

## St. John's Church Council Minutes – November 16, 2021

**Council members present:** Amy Bazile, Nancy Helms, Mary Hoppe, Ron Krueger, Tom Pamperin, Melissa Pfeiler, Sharon Piastowski, Shirl Tischauser, Kelly Trebus, Wanda Tucker **Also present:** Sheri Fuhrman

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

The mission statement was read together.

**Member Concerns:** No concerns were presented.

**Secretary's Report:** The meeting minutes for October 19, 2021 were reviewed. After a correction to the spelling of a name, a motion was made by Amy, seconded by Tracy, to approve the Council minutes. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Various items within the October financial statements were discussed, including the monthly giving, loan balances and remaining loan terms, the building fund loan payments going forward and balances in the special funds. A motion was made by Shirl, seconded by Ron, to approve the October 2021 financial statements as presented. Motion carried.

**Vital Statistics:** The following changes were noted:

- The deaths of Ken Raether and Doris Plaster
- The baptisms of:
  - Anne Dee Hedtke
  - Nevaeh Lee Vollmer

Kelly will contact Pastor Jen at the Synod office to get information on the process for accepting new members.

**Strategic Discussion:** Kelly led a discussion with the Council on the attributes of a healthy congregation and the areas that St. Johns can improve.

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

- Review of COVID Protocol – There were no updates on the protocols being followed.
- Sunday School Update – Amy and Melissa provided updates on the status of Sunday School. There are kids attending and previously-developed programs being followed. A Christmas program is being planned for December 19, 2021, and will be coordinated by Kay Tellock and Linda Mielke
- Confirmation Update – Christy Crum is leading the program and there are eight students.
- Budget Planning – The budgeting process was discussed and action team representatives were encouraged to get their budgets for 2022 completed by December 6.
- Nominating Committee – Nancy updated the Council on council candidates, noting we will have a full slate.
- Performance Reviews – Kelly encouraged the Council to share any thoughts or comments on church personnel as performance reviews are being completed.
- Pastoral Update – Christmas services were discussed noting that getting a pastor for Christmas Eve is not looking likely. The Synod is preparing a service of songs and lessons that congregations can use. After discussion regarding holiday services, the following schedule was set upon a motion by Ron, seconded by Nancy:

- Wednesday, December 22 – No Service
- Friday, December 24 – 3:30 pm and 6:00 pm Services
- Saturday, December 25 – No Service
- Sunday, December 26 – No Service
- Wednesday, December 29 – No Service

Motion carried.

Kelly led a discussion on the meeting held with Pastors Asher and Jen from the Synod. The meeting was a positive one and it was hopeful from the Synod that with pastors currently in motion that our time until the next pastor will not be long. Pastor Asher gave an overview of the upcoming process with an update of the Ministry Site Profile, selection of a Call Committee and interview process. It was also suggested that St. Johns consider engaging a consultant to assist on strategic discussions.

- Other Old Business – There was no other old business.

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

- Annual Meeting – Sheri requested that information for the January 30, 2022 Annual meeting be submitted to her as soon as possible, preferably by December 6, 2022.
- Christmas Bags – Distributing Christmas bags after the Christmas program was discussed. Tom will coordinate.
- Approval of Confirmed Members – A motion was made by Amy, seconded by Tracy, to approve the following as members after being confirmed:
  - Hayden Miller
  - Hudson Miller
  - Rainna Miller
  - Preston Szczerbak
  - Olivia Westemeier
  - Aiden Williamson

Motion carried.

- Insurance Coverage – Shirl provided an update on the church's insurance coverage. Options to increase deductibles and the corresponding premium savings were presented. Also, headstone coverage was reviewed.
- Funeral Meal Structure – Shirl presented an update on the funeral meal process. After discussion, a motion was made by Tom, seconded by Amy, to move forward with the cost schedule presented by Shirl. Motion carried.
- Other New Business – There was no other New Business.

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

- Worship & Music – Sharon and Tracy provided an update from the last Team meeting where payments for people that lead worship services and write messages. After of discussion, a motion was made by Tom, seconded by Wanda, to approve the following payment schedule: Lay-school trained leaders will be paid \$100 for the first service, an additional \$25 for the second service on the same day, and \$50 if that same person leads the Wednesday night service, with mileage paid at the current IRS level for those leaders not members of St. Johns.; Message writers will be paid \$25 per message, with Worship & Music maintaining a list of persons qualified to write messages. Motion carried. It was also noted that a proposal for updating the sound system was received and is being reviewed.

**Closed Session:** N/A

The next meeting will be on December 21, 2021, at 6:30 pm.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.