

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregation Council Meeting
Monday, December 19 2022, 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	Shari Buckellew, Exec. Dir. Business Opns
Dean Brown	Pr. David Glesne
Jolie Hoffman	
Randy Holthaus	

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

Agenda. The consent agenda was approved by voice vote, including the meeting agenda, the minutes of the November 2022 Council meeting, and leadership reports. Reports and minutes can be found on Dropbox.

Staff presentation. There were no staff presentations scheduled for December.

Business Operations/Finances.

- Shari reported that finances were still in deficit, approximately \$2K for November, for an income deficit of \$68K to date. The overall deficit for the year is expected to be \$30K, since expenses are below budget.
- The 2023 budget was presented, balanced at \$1.8M, a very tight budget and \$4K less than the 2022 budget. Estimated revenue will be \$1.3M (including both pledged and unpledged giving). Operating fund pledges are approximately \$900K, with a potential need to use money from the Endowment Fund.
- Our contribution to the Synod remains unchanged at \$100K.
- Salaries, overall, are increased 3 percent.
- Expenses for electric power are somewhat in the blind, due to a change in providers, but the expectation for 2023 is a cost decrease of approximately \$8K.
- An important issue which must be addressed is that of expenses vis a vis income/revenue. Our budgetary emphasis has been on balancing the budget by controlling expenses, but St. John's is an aging congregation, with all that that implies. A complicating factor is that finances drive ministry. We need to refocus our financial plans, as the world is changing, demographically. The challenge will be to become less focused on looking for new members to pay the bill, but instead to focus on mission for the sake of mission.

- Dean made a motion that the proposed 2023 budget be approved and presented to the Congregation at the Annual Meeting, January 28; passed unanimously.

Personnel. The new Personnel Manual has been completed and is ready for review. It has been sent out to the Council, but unfortunately some members received it, but some did not, so discussion of the manual was postponed until the January meeting.

Pastor's Comments.

- The Anniversary Gala went well
- Audio-visual issues. The performance of the Panasonic audio-video equipment continues to be a problem. The third solution has been tried, but a final solution to its problems is yet to be found

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, David B. Johnson, Secretary