
- Synod Assembly Offering – A motion was made by Amy, seconded by Tracy, to disburse \$250 for the Synod Assembly offering. Motion carried.
- Any Other New Business – No other new business was discussed.

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

- Property – In addition to the items noted in Old Business, Shirl updated on other items including the water main repair in front of church, water drainage issues, church roof cross status and a priority/wish list for projects.

- Worship & Music – Tracy provided an update on worship schedules for April, May and summer, the scheduling of musicians, the need for worship assistants, standardizing bulletins, updating/upgrading the sanctuary sound system and the next planned meeting on May 2, 2021. It was also noted that musicians declined payment for their playing during the past year. Appreciation was expressed by the Council and it was suggested that recognition appear in the upcoming bulletins.

**Closed Session:** N/A

The next meeting will be May 18th, 2021, at 6:30 pm.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

A motion was made by Tom, seconded by Wanda, to adjourn the meeting at 7:56p.m. Motion carried.