**Advent Lutheran Church – Church Council Meeting – October 21, 2020 Minutes**

**Present – Voting (n=7)**: Pastor Danielle Miller, David Richards, Michael Hammett, Deanne Walters, Jon Dohlin, Hans Kriefall, Damaris Maclean

**Present – Excused** **(n=4):** Miriam Sitz Grebey, Juan Minier, Blessing Tawengwa, Brelyn Vandenberg,

**Present – Not Voting** **(n=3):** Kevin Bowen, Rebekah Anderson, Hayley Moe

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 following items of the consent agenda:

* Minutes September Meeting
* Pastor’s Report, Communications Report
* Audit Report
* Property Report
* Music Ministry Report

**Action** ***(Motioned, Seconded, Approved)*:** The Church Council voted to accept all items of the consent agenda as indicated above, except for the Property Report and a request from Pastor Danielle about programming for All Saints’.

1. **September-November Ministry Goals Check-In**

Kevin Bowen provided a summary of the progress on our OKRs for September to November. In short, there has been progress made toward all of our OKRs, with particular progress made toward enhancing worship on/offline, providing simple steeps for continued spiritual growth, and considerable progress toward sustenance of our food ministry and monthly check-ins with the congregation. Progress has also been made toward identifying a new Council treasurer and restarting the property discussion, and thought is being given toward a staff position for the hunger ministry.

Pastor Danielle discussed the issues that need more attention, specifically OKR 6- Inspire Giving, and part of OKR 1- inspiring higher engagement in the Worship Park and Zoom groups. Regarding giving, giving is currently at 240k now compared to 270k last year. Regarding worship, engagement with Zoom groups has been low, and park groups face upcoming winter season. Council broke up into two breakout rooms to discuss possible ideas for this. The worship group explored the possibility of a Zoom training for the congregation, as well as the possibility of rolling the Zoom worship into the next iteration of small groups and moving the Park groups onto Zoom during the Winter. The worship group also explored the possibility of an event like the proposed All Saints event in the sanctuary happening monthly, which would depend on most recent research about being indoors. The giving group explored ideas for a stewardship campaign that is concerted and focused while paying sensitivity to people’s financial situations during Covid. A financial update of sorts may be rolled into the worship service prior to the November 10th meeting, with volunteer speakers for a stewardship campaign via livestream or recorded video.

1. **Congregational Update Meeting on November 10th**

Council then held a discussion about the upcoming congregational update meeting on November 10th. Discussion occurred over the spirit of the meeting, with agreement that the meeting should serve primarily as an update, but also with the spirit of catching up and as a reunion. The meeting is envisioned as a one hour meeting.

Extensive discussion occurred to determine the scope of the content being covered in the meeting, with acknowledgment that there is a great deal of material to cover in a short timeframe. The meeting will consist of two primary issues- a financial update on the state of the congregation, and a discussion of immediate property needs, specifically the need for roof and basement repairs. Content that was agreed upon included an update from the property committee, a brief review of the strategic spatial planning team review, the strategic finance team review, and a brief update as to our current financial state. Discussion was held as to what materials can be presented or offered ahead of the meeting, and whether an update from the spatial planning team is necessary given the changes that have occurred since March, and a short update from spatial planning will be offered. The meeting will also reaffirm the values from the spatial planning team in the heart of framing the information from this meeting ina missional sense.

We agreed on at least 2 sections to the meeting- bringing the congregation up to speed on the property and financial issues, and teeing up for the January meeting, with a brief section for questions. Participants will be encouraged to contact council after the meeting as well if they want to discuss further.

Final discussion occurred as to preparation for the meeting. David offered to do an outline of key components for the meeting and to contact potential leaders who could prepare those sections for the meeting.

Kevin presented details from a proposed e-letter to be sent prior to the meeting, with particular attention paid toward the phrasing of a section on the state of spatial planning and the removal of development as a current option for our space. Consensus was that development had been removed as an option due to the current state of the real estate market in light of the pandemic- the original parties who contacted us about development have not been in touch with us, and there is a saturation of construction already ongoing in the area. The e-letter will also include contours of the meeting. Damaris Maclean offered to look over the outreach letter.

1. **September Financials**

Deanne Walters provided an update on our third quarter financials. On the whole, financials are in solid shape right now. On our activities statement, we have $83k more income than expenses. Our dedicated accounts and statement of position reflect overall gains in the second and third quarters that have mostly recouped our losses from the first quarter. The Mission fund is down because we have been drawing on it, but overall investments show gains that equal out our earlier losses.

Hans asked about a debit on the Tiffany Window and Property Fund- Deanne clarified that it was a mix of a change on the investment and regular drawings of insurance from the Tiffany Fund. Hans also asked about the sale of the piano and where that money will appear. David indicated that the piano was originally displayed as an $18k receivable, and indicated that receivable would be reduced. It has not appeared on the statements yet- money last time went into general operating until a decision could be made on apportionment. Hans also asked about the increase in our workers’ comp premium- Deanne indicated that it was because something went into Worker’s Comp that should have gone into insurance. Due to the confusion over the disability and insurance sections, Deanne is following up with Carla and Pastor Danielle about what is included in these two categories. Deanne also indicated that the dips in the mission fund this year are a result of the usual draw to the congregation, as well as the dip from the first quarter.

**Action** ***(Motioned, Seconded, Approved)*:** The Church Council voted to accept the financial reports

1. **Nominating Budget Committee**

The council recommended Pastor Danielle, David Richards, Deanne Walters, and Madelyn Soussoudis for the Budget Committee. Damaris Maclean inquired about having somebody from personnel on the committee. Pastor Danielle indicated this would normally be Ellen from personnel, and Damaris moved to add Ellen to the nominations.

**Action** ***(Motioned, Seconded, Approved)*:** The Church Council voted to approve the nominations to the budget committee

1. **Record thank-you for Pr Jim**

The council recorded a thank-you for Pastor Jim in advance of the surprise celebration of his 60th anniversary of ordination, planned for October 25th.

1. **Revisited items from Consent Agenda**

The property committee report is in the Google Drive and provides some guidance on security needs for the building. There was not sufficient time to discuss the document in this meeting, but council members were encouraged to look at the report.

Pastor Danielle raised the possibility of a service for All Saints. This would be on the Saturday before All Saints Sunday, and would provide a limited in-person service. No more than 25 could sign up for staggered slots of 5, and could come in, light a candle, and sit an reflect in silence. Frank Martignetti has offered to play the piano during the service. Congregational standards of social distancing and mask-wearing would be applied, and the basement would be off limits during the service.

**Action** ***(Motioned, Seconded, Approved)*:** The Church Council voted to approve this service for the Saturday before All Saints Sunday.

1. **Next Meeting**

The next Council meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 18th at 7pm via Zoom.

**Adjournment — Closing Prayer.**

David Richards closed the meeting in prayer.

*Respectfully submitted by M. Hammett, 10/22/20*