

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting
Monday, February 27, 2023 Minutes–For Council Approval**

Mission: Engage and Equip people to Embrace Jesus Christ

Vision: To be a growing and Christ-centered, Spirit-led community

Worship gather, praise and pray **Love** welcome, care and serve **Grow** learn, discover and equip **Give** time, treasure and talents

Council Present or excused:

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| Dean Brown, President | Connie Moll |
| Mark Scott, Vice President | Joel Murphy |
| Jolie Hoffmann, Secretary | Carlton Potts (excused) |
| Steve BeMiller, Treasurer | Carla Snell |
| Tammy Fahling | Shari Buckellew, Exec. Dir. Business Operations |
| Randy Holthaus | David Glesne, Senior Pastor |
| David Johnson | |

Call to order and opening prayer. The February 2023 meeting of the St. John's Congregation Council was called to order by President Dean Brown at 6:30pm and opened with prayer.

Consent Agenda. Without objection, the consent agenda was approved by voice vote, including the meeting agenda, the minutes of the January 2023 Council meeting, and leadership reports. Reports and minutes can be found on Dropbox.

Staff presentation. Kerri Cordray, Director of Connection Ministries, came to present on her staff report, highlighting changes in the Volunteer and New Member process. Highlights:

- Kerri is now meeting with those seeking new membership to provide an introduction, review informational packet and explain how to utilize ShelbyNext
- In addition to working with new members, Kerri is working with church coordinators to help oversee volunteers, as well as Small Groups, to facilitate connections. Currently have 9 groups meeting to go over the book, *Grace*, by Max Lucado as part of our Lenten devotional.
- Introducing a new Info Hub, comprising of three distinct areas dedicated to specific area of focus (a Welcome Hub, Resource Hub, and Information Hub)
- Introduced new St. John's Mug Ministry, sharing a sample with Council members and encouraging the purchase of a mug for personal use as well as to gift to new members
- In the coming weeks, we will be implementing a ShelbyNext Photo Project giving members the opportunity to participate in an online pictorial directory. Members will have the option to have their photos taken between services, or if preferred, they may obtain instructions in order to upload their own picture directly.

Treasurer's Report. Steve reviewed the Finance Report, noting that we are in good shape overall. Cash and Investments total over \$2.3 million across funds, leading to a net of over \$12,000 at present time. Committee approved an 18 month contract for natural gas and is looking into a similar contract for electric service. Indicated that things will be tight all year, but monitoring closely and will continue to keep us apprised of any changes.

Shari addressed Pastoral pay adjustment/housing allocations of \$30,000 for the year which has been signed by church secretary, Jolie Hoffmann. Mark made the motion to approve housing allocation and Carla seconded the motion; Council approved unanimously.

Personnel Update. Pastor David is up for review. Steve agreed to gather everyone's thoughts for the Executive Council to assist with evaluation process. Please provide feedback to him by end of day, Sunday March 12th.

Call Process. There will be a long list of things to complete in order to meet anticipated August time frame. Have already had some interest expressed by members of the congregation who are wanting to be part of the Call Committee. Heard back from Pastor Ken Sandlin of the Synod office which is a necessary first step. He is available to meet with the Council to introduce the call process and review next steps which will then allow us to proceed with electing a Call Committee. Of dates provided, Council agreed to meet on Tuesday March, 14th at 6:30 pm.

Status of Worship Strategy/Focus Subcommittee. Mark shared that there has been a positive response to recent Worship survey, with a good representation of members across services and years of attendance. Committee is gathering information as to the Who, How, and Why is worshiping and will be bringing summary back to the Council.

2023 Synod Assembly. This year's assembly will be held in two parts, as has become the general practice. The first stage will be via Zoom on March 25. The in-person stage will be June 1 – 3, at the Embassy Suites in East Peoria. Pastor David, Deacon Lyn, Joel Murphy, David Johnson, Jolie Hoffmann, Barb Haab, and Cynthia Davis have volunteered to represent St. John's as delegates.

Council/Staff Planning Retreat. 2023 will focus on adapting to our new realities, coordinating with council and staff as to how we can grow the membership and engage and expand our outreach with direction from the Worship Strategy/Focus Subcommittee.

Currently working to coordinate schedules with Tim so retreat date may get pushed back further from initial thought to late April/early May. Finding ways to provide staff and volunteers with opportunities in the interim, including recent retreat at Midwest Foodbank which was well received.

Executive Committee and Staff Reports

President's Topics

- Dean addressed his first official report as President of the Council.
- Addressed letter about the Columbarium which had been sent to the Council. Clarified that the Columbarium falls outside of the responsibilities of the Church Council. Raised question for the Council with regard to our role and responsibility when concerns are brought to our attention. Goal is to attend to and care for each other with respect. Important to create a safe space for people to express concerns and encourage healthy communication, redirecting to appropriate staff who can best assist, as able.

Senior Pastor's Report

- Lent has begun—Ash Wednesday services were well attended.
- Recently attended Leadership conference in Colorado, collaborating with leaders of the Larger Church Conference to address issues unique to larger sized congregations like St. John's.

Executive Director of Business Operations. Shari provided a few highlights from her report:

- In process of completing staff evaluations this month with pay adjustments scheduled for March.
- There has been continued interest in using our facility, including Michelle Brown's first aid and CPR classes. Michelle is offering a 20% discount for St. John's members interested in attending.
- Working with Lisa to learn how St. John's can connect and serve in the community. Recently invited to join meetings with the Homeless Coalition, currently focusing on emergency response during a weather emergency, as well as addressing affordable housing options to reduce homelessness in the community.

Upcoming Council Meetings

- March 14th, 6:30 pm in the Loft (to meet with Pr. Ken Sandlin to discuss the call process)
- March 20th, 6:30 pm in the Loft
- April 24th, 6:30 pm in the Loft

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Jolie Hoffmann, Secretary