

St. John-St. Matthew-Emanuel Lutheran Church

Virtual Council Meeting on Zoom – Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Present: Pr. David Parsons, Anne Voorhies, Allison Struthers, Fran Onne-Fong, Laura Gruenburg, Tammy Johnson, Deborah Maltby, Katherine Anderson, Marc Youngblood, Andrew Kjoller, Jolynn Johnson, Lynda Anderson.

A quorum was present

Absent: Jodi Cook.

Prayer: Opening prayer was led by Pastor Parsons.

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 PM

Secretary: Fran Onne-Fong

Election of Officers: A motion was made, seconded and adopted to approve the renewal of the current slate of serving officers: Marc Youngblood as President; Andrew Kjoller as Vice President; Tammy Johnson as Treasurer; Fran Onne-Fong as Secretary; and Katie Cunningham as Financial Secretary.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made, seconded and adopted to approve the agenda as presented.

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes: A motion was made, seconded and adopted to approve the minutes of the Council's meeting held on January 10, 2022 as presented.

Approval of Congregation Meeting Minutes: A motion was made, seconded and adopted to approve the minutes of the Congregation Meeting held on February 5, 2023 as presented.

Reports:

Pastor's Report: Pastor Parsons presented an oral report of the past month and the written report from the Annual Congregation Meeting to the Council. Pastor reported that according to the Financial Report, the income was ahead of the expenditures, however, he expressed the need to talk more about stewardship to the congregation so that the church can be financially healthy. He welcomed the new members of the Council and invited them to ask questions. The big ELCA Youth gathering 2024 is coming up and the Youth need to plan and prepare for it with fundraising activities such as a pancake breakfast and more. We need to let the congregation know why the Youths are fundraising and what the money's for.

Finance Report: Tammy Johnson, Treasurer, reported the Financial Report from July - December 2022 ended the year financially healthy with nothing of note. Pastor Parsons added that the building insurance and utility expenses are the highest expenses in our budget and we typically spend what we budget.

Koinonia Report: Katie Cunningham, Koinonia Board President, spoke to the Council about Koinonia, a Lutheran Outdoor Family Camp in Upstate NY, and their hope for St. JME's congregation to help with their fundraising campaign. Under Kathleen Ruen, Director of Koinonia, their Board and staff have successfully begun to turn things around for the camp but asked for help raising \$500,000 over 3 years. Their capital campaign goal is \$1.5 million for infrastructure projects to develop, improve & repair buildings and camp areas; improve wifi; to support programs, leadership salary and increase the full-time staff team; to also raise awareness of Koinonia's important ministry. They would like to partner with the congregation to identify campaign leaders (to partner with Katie Cunningham) to reach out to members to participate financially. They have Partnerships with congregations in PA, NJ & NY. They hope to ensure stability and thrive with a healthy budget over a 3 year plan. Each person or family identified for the potential outreach pool will determine what the gifting goal will be. There will be further discussion once a proposal is presented to the congregation.

Property: The moving chair on the staircase in the Social Hall needs to be repaired but the company that installed it has gone out of business. Katherine Anderson and Pastor Parsons will investigate the cost and viability of a metal ramp at the front entrance of the church for easier access. It would make repairing the moving chair from the Social Hall less of a necessity.

Worship & New Business: The Pastor and Council members agreed that the Acolytes' white robes with hoods are in need of having the hoods removed. New robes are over \$100 each. Anne Voorhies and Fran Onne-Fong will look at the robes to see what work would be involved to remove the hoods.

The Council discussed the possibility of purchasing a two-sided Black Lives Matter/ Pride banner to put on a pole inside the front fence. The cost of the banner would be \$1700. We need to present a drawing or rendering of what it would look like to the congregation and include it in an email for their feedback before proceeding.

Unfinished/Continuing Business: Anne Voorhies and Fran Onne-Fong investigated possibilities for helping homeless veterans and found that there are many resources for veterans. They looked into organizations helping needy families and families in crisis and found All of Us Clothing that picks up donations of clothing, shoes, toys, linens for free with no minimum or maximum requirements. It was suggested to share All of Us Clothing information in our bulletin for those interested in giving.

Allison Struthers talked to the Council about Church Clarity which is a resource for the LGBTQ+ community and Pastor Parsons will update the website's welcoming statement

and have it reflect the diversity of our congregation and present the many women in leadership on our Council. It was suggested to put up physical photos of members of the Council in the narthex. There should be a photo of Council members taken and put on the website. The new office administrator, Emma Bellel, will help with updating the Church Directory.

It was decided that Pastor Parsons will Install Council members on Sunday, Feb. 26, 2023 and that we should take a group photo or all individual photos of the Executive Council and Council members.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 PM with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting: The next regular meeting of the Council is scheduled for 7:30 PM on Tuesday, March 14, 2023.

Submitted by:

Fran Onne-Fong