



August 17, 2025

Council Members Present: Rita Blomster, Chris Dawson, Linda Eytcheson, Gary Ely-Grisham, Andrew Ford, Jo Hoffmeier, Bridget Malme, Dan Maloney, Karen Olson, Joan Slabaugh, Pastor Frank Espegren

Directors Present: Pastor Jon Haug, Catherine Slabaugh, Kat Thorp

Guests Present: Lynne Gilbertson

1. Call to order: 6:40 p.m., Andrew Ford

2. Recognition of Pr. Frank's Final Council Meeting

- a. Moved by Andrew Ford, seconded by Jo Hoffmeier, approved unanimously.*
- b. Gift to Pastor Frank: "I ABSTAIN"

3. Opening Devotion: Pr. Frank Espegren

- a. Anticipation on the next stage of life.

4. Approval of Minutes from June Council Meeting

- a. Moved by Chris Dawson, seconded by Dan Maloney, approved unanimously.*

5. Reports and Presentations (no action)

a. Staff Reports

i. Senior Pastor, Pastor Frank Espegren

1. 1721 L Street Rental Property

- a. Additional information requested of candidates, need to move quickly on this issue.
- b. Executive Committee authorized to move forward and any decision can be ratified by the full Council at the following meeting.

2. Impact of unhoused on St. John's property. Neighbors are complaining of increased drug use and other issues. Time for reassessment of how we provide Direct Services and its impact on staff, volunteers, and midtown neighbors.

- a. Consultation with Pr. Amy Kienzle
- b. Directors and discernment team will need to consider options.

ii. Youth and Family Ministries, Pastor Jon Haug

1. Abiding Presence

- a. Initial meeting held, interest shown. Next steps involve talking to the parents of the youth who will engage in this ministry.
- b. Not yet ready for recommendation.

iii. Director of Communications, Catherine Slabaugh

1. Pastor Frank Retirement Party: please sign up and bring cookies.
- iv. Administration, Kat Thorp
 1. As submitted
- b. Executive Committee, Andrew Ford
 - i. Pr. Paul Baglyos, our Bridge Pastor, will arrive the first weekend of October. Introduction letter sent to congregation. Pr. Paul will have Zoom meetings with the Council and the Stewardship Committee.
 - ii. Further discussion of the preaching schedule and congregational care.
 - iii. Need to take official action to provide Pr. Jon with temporary Sr. Pastor authority in the interim (see action items below).
- c. Call Committee, Chris Dawson
 - i. Have received the first slate of candidates from the Synod. Conducting interviews with the candidates and their references in August, with ongoing discernment. Call Committee in close communication with the Synod.
- d. Emergency Plan, Linda Eytcheson
 - i. Recent event at Sunday service highlights need for a review and update of our emergency plan.
 - ii. There will need to be training and communication to greeters, ushers, ministry teams, and congregants.
 - iii. Gary Ely-Grisham will serve as council liaison and task force commissioned at the next Council meeting.
- e. Calling Campaign, Joan Slabaug and Jo Hoffmeier
 - i. Update on Council member's connections. Realm will need to be cleaned up.

6. Action Items

- a. Temporary Sr. Pastor Authority: Upon the retirement of the Senior Pastor and until the installation of a Bridge Pastor, the Congregation Council authorizes Pastor Jon Haug, Associate Pastor, to exercise all authority of the Senior Pastor, pursuant to the Constitution and By-Laws of St. John's Lutheran Church.
 - i. Moved by Chris Dawson, seconded by Jo Hoffmeier; approved unanimously.*

7. Adjournment, 8:08 pm

*Pastor Frank Espegren abstained.

Respectfully submitted:

Chris Dawson, Secretary