

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting
Monday, September 25, 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 September 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 Steve BeMiller.

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

Staff Report. Sherri Lewis from Noah's Ark joined to provide updates on the program. Overall, enrollment has been holding steady with 136 children and 10 staff.

Since starting back up after the summer, there have been several parent engagement opportunities including a Meet & Greet and Parent Coffee which has allowed people to use the facility and connect with one another. Along with some holiday parties, the Fall schedule has several activities planned including The Gathering (where the children put on a fall show for their parents) and Pizza with Santa.

In addition, currently making shirts for the kids and alumni and making plans for the return of the Pancake Pig Out fundraiser as well as the Scholastic Book Fair.

Of further note, pleased to share that the new fence is fabulous, providing improved safety and function. They are still looking into Accreditation options and weighing the cost benefits.

Treasurer's Report (Steve/Shari). Finance Team met last week to focus on 2 key areas: first, to look at how we are doing so far for the year, and second, to discuss a preliminary plan for 2024.

- Steve reviewed the Finance Report, noting that Cash and Investments remain stable across funds (2.3 million) with a year to date net income of \$32,458 which remains very close to where we were last year at this time. In addition, we received some new endowment gifts in August (\$32,062) and learned that we will be receiving an additional endowment gift for \$144,000.
- The 2024 Budget has been added with the Finance Team recommending a Stewardship Goal for \$1,425,000 which will allow for an operating budget of just over \$1,500,000, a 2.6% increase over last year's budget and about a 5% increase over where we think we will end up by end of year. Increases due to technology (computer and AV upgrades) as well as for landscaping needs and personnel. No major projects planned for next year.
- Stewardship Appeal will be in October and November and then will come back to Council with a recommended budget by December/January.

Call Committee Update. The Council voted unanimously to move the Call onto the congregation which was announced at each of the services this past weekend. There will be a rolling congregational meeting the weekend of October 7 and 8th after each of the services at which point the congregation will have the opportunity to approve the Call. At that point, we would contact the Synod and they would offer the Call.

Nomination Committee. We have two Council vacancies for Jolie Hoffmann and David Johnson for the upcoming year. Both are incumbents who are eligible to serve a second 3 year term. Will include names on the ballot at the rolling congregational meeting along with the nomination for Associate Pastor. Elections for the Executive Council will be during the October Church Council meeting.

New Bishop Greg Busboom will be visiting the weekend of October 21st and 22nd to preach at each of the services. He would also like to meet with members of the Church Council while he is here. There is a possibility that the Ordination and Installation could happen the afternoon of the 22nd and so need to see what the schedule allows. Details to come.

Executive Committee and Staff Report

Senior Pastor's Report. In addition to his monthly report, Pastor David raised additional points for Council Consideration:

- There are three (3) questions the bishop would like to discuss when he meets with Council to address our expectations and what the Synod can do to help nurture. Reference Pastor's Report in Dropbox for specific reflection points.
- Will be attending a conference in WI this week which will be addressing strategic planning post-Covid.
- Had an inquiry to use our space for 2 hours 1 day/week to teach their families about their culture and life skills. Met with some of the teachers to learn more about the group which raised some questions regarding potential conflicts of interest. The question raised is "Are we comfortable with them using the space for their school and possible festivals?"

Engaged in discussion about our decision making process in terms of reasoning, reflecting on cultural vs religious teachings, and how they may or may not align with our mission. Agreed to take some time to look into various considerations raised for greater clarity of rationale and clear boundaries before moving forward.

Upcoming Council Meetings

- Executive Council, October 16th at 5:30 pm in the Conference Room
- Church Council, October 30th at 6:30 pm in the Loft

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Jolie Hoffmann, Secretary