

St. John's Church Council Minutes – December 21, 2021

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

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

The mission statement was read together.

Member Concerns: No concerns were presented.

Secretary's Report: The meeting minutes for November 16, 2021 were reviewed. After a correction to the spelling of a name, a motion was made by Ron, seconded by Amy, to approve the Council minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Various items within the November financial statements were discussed, including the monthly giving, loan balances and remaining loan terms, benevolence amounts and balances in the special funds. A motion was made by Amy, seconded by Mary, to approve the November 2021 financial statements as presented. Motion carried.

Vital Statistics: The following changes were noted:

- The death of Ron Much (Lois Graper officiating the funeral)

Strategic Discussion: With the planned engagement of Cathy Cowling, this item was not discussed.

Old Business: Items of Old Business considered were:

- **Review of COVID Protocol** – The protocols being followed were reviewed/refreshed with council. The plans for masking for Christmas Eve service and if requested by visiting worship leaders was confirmed.
- **Nominating Committee** – It was noted that we will have a full slate with three council members leaving and three joining. Individuals joining/renewing council are: New - Pat Breitenfeldt, Mandy Malueg, Brian Sawall; Returning – Mary, Kelly, Wanda.
- **Pastoral Update** – Linda Mielke is coordinating worship coverage. The plan is to have pastoral coverage at least once per month, with communion. Sheri has contacted the Synod to request a pastor for the second Sunday of each month. It was also discussed to seek periodic communion coverage for the Wednesday night service.
- **Annual Report/Meeting** – Sheri updated on the status of information for the Annual Meeting report. Everyone was reminded that the Annual Meeting will be held on January 30, 2022.
- **Insurance Discussion** – After considering the premium and deductible amounts presented at the November 2021 council meeting, it was concluded that the savings from a higher deductible was not sufficient to switch. Shirl and Ron indicated that our insurance carrier requested permission to do an inspection of the building, which would occur soon.
- **Performance Reviews** – Performance reviews were completed with positive comments received regarding all staff members.
- **Cathy Cowling Update** – Kelly provided an update on working with Cathy Cowling, the consultant engaged to assist us with planning and understanding our congregation. Cathy will hold meetings with council members individually and the congregation as a group over next month, preparing a report to be presented at the Annual Meeting. She will then work with the council and others over the next six months on gaining a better understanding of ourselves.
- **Other Old Business** – There was no other old business.

New Business: Items of New Business considered were:

- 2022 Budget – Tom presented the proposed budget for 2022. Other than information provided by the Action Teams, items including pastoral pay, consultant engagement and building fund contributions were discussed. A motion was made by Amy, seconded by Tracy, to approve the budget as presented. Motion carried.
- Approval of Council Slate of Candidates – A motion was made by Amy, seconded by Melissa, to approve the following as candidates for Council:
 - Pat Breitenfeldt (new)
 - Mandy Malueg (new)
 - Brian Sawall (new)
 - Mary Hoppe (second 2-yr term)
 - Kelly Trebus (third 2-yr term)
 - Wanda Tucker (second 2-yr term)Motion carried.
- Quarterly Benevolence – A motion was made by Ron, seconded by Shirl, to approve the payment of up to \$4,500 to the Synod from the Benevolence account. Motion carried.
- Other New Business – Ron provided an update on conversations had regarding the removal of trees on the church grounds. After discussion, a motion was made by Tom, seconded by Tracy, to pay up to \$1,500 to remove trees from the church grounds. Motion carried.

Lenten breakfasts were discussed as arranging and scheduling needs to begin if the breakfasts will be held. After discussion, planning was encouraged to begin with the caveat that rescheduling or cancellation may occur.

There was no further new business.

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

- Property – Ron and Shirl provided updates on cemetery lawn care, church lawn spraying and general maintenance items.
- Worship & Music – Tracy provided an update from the last Team meeting. Tracy also brought forward a request to update the sound system in the sanctuary. Including the purchase of a digital recorder, the total cost was estimated to be about \$13,500. After discussion, a motion was made by Shirl, seconded by Amy, to approve the spending of up to \$14,000 from the building fund on the sanctuary sound system upgrade, with requests from the Endowment Fund and an invitation to the congregation to make specific donations toward the purchase to offset as much of the cost as possible. Motion carried.

Closed Session: N/A

The next meeting will be on January 18, 2022, at 6:30 pm.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.