

St. John's Council Minutes

December 21, 2020

Present: Pastor Naomi Garber (NG), Alan Lukazewski (AL), Barb Hanna (BH), Kevin Oppermann (KO), Bob Lindmeier (BL), Barbara Newhouse (BN), Cal Gilbertson (CG), Catherine Stang (CS), Emily Staveness (ES), Ryan Anderson (RA), Mark Peterson (MP)

Absent: Kay Bliefernicht (KB)

Devotions: ES

Motion: Motion to approve the agenda made by CG and seconded by BN. Motion carried.

NG- Update

- **Worship Services:** Have gone very well. 10am outside gatherings have had attendance between 38 & 52. Outdoor cross is almost done.
- **Church Congregation Size:** Important for everyone to know the different congregation sizes and where St. John's fits into this representation.
 1. **Family:** 50 & under members: Run by a Matriachal/Patriarchal figure
 2. **Pastoral:** 50-150: Run by a Pastor in charge. Pastor centered.
 3. **Program:** 150-400: No go to person. No person in charge. Group/Committee centered.
 4. **Corporate Size:** 400+: paid staff runs church/in charge

St. John's fits into #3: Program with a current size of about 250 members
- **Church Immediate Goal:** To take time and think about who we are and what we want for future.
 1. **In the past:** Tended to have the mindset of "let's just call on another pastor"
 2. **Leadership roles:** Have been somewhat convoluted. Sometimes one pastor, sometimes co-pastors, sometimes lay leader.
 3. **Thus -Transition Team:** 7-9 parishioners who will come together and diagnose who we are as a congregation and where we want to go and be for the future.
- **Staff Goal:** To build teams.
 1. **Currently have teams:** but are not wholly cohesive. Seem to do their own thing.
 2. **Job descriptions need to update:** have not been updated since 2016. Some positions have evolved and changed as well.
 3. **Current staff is indeed the right staff:** We need to work on cohesiveness and team work.

General/Building/Renovation Updates- KO

- **Committee Reports:** Needed for annual report.
- **Boy Scouts Update:** Bankruptcy no longer an issue and we are now able to move forward. We will be signing document to let them continue to hold meetings at church.
- **Sanctuary Update:** Light fixtures in and installed. Only remaining piece left is cross/crown fixture, which will arrive towards end of December or early January.
- **Sanctuary Renovation Budget Update:** Right on budget as looking like our final cost came in at a difference, plus or minus of \$2000, from original projected cost of project

- **New Sanctuary Celebration/125th Anniversary:** RA mentioned that this would be a good time to create a committee to plan for our 125th Anniversary/Celebration of new sanctuary.
- **Joint Meeting with Finance:** Moved to one week later, January 11th, 7pm.
- **January Council Meeting with new council members:** January 25th, 7pm

Council Nomination Update-BL: we now have 4 nominees/who will now be the 4 new members to council. They will be joining us at our January meeting.

1. Jon Fishwild
2. Joanne Gladden
3. Ethan Johnson
4. Jan Rockwell

Solar Update-BL: Remember to think about signing up for our newly created “Solar Family Project”, who will raise up to 20k within 6 years. Looking for 17 families total. 8 families have already signed up. BN-stated that she would join as well. So now 9 families have signed up. Now looking for 8 more families.

Financial Update-KO & MP

- **General Finances:** November was not a bad month. Income up \$1700 more than expenses. 6% difference =expenses vs income. Expenses down. Income down.
- **The PPP:** Still a fluid situation. We still have not used any of the PPP monies. But do not know if will need to be paid back.
- **Mortgage Deferment/Loan Pause:** We understood there was to be no accrual of interest during this time. Bank is saying otherwise. Hence: accrued \$59/day in interest from beginning (spring) of pause to November (11k). Will wait to see if PPP is forgiven and then pay a chunk of principal (30k) and then use some of the PPP to pay remainder(30-35k)
- **Stewardship:** BN inquired about pledges. KO stated that some have come in and those members seem to be pledging what they have in past. Although we are down a bit.

Property Team Report-CG:

- **Space for educational material:** Jen needs space for educational material. Matthew room is currently not being used. Team would like to repurpose for Jen’s use.
- **Freezer:** Needs to be moved from current storage off of Friendship Room due to code violation (freezer is constantly running). Maybe move to coffee room area by refrigerator.
- **12 bi-fold doors:** available for sale.
- **Pews:** Short pews/odd pews are available for members to take. After a period of time, will place notice in Synod newsletter. Might be other congregations in need of them.

Council Thank You: Council thanked Barbara N & Cal G for their time, service and dedication while serving on church council. They will be greatly missed.

Motion: Motion to adjourn was made by RA and seconded by AL. Motion carried.

Submitted on 12/21/2020

By Catherine Stang, Secretary