

St. John-St. Matthew-Emanuel Lutheran Church

Virtual Council Meeting on Zoom – Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Present: Pr. David Parsons, Anne Voorhies, Allison Struthers, Fran Onne-Fong, Barbara Gruenburg, Tammy Johnson, Deborah Maltby, Katherine Anderson, Marc Youngblood, Andrew Kjoller, Yonni Walker, Joe Militello.

A quorum was present

Also Present: Deacon Eric Johnson.

Prayer: Opening prayer was led by Pastor Parsons.

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 PM

Secretary: Fran Onne-Fong

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

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes: A motion was made, seconded and adopted to approve the minutes of the Council's meeting held on December 13, 2022 as amended.

Reports:

Pastor's Report: Pastor Parsons presented oral and written reports to the Council. He reported that attendance in December was on average around 90 congregants at worship each week except for Christmas Day. The Christmas Pageant was wonderful with beautiful singing by the children thanks to Kathleen Axen, Mary Fasano, Jennifer Herbert, Allison Struthers and the Sunday School teachers.

Greg Mania has stepped down as office administrator so Pastor Parsons has received contacts and is interviewing potential candidates for that position.

Pastor Parsons and the entire Church Council expressed their gratitude for Yonni Walker, Joe Militello and Barbara Gruenburg's service as members of the Council as they will be stepping down after this meeting.

Finance Report: Tammy Johnson, Treasurer, reported the Financial Report from July - November 2022 was average and noted that the offerings were \$2,500 above the November budget for the month.

Property: Eric Johnson donated and paid the electrician to fix the boiler so the Church will not need to replace the boiler for now.

Mr. Hassan, the contractor of Metro Construction, will be contacted to repair/ replace gutters, tighten the interior wall and fix the cracked spaulding of the brownstone wall.

The moving chair on the staircase in the Social Hall needs to be repaired and there should also be a procedure of usage and access to the key for the moving chairs. There was a suggestion to have a ramp at the front of the church where the front entrance is for easier access.

Youth: The Youth Ministry has a budget of \$1,200 which they can use for Youth excursions especially for people who need financial help and Lyla McAdams, the new Youth minister, should be told that there are funds to help students. Pastor Parsons suggested to Lyla to take the Youth group on trips around the City and do some meaningful service. Pastor Parsons treated the Youth group to lunch.

Unfinished/Continuing Business: Katherine Anderson and Tammy Johnson, the Nomination Committee, reported that Jolynn Johnson along with Laura Gruenburg, Jodi Cook and Lynda Anderson are willing to join the Council so they will be nominated along with Katherine Anderson, who will be returning to Council, at the Annual Congregational Meeting on February 5, 2023. We discussed having a Youth representative on the Council but, unfortunately, they would not be able to vote according to our Constitution. However, we can have a Youth volunteer to be a reader during worship service.

New Business: What can we do to have an outreach program for veterans/homeless? Suggestions of areas to look into were: donation of personal items, liaison with a larger group that provides service, and research resources of veterans/homeless. Anne Voorhes, Pastor Parsons and Fran Onne-Fong volunteered to look into possibilities.

Allison Struthers informed the Council about Church Clarity which is a directory of churches by zip code that welcome LGBTQ+, women in leadership positions, all races, cultures and traditions, and is a member of ELCA. Allison would like to update the old photo that currently exists and Pastor Parsons will update a welcoming statement and update the website. There should be a photo of Council members taken in person during the Annual Congregational Meeting coming up. It was suggested that all members and families take their own photos for the new Church Directory and we will purchase a directory template with a printing option to make an updated Church Directory.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 PM with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting: The next regular meeting of the Council is scheduled for 7:30 PM on Tuesday, February 7, 2023. The Annual Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, February 5th, 2023.

Submitted by:

Fran Onne-Fong