

St. John's Church Council Minutes – May 18th, 2021

Council members present: Amy Bazile, Tracy Conradt, Mary Hoppe, Ron Krueger, Melissa Pfeiler, Sharon Piastowski, Wanda Tucker, Tom Pamperin, Shirl Tischauser, Kelly Trebus. **Also present:** Sheri Fuhrman and Ray Mielke.

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

The mission statement was read together.

Member Concerns: None other than those that will be addressed in Pastor's report.

To accommodate Ray Mielke, chair of the property action team, the agenda was suspended.

Mielke gave an update on a recent proposal from the company that will do the tuckpointing for the brickwork around the church. He noted that the availability for contractors to do this work on our schedule (summer) is limited and that Council should strongly consider accepting the proposal. The total proposal amount is \$15,000, with \$10,000 down and work to occur in August 2021. A discussion of sources of funds and our ability to borrow from special funds occurred, along with making a request to the endowment fund. A motion was made by Ron, seconded by Wanda, to approve the proposal, with a request from endowment for as much as possible and the remainder to be borrowed from the special funds, specifically those that are unlikely to be using funds in the short term. Motion carried.

Mielke left the meeting.

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

Strategic Discussion: Pastor was absent from the meeting so the strategic discussion was deferred until the June meeting.

Pastoral Report: Kelly read a report from Pastor giving an update on her activities over the past month. Pastor shared the joy of having full worship services that included giving out Bibles, First Communion and Confirmation, the upcoming Council installation (May 23, 2021), planning for congregation education, funerals for non-members and a request to restart social hour after service. Pastor also explained that a significant amount of time has been spent recently discussing worship service. Unfortunately, many of the comments have been negatively

communicated and focused on things that are different from personal and individual preferences. Her goal is to celebrate worship together as a congregation and the continued focus on differences is challenging and draining. The changes that have been made have been temporary and experimental and the hope is that all members can consider those changes with an open mind and find the things that will inspire the next phase of St. Johns. Pastor also encouraged a new motto: NEW PASTOR NEW TRADITIONS. Pastor's hope is that we will continue the mask policy until the congregation is fully vaccinated, we have reached herd immunity in Wisconsin or the CDC guidelines change.

A discussion then occurred on the mask policy of the church. Many thoughts were shared with a general consensus that the church should be working toward a date where masking in the building is optional. Updated CDC guidelines specifically include worship services and singing so those should be considered. A date of June 6, 2021 was suggested, which would be two months from the opening of vaccinating opportunity for all adults and provide us time to communicate the plans to congregational members. Also, as vaccination opportunities for those wishing to be so are available, responsibility for protecting people from COVID 19 exposure has shifted from the organization to the individual. A motion was made by Amy, seconded by Mary, to make mask wearing optional for all activities at church effective June 6, 2021. Motion carried.

Vital Statistics: Upon motion by Amy, seconded by Ron, the following newly confirmed members were accepted: Hailey Krueger, Camryn Miller, Morgan Richter, Nicole Sasse, Morgan Schwartz and Jesse Trebus. Motion carried.

Old Business: Items of Old Business considered were:

- Return to Worship Task Force Report – The Task Force was disbanded.
- 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 – Sheri distributed a current summary of Action Teams, their Council representatives and known other events/groups that gather in the church. Additional groups were noted and discussed. Further discussion of the Action Team makeup will continue at the June Council meeting.
- Action Team Assignments - Tabled while Action Team changes are discussed.
- Other Old Business – There was no other old business.

New Business: Items of New Business considered were:

- Fall Dinner – The Fall Dinner date was discussed and it was recommended that the date be set at the June 2021 Council meeting.
- Other – There was no other new business.

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

- **Property** – In addition to the items noted earlier in the meeting, Shirl had no further property items.
- **Worship & Music** – Sharon and Tracy provided an update on worship items including the scheduling of musicians, plans for ushering and the worship assistants. It was noted that musicians were now being paid and the grand piano in the sanctuary was tuned.

Closed Session: N/A

The next meeting will be June 15th, 2021, at 6:30 pm.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m. Motion carried.