

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
 Minutes of the Congregation Council Meeting – March 9, 2015

Present: Mark Ferg Linda Peterson Louise Stevens
 Tammy Jacobs Pr. George Schneider Jeff Stoudt
 Sue Nonemaker Stacey Peterson Betty Kelley
 Cathy Taylor Steve Founds John Wachter
 Barb Spink R .J. Myers

Additional Attendees: Pat O’Brien, Donald Myers.

<i>TOPIC</i>	<i>DISCUSSION</i>	<i>RESULTS/FOLLOW-UP</i>
Opening Prayer	Pastor led us in prayer to begin the meeting.	
CHILD PROTECTION POLICY	Pat O’Brien provided Church Council with an overview of the current process and new initiatives that PA Act 153 of 2014 brings with it.	Follow up to be provided during New Business Below.
ETHNOGRAPHIC SURVEY RESULTS	Seminarian Donald Myers led the council through the results of a survey he conducted, which sought to divulge answers to faith and community of faith questions about the ethnicity of the congregation of SJLCH.	The congregational council is considering utilizing the survey results as a way to frame the council retreat to be held in August.
APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES, CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, AND CORRESPONDENCE	The minutes of the Congregational Council Meeting of Feb. 9 th 2015 were reviewed. During review Pastor recommended that the minutes be amended to include John Wachter as Technology Committee liaison and amend the minutes to reflect the change. Louise Stevens seconded. Motion Carried. Correspondence was received from Pastor Robert Hoover, Jr. the representative of the ELCA’s Malaria Fund. He thanked the congregation for its contribution.	Pastor Schneider made a motion to accept the minutes as presented and amended. Sue N. seconded. Motion Carried
PASTOR’S REPORT	Pastor’s report for February was reviewed. He noted that while average attendance during the month of Feb. increased, total attendance declined during the same time due to a Church closing. In addition, he highlighted the Conference Blood Drive, the prospects of churches who might attend the Faith Forming Faith event, and the possibility of increased collaboration with Christ Lutheran Church as a result of their recent completion of a called pastor to fill their vacancy.	John W. made a motion to approve the Pastor’s report as submitted. Linda P. seconded. Motion Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

<i>TOPIC</i>	<i>DISCUSSION</i>	<i>RESULTS/FOLLOW-UP</i>
MUSIC MINISTRY REPORT	Pastor gave a verbal report, which had been provided as part of the Pastor’s report. He stated that the hope is that the job position will be announced shortly and that the goal is to have a music/church musician under contract by June.	

FAITH AND FONT TRAINING EVENT	Pastor provided more details to the Faith Forming Faith event being held in April 2015. He has been in conversation with four other congregations who are willing to attend the event. While premature to say for sure, it would appear that presently STJLCH would be responsible to defray the cost of the event in the amount of \$1800 to \$3000.	
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COMMITTEE REPORTS

<i>TOPIC</i>	<i>DISCUSSION</i>	<i>RESULTS/FOLLOW-UP</i>
Ministry with Youth, Worship & Music	Copies of the Ministry with Youth Committee report and a verbal Worship & Music report were provided.	Jeff S. made a motion to approve the reports as presented. Steve F. seconded. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

<i>TOPIC</i>	<i>DISCUSSION</i>	<i>RESULTS/FOLLOW-UP</i>
CHILD PROTECTION POLICY	<p>Pastor made the suggestion that a council member take the lead in aligning the current Child Protection Policy with the proposed Child Protection Policy. He suggested ensuring that the new Child protection policy reflect these items and in the following ways:</p> <p>Add an affidavit of compliance to the forms section for our ecumenical VBS partners,</p> <p>Change the document to reflect the fact that non-residents of Pennsylvania AND residents who have not maintained residency for 10 continuous years require the FBI fingerprint clearance,</p> <p>Change the document to reflect the fact that we CAN accept clearances done for other organization provided that we see the original and maintain a photocopy of the original with documentation indicating that we did see the original(s), and</p> <p>Change the document to mandate completion of the 3 hour on-line training as provided by the University of Pittsburgh.</p>	Louise S. volunteered to steer the draft.
SYNOD ASSEMBLY	Synod Assembly will be held at Messiah College, Grantham, PA from June 5 th through the 7 th . This year will see a departure from the usual format with a return to celebrate Eucharist on Sunday. Linda Peterson and Sue Nonemaker as alternate volunteered to attend as STJLCH representatives.	The item will be revisited next month under Old Business.
COUNCIL RETREAT	The Council Retreat has been tentatively set for August 7 th and 8 th at Mark Ferg's home. The suggestion was made to work with the Ethnographic Survey results Donald Myers presented to council as a possible theme.	Pastor Schneider and Jeff S. to provide resources for next month's council meeting.
Listening Post	February 22nd – Snow Emergency Day- Church cancelled. 8:00 AM: 10:30 AM:	

GOOD OF THE ORDER

<i>TOPIC</i>	<i>DISCUSSION</i>	<i>RESULTS/FOLLOW-UP</i>
Listening Post	March 15th 8:00 a.m. Mark F. 10:30 a.m. Cathy T.	
CLOSING	Next meeting: April 13th, 7:00 p.m.	Meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct Evangelism, Social Ministry, Stewardship/Finance
Feb, May, Aug, Nov Christian Education, Property, Mutual Ministry
Mar, Jun, Sept, Dec Worship & Music, Ministry with Youth, Technology