

**ST. MARK’S LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES - FEBRUARY 29, 2024**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Attendance Record..... 2

Meeting Minutes..... 3

Chair’s Report..... 5

Pastor’s Report..... 6

Attendance Record

Date: February 29, 2024	Location: St. Mark's Church
Time Started: 19:03	Time Ended: 20:20

Invited	Jan 25	Feb 29										
Nathan Cook	P	P										
Signe Jewett (C)	P	P										
Lynda Joyal (T)	E	E										
Tom Lewis	P	P										
Jodi Pappel-Reider	P	E										
Cole Parsons (VC)	P	P										
Inga Skundberg (S)	P	P										
Kris Wegert	P	E										
Pastor Zsófi (exofficio)	P	P										
VACANT												
	Guests											

Meeting Minutes

- 1) Opening Devotions
- 2) Approval of Agenda
MSC CC-2024-09 That the Agenda be approved.
- 3) Approval of Minutes
MSC CC-2024-10 That the Minutes of Council Meeting dated January 25, 2024 be approved.

MSC CC-2024-11 That the Minutes of Special Council Meeting dated February 8, 2024 be approved.

- 4) Presentation with MNO Synod - Laid over to March 21, 2024 Council Meeting
- 5) Finance Update
During deliberation of the matter, it was advised that the bank account is in good standing and the church insurance renewal had been submitted. Discussion occurred regarding the importance of adhering to the ELCIC's Policy for Protection of Children, Youth and Other Vulnerable People. Pastor confirmed that we are current from a staff perspective but not from a volunteer perspective.

It was requested that the Finance Committee consider the following: whether it is feasible for Anago Cleaners to PAD (pre-authorized debit) St. Marks; and, as the Office Administrator does not have a St. Mark's credit card, is there a better way for the Office Administrator to pay for things (eg, postage for mailing out income tax receipts) rather than paying it personally out of pocket and subsequently being reimbursed later.

- 6) Continuing Business
 - a) Synod Convention Representation May 24-26, 2024 - The deadline for registration is March 22, 2024 so we will need to approve the candidates and alternates at the next meeting of Council on March 21, 2024.
- 7) Reports
 - a) Chair - Reviewed
 - b) Pastor - Reviewed
During discussion of the report, it was advised that the Youth and Young Adult Committee has met and it went very well under the leadership of the Gargols.
- 8) Committees
 - a) Children's Ministry - No Report

9) New Business

a) Re-appoint Financial Secretary

MSC CC-2024-12 That Verle-Ann Irvine be re-appointed Financial Secretary.

b) Special Request regarding sponsorship support in principle for Syrian Refugee family
During discussion of the matter, Council requested Rhonda Lorch be invited to the March 21, 2024 Council meeting to explain the next steps required to make the sponsorship possible, such as seeking funding and pledges, and to advise any possible liability issues.

MSC CC-2024-13 That St. Mark's Lutheran Church support in principle the private refugee sponsorship of Syrian refugee Abdulaziz Magribi and his family.

c) Discussion of AGM Agenda

d) Council and Committee Chair Photos

It was suggested that photos be posted on a board in the church and/or in the E-news in addition to the vision, mission and values of St. Mark's so the congregation can put a face to the various members of the congregation who have been delegated general oversight of the life and activities of the congregation.

Adjournment

CHAIR REPORT FEBRUARY 29, 2024

With Roberts resignation and last day of work January 30, council agreed to look at contracting the custodial care to a cleaning service. I set out to find three estimates but only heard back from two that I had contacted. Pastor Zsofi and I met with two representatives who returned quotes within the week. Both Pastor and I were impressed with Anago Cleaning system rep Rafiq so made the recommendation to sign with them. PZ and Perry met with the immediate site manager Raf on Feb 13 and the first cleaning was on the 16th. Melissa reported that she was here when they were working and she was impressed with the way they worked.

John has been well into his second month as office Administrator and seems to have adapted to the role very quickly.

The AGM will be coming up very shortly. Nominations Committee has been contacting potential candidates for council. I would encourage all of council to promote involvement in the church functioning. We have a concerning deficit of manpower in all aspects of activity and council will need to assess the current mode of functioning and how it will impact future planning.

