

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Congregation Council Meeting**  
**Monday, October 24, 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

Mark Scott, Vice President

David Johnson, Secretary

Steve BeMiller, Treasurer

Dean Brown

Jolie Hoffman

Randy Holthaus

Carla Snell

Kelly Heim

Carlton Potts (excused)

Shari Buckellew, Exec. Dir. Business Opns

Pr. David Glesne

**Call to order and opening prayer.** The September meeting of the St. John's Congregation Council was called to order by President Murphy, at 6:45pm and opened with prayer.

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

**Staff Presentation.** The Noah's Ark Board of Directors presented a detailed report on the operations, goals and needs of Noah's Ark. Key topics of the presentation:

- Noah's Ark has changed its name to one they consider more appropriate for its mission, from "Noah's Ark Nursery" to "Noah's Ark Early Learning."
- Noah's Ark is building back from the effects of the Covid 19 epidemic. There are currently 118 students, of whom 32 are non-English speakers, such that 9 different "first languages," including "sign language" are in use. Post-Covid, Noah's Ark is experiencing improved contacts, including presenting Bible stories to the students in the Worship Center. Of special significance, most students are not from member families of St. John's.
- Covering two sequences, Monday - Wednesday - Friday and Tuesday – Thursday, are nine teachers, including teachers' assistants.
- The board expressed a particular need for the mission, a storage shed for the playground.

**Elections.** As specified by the Constitution, an election was conducted for congregational officers, using a simplified version of what is normally referred to as an ecclesiastical ballot, with sequential balloting being used to narrow the field of candidates to a majority choice. Eligible candidates were all who would be members of the Council for the upcoming year, except for those choosing to withdraw; eligible voters were all those currently serving on the Council.

The following were thus elected as officers of the Congregation:

- President: Dean Brown
- Vice President: Mark Scott
- Secretary: Jolie Hoffman
- Treasurer: Steve BeMiller

**Treasurer.**

- The Operating Budget for September was generally “not good,” largely due to utility costs. (Utilities costs are forecasted to be \$20K over budget for 2022.)
- The initial 2023 Operating Budget from the Finance Team is \$1.350M, a balanced budget.
- The Building/Mortgage budget is \$350K.
- Cash and investments, across all funds, is \$1,985M, with investment losses of \$350K, year to date.
- Revenues over expenses for both offerings and expenses were approximately 75 %, generally on target for the fiscal year, with a net to date of \$7366.
- Vision 2020 receipts are \$381K, YTD; mortgage/interest payments have been \$157K (YTD), and the building loan is \$5,434,661.
- Noah’s Ark cash is \$92,600, with net revenues of \$19,729.
- [From the September minutes, Elizabeth Haines will be leading the stewardship campaign this autumn (October 1 – November 13), with a theme of “The Next 150 Years.” November 13 will be “Pledge Sunday.”]
- The Commerce Bank account has been closed and the funds transferred to the ELCA Mission Investment Fund for a greater return.

**Executive Director of Business Operations.** The electrical energy-use arrangements are being reviewed and revised. The current contract with Constellation doesn’t mitigate “peak” energy usage charges, which have become much greater, and other options are being examined. The current plan is that Eligo Electric Utility Co. will replace Constellation, with a five-year contract as the initial supplier of energy, provided to us, the user, via Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO, “the grid”). At the request of Finance, Voltus, a users’ cooperative, as the “power manager,” will function as an agent for a “demand response program,” providing us a monetary incentive to keep peak power needs low. (There is no penalty for exceeding the desired peak energy consumption.)

**Personnel.** The committee is reviewing a draft of the Employee Handbook, with some changes, to be reviewed and finalized at the December meeting.

**Upcoming meetings.** December meetings—Executive Committee 12/12; Council, 12/19 (for budget and “urgent” issues, as needed), Annual Meeting will be 1/29; January Council meeting, probably 1/30. Berghaus wants to meet on organ charge; Nancy Trueblood to look at the agreement(s) and circumstances.

**November Schedule.**

- Council Executive Committee                      November 21, 5:30pm
- Council meeting    November 28, 6:30pm

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, David B. Johnson, Secretary