

October 13, 2015 Church Council meeting

Present: Dan Ziebell, Amanda Sabelko, Pastor Dana O'Brien, Pastor Randy Fett, Dennis Foster, Roger Carlsen, Tim Tjosaas, Lindsay Colwell, Carol Cady, Deb Smith, Jay Harris and Wayne Hendrickson

Absent: Adam Richards and Bill Thornburg

The meeting was called to order by President Dennis Foster at 7PM.

Input was asked for in regards to the "vision council" model that was presented on October 6th by Pastor Vern Christopherson from Zumbro Lutheran in Rochester. Comments provided were that this was a good direction to work towards and that we should continue to work towards and strive for a more vision lead council.

The agenda was reviewed and a finance item was added. Motion by Jay / second by Deb to approve. Carried.

Devotions were provided led by Dennis – "travel light" was the theme.

Pastor Randy provided insights and thoughts on leadership. We went through the next chapter in our book study from "Tattoos on the Heart".

The September meeting minutes were reviewed. Motion by Tim / second by Deb to approve as presented. Carried.

Council assistance was discussed for our chosen Sunday. We will be switching up to the third Sunday for our group. Breakfasts were discussed – with the Creation Kids Breakfast this past Sunday we will forego a 3rd Sunday breakfast for October. Council will plan for breakfasts in November and December unless another group wishes to pursue. It was noted that we could utilize Thrivent Action Team dollars if we were to focus on a specific need.

Financial Report:

Financials were presented by Jay. We have borrowed from Home Federal \$35,000 thus far this year. Compared to 2014 we are about \$22,000 off pace. A list of unexpected expenses were provided (increase in sick leave costs, an extra \$850 per month in electrical bills, \$200 per month in insurance and a higher than expected increase in 2015 Portico benefit costs). Jay also provided a breakdown on compensation for 2014, 2015 proposed and 2015 actual year to date. Currently our compensation expense is trending as expected with the year end numbers expected to be right in line with the budgeted compensation total. It was noted our biggest issue is with income at this point. Motion made by Jay / seconded by Deb. Carried.

Jay and Deb provided an update on the audit recommendations from last month. Jay also provided a list of all account and signature holders for the bank accounts. The following was presented as signors and duly noted here below:

St. John's General Checking	Adam Richards Deborah Smith Dennis Foster Jay Harris
St. John's Dedicated Funds	Adam Richards Deborah Smith Dennis Foster Jay Harris
St. John's WELCA	Arlene Draeger Kay Hodge Ronda Shubert
St. John's Lutefisk Supper	Gloria Gilbertson Margaret Albright Renee Solberg Shelley Gustafson
St. John's Adult Fellowship	Barbara Pike Carole Baker
St. John's Rachel Sunshine Fund	Colleen Rasmussen Jane Struthers Laura Haskins
Creation Kids Preschool	Peter Foley Kimberly Johnson Peggy Moran
Creation Kids Preschool (savings)	Peter Foley Phyllis Sands
Creation Kids Preschool (savings)	Peter Foley Phyllis Sands
St. John's Lutheran Foundation	Fred Asche Ronald Albright
St. John's Lutheran Foundation (savings)	Fred Asche Ron Albright
Safety Deposit Box	Dennis Foster Jay Harris Deborah Smith Adam Richards

Motion made by Jay / seconded by Deb to approve the financial reports. Carried.

Staff reports were presented as written. Commission reports were presented as written.

Old Business:

The Summer Worship service evaluation/survey results were provided preliminarily. 169 total results (102 were received by paper, 67 online). The vast majority preferred the one service through the summer and the mix of music. Additional review will be provided and a plan presented for summer 2016 at a later date.

Preliminary results from the Fall Stewardship campaign were presented. To date for 2016 127 pledges were provided for an amount of \$263,622 with pledges continuing to come in. 2015 info was 171 total pledges with approximately \$338,000.

A narrative budget will be worked on for 2016 to provide more information on how the budget is divided up and where the funds flow to throughout our programs.

An update on the membership cards was provided. 1140 cards were mailed out with 294 – 300 returned or phone calls to the office providing their updated info (thus the range). A plan is being derived to follow up with as many as possible of the remaining 800 plus cards.

New Business:

No transfers this month.

The annual meeting and timing of it was discussed. Motion was made by Jay, seconded by Carol to set the meeting for Wednesday, January 20th at after the 6:30PM worship. Motion was carried. The timing of the required mailing was discussed. The mailing will need to be sent out on December 28th to ensure proper delivery per the Church Constitution.

The annual Christmas gathering of staff and council (plus spouse, significant others or friends) was planned for Sunday, December 6th from 5:30 – 7:30PM.

An update on the Church Personnel Handbook was provided; official action was tabled in order to see the revisions.

Nominating Committee will first meet on Sunday, October 18th at 9AM.

The next council meeting will be Tuesday, November 10th at 7PM with a reminder that this is the main time for us to review and prepare the 2016 income and expenses for St. John's. It was asked that all members review the budget info prior to the meeting.

Motion was made by Dan to adjourn / seconded by Deb. Carried.

The Lord's Prayer was said to conclude the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Tjosaas (acting Secretary)