

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting
Monday, May 22, 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:

Dean Brown, President	Connie Moll
Mark Scott, Vice President	Joel Murphy
Jolie Hoffmann, Secretary	Carlton Potts (absent)
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 May 2023 meeting of the St. John's Congregation Council was called to order by President Dean Brown at 6:30pm and opened with prayer by Jolie Hoffmann.

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

Staff Report. Gudrun Dunt, Membership & Congregational Care Coordinator, and Deacon Lyn A'Hearn, Pastoral Intern of Congregational Care & Worship Arts, presented on Congregational Care at St. John's. They provided an overview of each component including Christian Care, Grief & Loss, Prayer, Body, Mind & Spirit, and Life Events. They spoke to each area and the many ways St. John's tends to the needs of the congregation, highlighting our BeFriender Ministry for which St. John's started training lay members at the church in 2017 and currently has 27 active BeFrienders. Council members noted the many ways Congregational Care has stepped in at key times, confirming how significant these ministries are to the heart of St. John's.

Treasurer's Report. Steve reviewed the Finance Report, noting that Cash and Investments remain stable across funds with a year to date net income of just over \$42k. Received an Endowment gift this period and Noah's Ark is doing very well.

Shari shared that we have a new representative at PNC for the Endowment Fund who will be reaching out and meeting with the Finance Team on an annual basis. In addition, shared that she has been in contact with a CPA firm in Minnesota about the Employee Tax Credit that is currently available for entities impacted by COVID. Seeking Council input with regard to this opportunity and whether or not we should move forward to determine eligibility for funds.

Motion to approve signing an agreement letter to engage the CPA firm. Motion moved by Mark and passed unanimously by voice vote.

Personnel Updates. Jai and Natalie will continue through the summer.

Call Committee. Reviewed the Ministry Site Profile (MSP). Motion to accept the MSP. Motion moved by Dean and passed unanimously by voice vote.

Nest Steps: Call Committee will assemble for an organizational meeting prior to submitting to Synod. Timing for submission will take into account the current internship class as they complete their requirements and wait for Synod approval to enter the call process, thereby opening up the pool of eligible candidates as we move forward.

Status of Worship Strategy/Focus Subcommittee. Mark reviewed the purpose of the subcommittee and next steps. Invites have gone out to those who expressed interest in joining the focus group which will meet on June 13 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall; Contact Shari if interested in attending. Will address the purpose of the subcommittee and findings from the survey including our understanding of what draws people to worship in addition to facilitating discussion about worship and what worship looks like as a Lutheran. One finding of interest noted a difference between the services with those attending Sunday services drawn toward the style of music while those attending the Saturday service drawn to the time and people present.

Date for Council Elections. Will be held on 10/21/23 and 10/22/23, with a forum or meet and greet the week prior to allow opportunity for the congregation to meet the candidates.

2023 Synod Assembly. Part 2 of this year's Synod Assembly will meet in-person 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. Delegates will meet on Sunday (May 28th) between services to discuss logistics.

Updates.

- Membership rolls review is in process and letters have been sent out to the inactive members identified.

- Restructuring of the council based on the recommendations of Susan Baumont (see report in dropbox). It was noted that almost all of the recommendations have already been implemented. Encouraged to review the report to get a renewed sense of vision regarding the Council now that roles have shifted from being more “staff driven” to “staff guided” and the awareness that as a larger congregation, the Council has the ability to focus on strategic leadership vs management.

Executive Committee and Staff Reports

Senior Pastor’s Report.

- Provided a recap on recent Continuing Education conferences (see report)
- Welcomed continued conversation to help with rethinking and growth of the church

Executive Director of Business Operations.

- Staff retreat tomorrow. Plan to have 3x/year.
- Garage Sale went well, bringing in over \$7,000.00 for the youth.
- Workcamp numbers down this year but aware that this is a time of rebuilding.

Upcoming Council Meetings

- Executive Council, June 19th at 5:30 pm in the Conference Room
- Church Council, June 26th at 6:30 pm in the Loft

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Jolie Hoffmann, Secretary