

St. John-St. Matthew-Emanuel Lutheran Church

Virtual Council Meeting on Zoom – Tuesday, May 9, 2023

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

A quorum was present

Excused Absence: Tammy Johnson, Lynda Anderson.

Also Present: Deacon Eric Johnson.

Prayer: Opening prayer was led by Pr. David Parsons.

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 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 April 11, 2023 as presented.

Reports:

Pastor's Report: Pastor Parsons presented written and oral reports that attendance is still doing well and that there are 20-40 people who attend worship online who might not otherwise be able to be a part of the life of our congregation. Pr. David Parson, Deacons Nadine Cordez and Eric Johnson attended the annual Synod Assembly of the Metropolitan New York Synod meeting in Melville, Long Island. There was significant tension around a congregation that desired to disaffiliate from our Synod and denomination, however, they had not followed any of the protocols for doing so.

The Budget Committee met and put together a budget for fiscal year 2024 which we will discuss at our next Council Meeting. The document that we approve will be recommended for adoption by the entire congregation on Sunday, June 18, 2023.

Finance Report: Tammy Johnson, Treasurer, had an excused absence but sent the Financial Report for January-March 2023. We noted that our actual revenues were under our month-to-date budget but our year- to-date revenues were above the budget.

Property Report: Lynda Anderson has three names of companies to get bids from for the LGBTQ+ banner and flagpole. Funds will be raised from the congregation for the banner and the flagpole.

Interior wall of the sanctuary needs to be repaired because the gutter sits on top of the wall and drains into it damaging it. Deacon Eric Johnson, Building committee member, said it needs to be repaired properly, will need scaffolding and be very expensive.

Social Ministry: A couple of families were interested in what we do in our social ministry and Pr. Parsons opened a discussion for thoughts and suggestions. Deb Maltby reported that St. JME may be hosting ESL classes for 6 weeks this summer. Currently, the ESL classes are being given at PS 124 but they will not be able to continue there in the summer. Jodi Cook, who organizes and refers people in need for local free fridges and purple pantry locations and does community service, has connections in social media and offered her help with her insight and experience. One suggestion was to invite different organizations to set-up information stations here at St JME on the Second Sunday of September, ELCA God's Hand Work Day, and have a social ministry day after worship. A tentative date of September 10, 2023 was suggested. The use of St JME's QR code that day would make it easier for people to contribute.

Unfinished/Continuing Business: The ramp for the front of the church would use up half of the outdoor plaza and half the staircase. Katherine Anderson will do more research on metal ramps because having the ramp would open up our church to more people and make them feel more welcome than using the side entrance ramp.

New Business: Anne Voorhies brought up concerns by someone about not having enough traditional hymns during the holidays we celebrate, however, on further review, the Council did not see any issue. A suggestion was made to use a QR code and an online link on our website for members of the church to volunteer to be readers, assistants, to donate to the flower/coffee hour fund or to answer any questions, concerns or to offer suggestions.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 PM with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting: The next regular meeting of the Council is scheduled for 7:30 PM on Tuesday, June 13, 2023.

Submitted by: Fran Onne-Fong