**Advent Lutheran Church – Church Council Meeting – May 15, 2019 Minutes**

**Present – Voting (n=11)**: Pastor Danielle Miller, Pastor Gary Mills, David Richards, Michael Hammett, Miriam Sitz Grebey, Deanne Walters, Jon Dohlin, Norma Martin, Juan Minier, Blessing Tawengwa, Bree Vandenburg

**Present – Not Voting** **(n=2):** Kevin Bowen, Abby Ferjak

**Not Present – Excused** **(n=1)**: Bayardo Peralta

1. **Call to Order**

Miriam Sitz Grebey led a devotion about accepting and celebrating the reality that grief and lamentations are a part of our human experience, and reading two “love poems to God” from Ranier Maria Rilke’s *Book of Hours*. “And what they have stammered ever since are fragments of your ancient name.”

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 April Council meetings.
* **2018 Audit Report** — Reports on the 2018 financial records related to income, disbursements, and payroll, as examined by individual committee members.
* **Latino Ministry Report** – Provides updates about the Latino ministry.
* **Communications and Youth Ministry Report** – Provides updates about communications and outreach efforts and youth activities.

**Action** ***(Motioned, Seconded, Approved)*:** The Church Council voted to accept all items of the consent agenda as indicated above, expressing their gratitude to the members of the Audit Committee: Jon Dohlin, Lauren Johnson, and Dart Westphal. Linda Kelly and Deanne Walters provided support to the committee.

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

**Pastor Gary’s Farewell Celebration.**

David Richards reminded the Council that the Farewell Celebration for Pastor Gary Mills on Saturday, June 15.

**Financial Reports.**

Statement of Activities: Deanne Walters and Carla Soraide are continuing to make corrections on year-end designations. She notes that the Equipment/Maintenance is close to 50 percent used at this point in the year due to elevator repairs.

**Action** ***(Motioned, Seconded, Approved)*:** The Church Council voted to accept the Financial Reports as presented, subject to audit.

**Sunday Manager.**

The Council discussed the urgent need for a Manager each Sunday, passing a round a sign-up sheet. The responsibilities of the Sunday Manager are listed here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B0zmOUGU1vmJaUxlRnM0U0h6RVk/view?usp=sharing>

**Vision & Mission Listening Groups.**

Jon Dohlin gave an update from the Listening Groups. The Mission & Vision Team has heard feelings of concern that there are lingering feelings of hurt among some members of the congregation over the proposal presented in the September 2018 Congregational Meeting. There are other concerns that the Mission & Vision process is more a means to affirm what was presented by the Council in September 2018, rather than a genuine Listening process.

The Mission & Vision Team decided to hold additional Listening Sessions on May 19—a “Community Culture Listening Group”—as a safe and productive space specifically to hear and reflect upon the feelings people had in reaction to the September 2018 proposal.

Kevin Bowen explained the format of these final sessions:

* One leader to four participants
* Pray
* Agree on a Group Covenant (5 pre-established plus more as suggested by the group)
* Three Questions:

1. What was your experience in September and how are you feeling now?
2. What are your hopes and expectation for community culture at Advent? How we communicate, how we make decisions, how do we relate to one another, etc.
3. What do you see your role as in realizing these hopes and expectations?

The Council members agreed that it would be beneficial for each of us, personally and to the benefit of the group, to participate in these final sessions.

**Vision Implementation.**

This first step of the Visioning Process will begin in early fall. The Council will start thinking about the committees: which ones we need to have, of what size, composed of whom, etc.

Pastor Danielle Miller expressed to the Council that she and Kevin Bowen have discussed letting the committees begin from a place of self-selection; being extremely transparent about the aims of each team and allowing people to opt-in, with the understanding that Council will ultimately decide the configuration. It would necessitate potentially having difficult—and extremely transparent—conversations. The Council agreed that self-selection is important.

The Council will discuss formation of the committees in detail at our June meeting, in hope that groups can be formed by July 1 to create a strategic plan by the end of the year that will be presented at the annual meeting in February 2020, and be more fully fleshed out by the March meeting. But apart from those two meetings, there will be continuous progress updates along the way.

**Mission Fund Grants.**

The Mission Fund Team presented their recommendations for 2019 Grant distributions. The total amount distributed in 2019 will be $39,588, a decrease from last year. The five recommendations are:

* Seafarer’s International
* Advent Lutheran Church’s New Bilingual Christian Education Initiative
* Trinity Community Connection
* Casa Esperanza
* St. Peters Feed the Hungry

Next month, the Council will take up the questions raised last month about using Advent’s 501c3 as an umbrella for other organizations/groups grant applications to the Mission Fund.

**Action** ***(Motioned, Seconded, Approved)*:** The Church Council voted to accept the Mission Fund Team’s recommendations as presented.

**Call Process.**

Juan Minier reported that the Call Committee is in conversation with a promising candidate. They still need clarity on a few issues, namely the financial package and the parsonage situation.

1. **Next Meeting**

The next Council meeting will take place on **Wednesday, June 19, 2019 at 7 p.m.** Blessing Tawengwa will lead the devotional.

* **Adjournment — Closing Prayer.**

David Richards closed the meeting in prayer.

***Respectfully submitted by M. Sitz Grebey, 5/15/19***