

St. John Lutheran
Congregation Council Meeting
August 22, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Pastor Lewton, President Tim Wegner, Darlene Pelton, Jon Tangen, Susan Moberg, Linda Splichal, Margaret Marcusen, Dan Pender, Cora Tormaschy and Sandra Moos

Absent: Pastor Natwick, Jerry Schwartz, Tasha Gartner, Jesse Kilwein, Loren Mathson and Pete Leno

Staff Attendees: None

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

Jon Tangen led us in devotions and discussion of the final chapter of the book “Fear of the Other” by William H. Willimon.

Pastor Lewton distributed a new book; Reclaiming the “L” Word by Kelly A. Fryer for study in the upcoming meetings.

Administrative Reports

Consent Agenda- President Wegner removed item 1b Financial Statement from the consent agenda. The Consent Agenda was approved by Council with no objections.

Review of most recent Financial Statement- No review was conducted in the absence of Tasha. Pastor Lewton noted that they are having a good year and there are no concerns at this time.

Trustee Report- Jon reported on the property east of the church. A concrete cross and access point has been poured by Russ Koeppen. The next phase is sprinklers, edging, gravel and grass. The committee will make decisions of the water and electrical source options. A Planting Committee has decided not to plant until Spring of 2018. Jon complimented the work of our custodian and ground keepers work.

Communications- Kaitlyn prepared cards for the Council to sign for the students of St. John’s that are attending college this fall. The Council was asked to pray for these students.

Pastoral Reports

Pastor Natwick was absent from the meeting, on vacation, he will return tomorrow.

Pastor Lewton reported that the staff will travel to Badlands Bible Camp for a Semi-annual Retreat. She has started daily meetings, called 5-minute meetings that happen first thing every morning with the staff present to discuss each other’s needs for the day. She also conducts weekly meetings that are about 30 minutes in duration and monthly meetings that concentrates on programming, vision and strategic planning. Pastor Lewton expressed her gratitude for the week of vacation and 2 Sundays off that she took last week. Operation Christmas Child will no longer be a program at our church. Jodeen will communicate with Samaritan’s Purse of this decision.

Legacy of Faith Campaign- as of August 9th a total of \$184,389 has been expended on the property, leaving a balance of \$40,611 to landscape. The Campaign has raised \$326,652 in pledges with \$246,142 of that has been satisfied to date. The Campaign will be included on this year’s Pledge Card.

St. John policies- The policies were revised by the Policy Committee; Linda Splichal, Jon Tangen, Cora Tormaschy, Pastor Natwick and Pastor Lewton. Linda explained the changes. Weddings; the language was changed to omit the genders of the couple and the fees were updated. Added was the request of a possible honorarium to the Trust Fund. Alcohol; will not be allowed on the property. Safe Environment Policy; was added to create a safe place to worship, work and visit. This policy prohibits weapons on the property except that of a law enforcement officer. Council reviewed the policies prior to the meeting. Changes requested were that the formatting be corrected and a few other corrections made. Once changed the policies will be presented to the Council for approval. Susan Moberg suggested that the policies are available on the website once approved.

Job Descriptions- Council reviewed the Revised Job Descriptions prior to the meeting. Lisa explained that the changes were mostly formatting and consistency. Margaret Marcusen made a motion to accept the Revised Job Descriptions with a change to the Communications Director Description from a Full-time position to a Part time Position. This motion was seconded by Darlene Pelton. Motion carried.

Updated Sound System- Tricorne Audio submitted an estimate to update the sound system in the sanctuary. Dan Pender made a motion to spend \$29,930 as quoted for the system. \$20,000 will come from the Trust Fund's Facilities line item and the balance of \$9,930 to be borrowed from the Dedicated line for Building Fund, line 1026. This amount will be repaid next year to line 1026 from the Trust Fund Facilities fund. The motion was seconded by Linda Splichal. Motion carried.

Church Logo- Sonnie Otto will be assigned to come up with ideas.

New Business

Staff Evaluations- Pastor Lewton reported that all evaluations have been completed.

Meeting with David Anderson- On August 12th a meeting took place with David Anderson, a consultant that previously worked for Vibrant Faith Ministries. Pastor Lewton felt that he presented very helpful materials and advice and that it was a great use of our dedicated monies.

Strategic Planning Process- Pastor Lewton had a conversation with Steve Tangen on a Renewal Process for the Congregation which resulted in Steve volunteering to help develop a Strategic Plan and Timeline. Staff will work with him through meetings to accomplish their visions.

2018 Budget- The Budget Committee along with Pam and Amy will meet in early September to begin the process.

Wednesday Worship and Education- will change to include a 5:30-6:30 Meal; 6:00-6:30 Church School; 6:30-7:00 Family Worship and 7:00-8:00 Confirmation Classes. Wednesday is a very busy time in our building.

Thursday Worship Plans- will include changes that will target and welcome the younger generations.

Fall Stewardship Campaign- The campaign will be called Abundant and Free with Money. The Pledge Cards will change to require a General Category only, from this fund the Benevolence will be allocated. The Legacy of Faith Campaign will also be included on the Pledge Card.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 19th at 7:00 p.m., preceded by the Executive Committee at 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Sandra Moos, Council Recording Secretary