

St. John-St. Matthew-Emanuel Lutheran Church

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

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

A quorum was present

Excused Absence: Jodi Cook, Deborah Maltby, Katherine Anderson, Lynda Anderson.

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 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 September 12, 2023 as presented.

Reports:

Pastor's Report: Pastor Parsons presented an oral report that a client at the Senior Center slipped and fell in April 2023 and she, recently, made a complaint through her lawyer. She claimed that the Pastor and the Director of the Senior Center were notified at the time but they were not until recently, when her lawyer contacted Pastor Parsons. Pastor Parsons has checked and notified our building insurance company.

Pastor Parsons also reported that we had a nice Blessing of the Animals service with a substitute organist even though there was a smaller congregation in attendance. The attendance for Columbus Day/Indigenous Day weekend was about 70 members in worship and online.

Finance Report: Tammy Johnson, Treasurer, presented the Revenues & Expenses for July 2022 through August 2023 and noted that we spent more than what we budgeted for or had in the St. JME's checking account. The Expenses were over \$31,900 and the Income was almost \$19,000. She noted that we need to raise more money and begin our stewardship talks during worship right away. In the search for a bookkeeper, Pastor Parsons will ask around at the Bishops Retreat for any recommendations of a possible bookkeeper.

Property Report: Pastor Parsons reported that he spoke with Eric Johnson, Property Committee member, and Jodi Cook, Council member, but everything is in a holding pattern because Jodi has been away. She will be looking into her connections in the construction industry for answers.

Stewardship: There were reports of electronically generated checks to the Church that were not cashed and sent back to the contributing members. Andrew Kjoller, Vice President and financial officer, will look into the issue and follow up on it. Everyone agreed that we need to call for stewardship.

Unfinished/Continuing Business: The Koinonia Retreat scheduled for the weekend of November 3-5, 2023 has mainly adult members joining the retreat, not families with children.

The Christmas Tree Sale poster needs to be put on our new website and signs to advertise it should be put on the fencing in front of the church and on the corners of 5th and 6th Avenues before the sale. We need to post the sale on social media - i.e. 5th Ave Instagram, Park Slope Parent Group and any other local social media sites. Zelle and the QR Code to Faithstreet should be linked to Google so that people will be able to make a payment through our QR Code posted the day of the sale on Saturday, December 9, 2023. Allison Struthers will look into how we can make it all happen.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM with the Lord's Prayer.

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

Submitted by:

Fran Onne-Fong