ACTIONS TAKEN

Meeting with Anago Cleaning

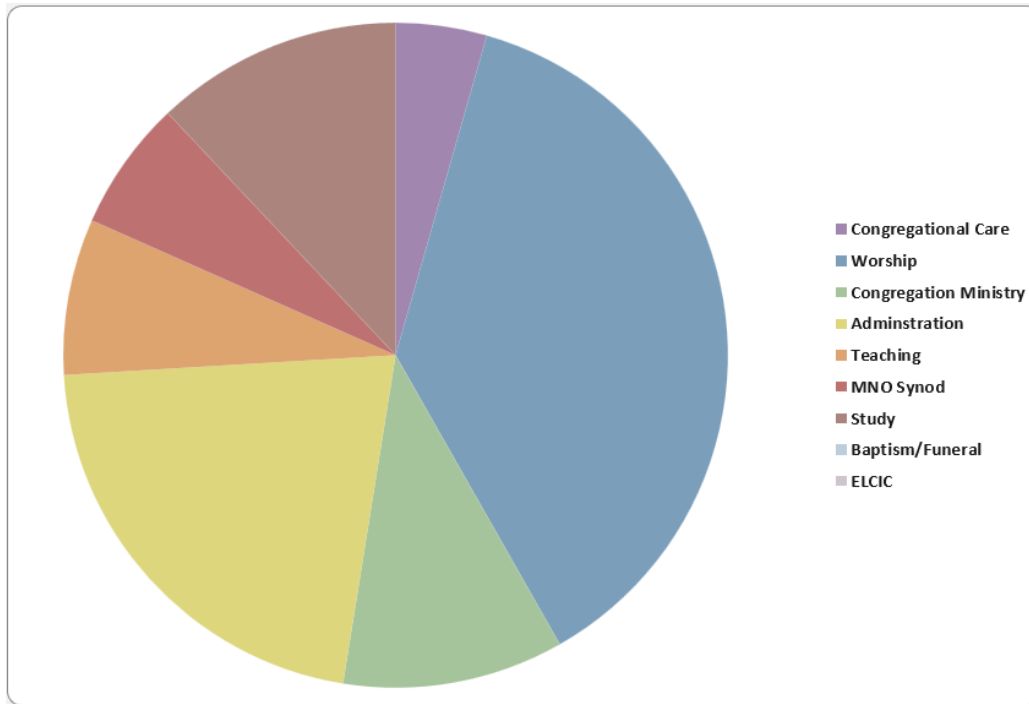
Meeting with Green Cleaning Systems

Meeting with Pastor to review agenda

Pastor's Report – January 2024 Rev. Zsófi Schmiedge

TLDR; [Too Long Didn't Read] version: January was a little slower, and suddenly February sped up exponentially. There are always things to do and I just keep ticking along.

JANUARY



Where've We Been

Ministries of St Marks – RAP: Book Study well attended with good conversation; Worship for Lent is well in hand, and the shared ministry opportunity with Messiah Lutheran seems to be well received by both congregations. I have heard positive reviews from those who are attending the Adult Education's Saturday Morning Group, led by Rev. Long, and I am happy that it comes together well.

Office Management & Staff – John was hired and began working in January. We had a Staff Meeting in Jan for all the staff to meet John and to touch base on program and ministry areas. Sadly, our Custodian left at the end of the month, and I joined with Signe in looking through the possible hiring options for a new custodian.

Pastoral Care – The post-Christmas time has been a good time of rest for myself and for the congregation, I feel that January afforded me the opportunity to connect with some parishioners in more comfortable settings, though I have had a few more encounters in grocery stores and shops lately. I usually attribute this to people feeling more comfortable with me, and also getting to know extended family members.

Wider Church – In January I was asked to join a new joint committee for the MNO and the Diocese of Rupertsland. It is a committee working on 2SLGBTQIA+ initiatives and policy in the Synod and the Diocese. While not all of the work is as glamorous as planning events, I do look forward to helping the wider church body develop a deeper awareness of inclusive language and understanding.

Personally – Thanks for Study Leave: Canmore was a wonderful time – educationally, professionally, and spiritually. I am grateful that I was able to get away for a little while to contemplate what God is calling out of me and how God is calling me into the work I continue to do with and for St Marks.

Where We Are

Ministries of St Marks – I'm delaying the intergenerational multiweek Lenten study about the dreaded **S-word*** idea until after Lent. I really want to encourage people to use the Barn Geese daily devotional resource. There are many opportunities throughout Lent for worship and prayer, and I don't want to overwhelm people. Confirmation program is nearly wrapped up for the winter term, and I expect that the pastors will meet in the spring to debrief the experience this year.

