**Advent Lutheran Church – Church Council Meeting – September 16, 2020 Minutes**

**Present – Voting (n=11)**: Pastor Danielle Miller, David Richards, Miriam Sitz Grebey, Deanne Walters, Jon Dohlin, Hans Kriefall, Damaris Maclean, Juan Minier, Blessing Tawengwa, Bree Vandenburg

**Present – Excused** **(n=1):** Michael Hammett

**Present – Not Voting** **(n=1):** Kevin Bowen, Rebekah Anderson

1. **Call to Order**

The Council broke up into small groups via Zoom to pray for one another.

1. **Consent Agenda**

The Church Council accepted the consent agenda, including:

* **Pastor’s Report**
* **Statement of Activities**
* **August Meeting Minutes**

**Action** ***(Motioned, Seconded, Approved)*:** The Church Council voted to accept all items of the consent agenda as indicated above.

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

**Affirmation of Goals (OKRs) for September through November.**

David Richards recapped the Missional Goals for fall 2020: 1) enhance online worship 2) simpler next steps 3) sustain food ministry 4) monthly check-ins with members.

David then outlined the Supporting Goals: 5) restart property conversation w/congregation 6) inspire giving 7) install new Council treasure.

**Action** ***(Motioned, Seconded, Approved)*:** The Church Council voted to approve the Missional and Supporting Goals for September and November.

Council Members each selected specific goals to pursue individually:

* + - 1. Enhance people’s Online Worship experience: Jon Dohlin, Miriam Sitz Grebey
      2. Provide simple next steps for people to grow their faith & relationships: Deanne Walters, Michael Hammett
      3. Sustain the 300% growth of our Food Ministry: Jon Dohlin, Blessing Tawengwa, Brelyn Vandenberg
      4. Care for our church community with monthly contact: Miriam Sitz Grebey, Hans Kriefall
      5. Restart our property conversation with the congregation: Damaris Maclean, Hans Kriefall, David Richards, Brelyn Vandenberg
      6. Inspire giving: Michael Hammett
      7. Install a new Council Treasurer: Damaris Maclean, Hans Kriefall, David Richards, Deanne Walters

**Spatial Plans.**

David Richards reported on the extremely productive and collaborative joint meeting of the Property and Financial Planning Committees. Property has looked at the church and put things into three buckets: urgent issues, lingering items, and aspirational goals. The meeting had consensus that development is not in our future, due to the economy and reality of New York City. So the question is, how do we become the best stewards of the church we have now and going forward?

Questions to consider:

* What is our new timeline to address Advent’s property needs?
  + The Joint Committees suggest that we introduce the topic to the congregation in October; prepare and update the congregation throughout the fall; then vote on items at January’s Annual Meeting, with projects potentially to begin in spring/summer 2021.

The Council affirmed this timeline.

* Which projects identified in the [Council presentation on property](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ARfpz9uWOiGnUHYozlobShLbHl_9rrTU/view?usp=sharing) should we prioritize?
  + The Property Committee offered priorities in the form of essential projects (roof/gutters, sidewalk/boiler room, fire risk), as well as items that are causing discomfort but not damage (AC, elevator, doors, permits/violations) and enhancements (sanctuary flooring/pews, sanctuary paint, signage, sound system, lighting, sanctuary entrance accessibility).
* What property items will the congregation vote on at the Annual Meeting? What still needs to be answered or prepared to answer this?
  + Produce list of possible voting items at the Annual Meeting. Produce 2nd list of information still needed to decide/finalize voting items.
* What should we communicate to the congregation in October, and how?
  + Outline communication plan, and people responsible for finishing & implementing it. (If there is not time for Q4, appoint 2 Council members to confer with Communications Director Kevin Bowen to complete the plan.)

The Council affirmed that the essential projects will be recommended to the congregation in an informational meeting in October, where we will also convey that (1) we plan to take a vote, in January on using two years of the Mission Fund grants to fund the roof, and (2) that the Financial Planning Committee will be tasked (from October to January) with researching options for funding the matching Synod Grant, and making a recommendation in January. The Council will ask the congregation to vote at the annual meeting in January on (1) whether we may use two years of the Mission Fund grant to pay for the roof, and (2) whether we may proceed with the Synod matching fund strategy that the Financial Planning Committee has recommended.

**Action** ***(Motioned, Seconded, Approved)*:** The Church Council voted to move forward with the affirmed plan as outlined above.

**Music Mondays.**

David Richards reported that Aaron Wunsch asked by what metric Council would reconsider the reopening of public ministry events like Music Mondays. Executive Council met earlier this week and proposed movie theater and theater re-openings as an appropriate litmus test, and that holding two events in the same evening is not feasible.

After discussion, the Council agreed that when the City says concert halls may reopen, we will reopen the conversation as a Council.

**Financial Review**

Deanne Walters presented expenses for the May through August, noting that expenses are expected to remain the same through the rest of the year.

May: $35,535.95

June: $39,615.18

July: $34,899.65

August: $36,734.76

Total: $146,785.54

The Council agreed that the October meeting should also have a financial update component.

1. **Next Meeting**

The next Council meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

**Adjournment — Closing Prayer.**

David Richards closed the meeting in prayer.

*Respectfully submitted by M.S. Grebey, 9/16/20*