**Advent Lutheran Church – Church Council Meeting – March 18, 2020 Minutes**

**Present – Voting (n=9)**: Pastor Danielle Miller, David Richards, Michael Hammett, Miriam Sitz Grebey, Deanne Walters, Jon Dohlin, Hans Kriefall, Blessing Tawengwa, Bree Vandenburg

**Present – Not Voting** **(n=1):** Abby Ferjak

**Not Present – Excused (n=2):** Damaris Maclean, Juan Minier

1. **Call to Order**

Pastor Danielle Miller opened the video conference meeting with a reading of the Beatitudes from the Gospel of Luke.

1. **Consent Agenda**

The Church Council accepted the consent agenda consisting of meeting minutes, staff reports, and financial statements.

* **Pastor’s Report** — Details pastoral concerns and provides updates about ministry, administrative, building, scheduling and other items.
* **Meeting Minutes** — Notes from the February Council meeting.
* **Financial Reports** — Year end, end of Feb

**Action** ***(Motioned, Seconded, Approved)*:** The Church Council voted to accept all items of the consent agenda as indicated above, pulling the Pastor’s Report for discussion, and pending modification to the Financial Reports.

1. **Strategic Discussions: Presentations, Feedback, and Actions**

**Pastor’s Report.**

Noting that currently the CDC has discussed no gatherings for 8 weeks, which puts us through Holy Week, Pastor Danielle opened a number of topics for discussion. How can we gather online? What does it mean for staff? Building? How do we connect with people who aren’t online?

Facebook Live was good: accessible for people who aren’t so tech savvy and for people who don’t have Facebook accounts; nice for community (comments, prayers, passing the peace, Facebook Friends who aren’t Advent members watching along).

Ideas for connection:

* Care Team: Pastor Danielle reports that there are about 20 people signed up to participate. Hoping the chain will be up and ready to go by end of week.
* Bolstering our Facebook community
* Small groups online, via Zoom?
* Connecting with people who have landlines only; can call in via Zoom

Pastor Danielle Miller reported that the only in-person ministry that is continuing is our Hunger Ministry. What happens if we are told to shelter in place? What protocols will we be required to put into place to protect guests and servers? Community Lunch plans to continue by distributing food in containers at the door. We’ve also been talking about how distribution would change for Food Pantry. Ministry leaders are meeting tomorrow. The Council affirmed its support for continuing these Ministries as long as safely possible.

**Action** ***(Motioned, Seconded, Approved)*:** The Church Council affirmed its support for continuing to engage in our in-person Food Ministries.

**Staff and Building.**

Most staff are working offsite. Space sharers are not using the church. Pastor Danielle Miller has been by to ensure that garbage has been emptied, heat has been turned down/off, no water is running, things are unplugged. The elevator has been turned off. Less and less is happening in the church building.

Pastor Danielle and team may test leading home-based worship this Sunday.

**Financial Planning.**

The Council agreed that it is prudent and realistic to put a pause on long-term financial planning.

The Council agreed to authorize Pastor Danielle Miller to access the safe and, joined on the phone or in person by a Counter, to count and then deposit the money that is in there.

**Action** ***(Motioned, Seconded, Approved)*:** The Church Council voted to authorize Pastor Danielle Miller to access the safe at the church as outlined above.

1. **Next Meeting**

The next Council meeting will take place via video chat on **Wednesday, April 1, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Adjournment — Closing Prayer.**

David Richards closed the meeting in prayer.

***Respectfully submitted by M.S. Grebey, 03/20/20***