

St. John-St. Matthew-Emanuel Lutheran Church

Virtual Council Meeting on Zoom – Tuesday, September 12, 2023

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

A quorum was present

Excused Absence: Andrew Kjoller.

Absent: Laura Gruenburg.

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 PM

Secretary: Fran Onne-Fong

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

Approval of Annual Congregation Budget Meeting Minutes: A motion was made, seconded and adopted to approve the minutes of the Annual Congregation Budget Meeting held on June 18, 2023 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 June 13, 2023 as amended.

Reports:

Pastor's Report: Pastor Parsons presented written and oral reports that during the summer months of June and July, the average Sunday attendance, including online members, was 45 people. Our new Sunday school program year got off to a good start with about 20 children and 70 adults in attendance for worship. Following worship, Jodi Cook organized and invited a number of community organizations to present information about volunteer opportunities for our social ministry. We are looking forward to the Koinonia Retreat November 3 - 5, 2023 and hope that there will be enough people attending.

Pastor Parsons expressed hope that our stewardship focus will enable us to fund our expense budget and the repairs needed to stop the leak in the sanctuary.

Finance Report: Tammy Johnson, Treasurer, presented the Revenues & Expenses for July 2022 through June 2023 and noted that we spent more than what we budgeted for. The July 2023 finance report did not include what was budgeted only the expenses so there was nothing to compare.

Property Report: Eric Johnson, Property Committee, along with Pastor Parsons need to have the gutters and moldering interior wall in the sanctuary looked at, cost assessed and repaired because the water damage is continual everytime it rains. Jodi Cook volunteered to assess the damage and use her connections to construction crews to make sure the problem is fixed.

Stewardship: Because the church has a deficit of over \$40,000, we will need to transfer funds from our Fiduciary Trust account which we have done repeatedly throughout the years and in order to conserve a sufficient amount in the investment account, we need to increase our stewardship donations. The reasons we have gone over budget are all necessary because of basement flooding and building and roof maintenance and repairs.

If we received \$500 more a week in contributions, we would meet the deficit. Marc Youngblood, Andrew Kjoller and Lynda Andersen volunteered to prepare a presentation for stewardship during worship. There was a suggestion to build into the Church budget a Building Maintenance & Repair budget rather than dealing with them on an emergency basis.

Youth Ministry: There are potentially 7-9 youths going to the Youth Gathering in New Orleans next summer 2024. Adults, who will support and travel with the youth, will be Eric Johnson, Lyla McAdams and Pastor Parsons.

Unfinished/Continuing Business: If we use the existing banners and flagpole, we could, possibly, add Black Lives Matter and the Pride colors to the backs of the Welcome to St JME banners and, hopefully, stay within our budget of \$2000 and keep them out of vandals reach.

We are continuing to look for a new Bookkeeper. We have also been reconstructing the St. JME website so that it is more user friendly.

The proposed aluminum Ramp for the front of the Church would be about \$15,000. Jodi Cook volunteered to help use her connections to find other possible bidders for the job.

New Business: Pastor Parsons allowed the ESL program for migrants to continue which will bring some income into the Church and he offered to keep the Blood Drive group on Fridays if they want to continue using the facility. The Christmas tree sale will be Saturday, December 9, 2023. It was suggested that Announcements for the good of

the Church should be sent to Emma Bellel to make the list in the weekly bulletin but that Pastor Parsons should invite people up to the microphone at worship to make any announcements not listed in the bulletin.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting: The next regular meeting of the Council is scheduled for 7:30 PM on Tuesday, October 10, 2023.

Submitted by:

Fran Onne-Fong