Office Management & Staff – I have completed the in-person portion of the Annual Reviews/Staff 1:1s and have now to finalize my reports for authorization from each staff member. Overall, I am confident in each staff person's self-awareness and desire to improve in growth areas identified. I am privileged to work with Wei-An, Haiden, and Melissa and honoured to have the time with each of them to encourage them and ask how I can best support them and their ministries with and for St Marks. With council approval, the Custodial work was contracted out and the office staff have all met members of our custodial team. Feedback from staff has been very positive on work and decorum.

Wider Church – I attended the Multifaith Forum for River Heights Faith Communities hosted by the riding's MLA. We were all invited to Parliament in March as special guests for a presentation about that meeting as well as a potential initiative of a rotating community-based nurse. I am intrigued by this idea, and I think St Mark's could benefit in providing space for the initiative. I will keep Council apprised of information as it comes. I was interviewed for the Canada Lutheran for the main article for the upcoming issue with a number of other people, then I was asked to pose for the cover photo. Graciously, John and Melissa both sat a photo session with me for the cover photo.

Where We're Going

Ministries of St Marks – March or April is when I am hoping to call together a meeting of all those interested in Children's Ministry to discuss movement forward and how we might best align family needs with St Mark's vision and mission. I am hoping to write an Easter letter for members of the congregation. And I am planning to attend a few committee meetings for year end insights over the next few months.

Office Management & Staff – I will be planning to lead the 90-day review of John's employment in mid-April. John has requested some time away in early April, and we discussed the possibility of needing that time as extra hours in the few weeks before the holidays. These would be used on Fridays to complete the extra worship services and the Bulletin of Reports. I have approved this use of time and have asked for detailed tracking and reporting. We have also been discussing summer hours and what that might look like. John is now maintaining a to-do list of office organization tasks: keys and filing have taken top spot. We also have earmarked the Parochial Report for early March. And the first few weeks of March will see the office managing the mass of Holy week services, as well as AGM report which will have to be ready around the same time. I anticipate that staff will be looking to take rest time in April.

Wider Church – There will be an Evening Prayer worship service at St Mark's on April 24th for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. This is being offered by queer leaders and invited allies of the MNO Synod and the Diocese of Rupertsland as well as invited queer leaders from our ecumenical partners in the area. This worship service has been offered twice before in an Anglican setting and this will be the first time in a Lutheran setting. Melissa and I are both assisting with the worship service, and there may also be an ask to use the hall for community building time after the worship service. Melissa is looking ahead to another Coffeehouse on the Pride Parade, and we are hoping to find a way to build some connections with the broader community for that event.

Personally – Right now my priority is all the preparation work for Holy Week and the first couple of weeks of Easter as well as guiding John through his first time with that and the AGM work that needs

doing. I anticipate that my more rigorous schedule through Lent will have caught up to me by then, so I am anticipating that I will be taking some time off mid-April.

STATISTICS

HR Reporting

SYNOD GUIDELINES		CURRENT PERIOD (Guidelines)	YEAR TO DATE (Guidelines)
Days of the Year	366	31	31
Workdays (5-day work week)	251	19 (22)	19 (22)
Days Off	104	08 (08)	08 (08)
Statutory Holidays	011	01 (01)	01 (01)
Vacation Days (includes days off + 2 rollover)	030	03	03
Study Days (includes days off)	014	--	--
Sick Leave	018	--	--

Congregational Reporting

<u>Baptism</u> – n/a ---	<u>Reception by Transfer,</u> <u>Confirmation/Affirmation</u> – n/a ---	<u>Death</u> – n/a ROMAN, Rudolf [February 28, 2024]
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Pastoral Acts(year to date)

Baptisms	00	Confirmations	00
Weddings	00	Funerals	00

Congregation Activities (year to date)

Worship Services	04 (04)	Communion Services	04 (04)
Baptismal Counselling	-- (--)	Wedding Counselling	-- (--)
Visitation/Family Prayer	03 (03)	Council Meetings	01 (01)
Meetings	04 (04)	"Home" Communions	01 (01)
Confirmation Classes	04 (04)	Other Events	01 (01)
Hospital Visits	03 (03)	Staff Meetings	01 (01)

Wider Church Responsibilities (year to date)

MNO Meetings/Events	02 (02)	Mentorship & Collegiality	02 (02)
Other Meetings/Events	02 (02)	MNO Synod Leadership Conference	--