

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregation Council Meeting
Monday, January 23, 2023, MINUTES—For Approval by Council

Mission: Engage and equip people to embrace Jesus Christ
Vision: To be a growing and Christ-centered, Spirit-led community
Strategic Priorities: In the name of Jesus Christ, be a unified faith community, and serve our neighbors

Council Present or excused:

Joel Murphy, President	Carla Snell
Mark Scott, Vice President	Kelly Heim
David Johnson, Secretary	Carlton Potts
Steve BeMiller, Treasurer	Tammy Fahling, member elect
Dean Brown	Shari Buckellew, Exec. Dir. Business Opns
Jolie Hoffman	Pr. David Glesne
Randy Holthaus	

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

Agenda. Without objection, the consent agenda was approved by voice vote, including the meeting agenda, the minutes of the December 2022 Council meeting, and leadership reports. Reports and minutes can be found on Dropbox.

Staff presentation. There were no staff presentations scheduled for January. Future presentations will be Kerri Cordroy, Director of Connection Ministries, and Lisa Myers, addressing Finance and Ministries.

Treasurer's Report. Steve reported that St. John's has been blessed in December, such that Investments and Cask Accounts are in excess of \$2.1 million. Contributions to the Building Fund have been \$1.5 million in 2022, including \$200K on the mortgage. In the PNC account \$100K has been transferred from the cash fund back to investments. The Annual Report has been completed, and is available for all.

Personnel. The revised Employees Handbook was discussed and approved on a motion (Dean/Steve) by voice vote.

Call Process. Pastor David addressed the protocol for the calling of an additional pastor. He has informed the Synod that we are in the process of setting up a call committee. The procedures previously used will be about 80 percent unchanged. The intention is to begin interviewing candidates in early summer. The Synod will provide a list of available candidates.

Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on Sunday, January 29, between the two morning services.

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 24. The in-person stage will be June 1 – 3, at the Embassy Suites in East Peoria. St. John's is allocated 7 delegates, plus the Senior Pastor. To date, Joel Murphy, David Johnson, and Jolie Hoffman have volunteered to be delegates. Those interested in being a delegate should contact Shari Buckellew.

Planning Session. This will convene after Easter. Incoming President Dean Brown said that issues for 2023 will be growing the membership, the future forms of the congregation and its committees, and outreach. This led to a general discussion of our growing facility and its function for outreach, including its use for non-profits.

Pastor's Report.

- Pastor David addressed the challenges of on-line worship—opportunities for new members as well as the uncertain reliability of who out there in the on-line world is actually watching/participating in worship. The number watching varies over the course of the broadcast is only a snapshot of that particular moment, so it's unclear how many are actually "present" in the sense that they would be in an in-person worship service.
- Regarding the electronic medium, this continues to be a problem, as often key elements of the service, such as the audio, are often missing, especially for on-line worshippers, for causes yet to be fully determined but being addressed.
- However, the electronic medium presents opportunities that are being explored, such as breaking out portions of the service, such as the sermon, to be watched separately.
- Pastor David said that the emphasis for Lent will be "grace opportunities" and small groups.

Director of Business Operations. Shari reported that the current membership is 1738, including, for 2022, 33 new members, 10 baptisms, and 51 removed from membership (for various reasons). Average attendance at worship is approximately 374, not including Christmas services. Attendance for in-house and on-line worshippers are roughly similar, in the mid-300s.

Up-coming Council meetings.

- February 27, 6:30pm. In the Loft
- March 27, 6:30pm, in the loft

Meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Respectfully submitted, David B. Johnson, Secretary