

## September 2018 Council Minutes

St. John's council met on Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the Conference Room. Present members included Jen, Marlo, Kim, Sharyn, Jon, Dan, Kyle, Joel, and Kelly. Deacon Amanda, and Lindsay were also present. Al and Pastor John were absent.

### **1. Call to Order**

Jen called the meeting to order at 7:03. There were no special guests at the meeting. Jen shared mail she received from the Synod recognizing St. John's Mission Support in the amount of \$20,000 in 2017; a Congregational Giving Statement from Good Earth Village in the amount of \$379 from the Congregation, and \$375 from WELCA over the last three years; information from Luther Seminary offering tuition scholarships up to 100%; a donation request from Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Florida; and information from a consultant offering free service to offer enhancements and signage ideas to make the church more welcoming to newcomers.

### **2. Approval of Agenda**

Jon made a motion to approve the agenda. Sharyn seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **3. Devotions**

Sharyn led devotions by praying for the victims, their families, and first responders of September 11, 2001.

### **4. Reports**

a) *Previous meeting minutes* – There was a minor correction to the diction on the minutes in August's financial reporting (line #98030 on the Dedicated Income and Expense Statement) . Marlo made a motion to approve the August meeting minutes. Jon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

b) *Discuss staff and commissions reports* –

*Divi* was clarified as the name of the WordPress theme used on the website and referenced in the Media Commission's report.

In the Worship and Music Commission's report, it was noted that Sept 16<sup>th</sup> will begin with 8:00 service having traditional music, and 10:15 service will have a blended service music offering. Wednesday music programming was discussed showing a reduction in the number of paid hours and increasing the number of volunteer hours.

OASIS meals are getting planned out for the year. The first week (Sept 19<sup>th</sup>), Club 56 will prepare pizzas. The sign up is posted on the website. Jen has provided a list of helpers and will also discuss at the upcoming All-Commission meeting.

Food For Friends can drop flyers in backpacks.

Kim will work with Cindy Franke on the Memorials Wish Book and will remove the *Youth and Family College Scholarship* line due to low demand, and the fact that there is a redundancy with the Foundation offering a similar opportunity should a need arise.

Jen emailed Properties commission to find out the cost and how to pay for the fridge cooling unit and garbage disposal repair.

## 5. Financials

- a) *Summary of the past month's financials* – Kim reviewed August financial reports. The August balance statement shows the checking account to be \$-12,000. Kim stressed the importance of reducing dedicated funds and moving money into the general fund in order to better manage cash flow. This will be discussed in the All-Commission meeting. As giving will likely increase in September and through the end of the year, the goal is to have a better handle on the cash flow and to be able to make a debt payment. Council briefly discussed that it has been several years since St. John's has had a formal Stewardship Campaign. Lindsay has a local contact with Luther Seminary who may be willing to speak to the congregation.
- b) *Bucket campaign* – As of August 31st, total funds raised and granted to the bucket campaign total \$22,000, which should capture the estimate of repairs, or be very close. This also included replacing a valve and related water treatment to the system. Council thanks members for their diligent giving to repair this system.

## 6. Old Business

- a) *Call Committee Update* – Al was absent due to Call Committee interviewing a potential candidate.
- b) *Council Visibility* – Joel has nothing new to report at this time.
- c) *E-Giving* – Kim discussed Tithe.ly which offers an app on the phone/computer, along with an option for givers to cover fees. It's flexible to change giving throughout the year. Giving can also be done through texting, and users have the option to see their giving to-date. Joel suggested having the Media Commission evaluate integration with Church Management software. Kim also suggested the Mission and Outreach be involved. Shortly following the meeting, Kim also addressed the e-giving platform options as they also relate to church management software, as there are many important moving parts to the system that affect multiple areas of the church.
- d) *All-Commission Meeting* – Jen shared a tentative agenda for the upcoming All-Commission meeting. Council members will serve lunch, will chip in on donation to cover food cost, and should bring bars/cookies. Al and Joel will lead the cooking. Amanda will create a sign-up.
- e) *Roundtable Discussion* – Amanda discussed future plans for her sabbatical, which will likely take place in 2020 after a new lead pastor is installed and programming is established and underway. Lindsay shared an Edu-Worship opportunity that is being offered on Sept 20<sup>th</sup> at Our Savior's Lutheran in Rochester.

## 7. New Business

- a) *Insurance* – Property insurance for 2018 will need to be contracted in fourth quarter. Kelly will represent the Executive Team, and Jon will also represent Council. Kelly will obtain the current policy and will reach out to Daryl Melquist from Properties to form a task force to solicit bids from insurance companies.
- b) *Council Retreat* – Jen asked Council members to think about dates and ideas for an overnight council retreat, likely to take place in February and March.

## **8. God Sightings**

Council and staff shared God sightings they had recently witnessed.

## **9. Motion to Adjourn**

Dan made a motion to adjourn. Jon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## **10. Lord's Prayer**

Council closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

## **11. Upcoming events/meetings**

Next council meeting is Tuesday, October 9, 2018 7:00 pm in the Conference Room. All-Commission meeting Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> 11:30-2:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

October devotions will be led by Dan. Marlo will be absent.

Parking lot: Consider increasing Mission Support to ELCA in the future

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Utesch