**Advent Lutheran Church – Church Council Meeting – July 22, 2020 Minutes**

**Present – Voting (n=10)**: Pastor Danielle Miller, David Richards, Michael Hammett, Miriam Sitz Grebey, Deanne Walters, Jon Dohlin, Hans Kriefall, Damaris Maclean, Juan Minier, Blessing Tawengwa, Bree Vandenburg

**Present – Not Voting** **(n2):** Kevin Bowen, Abby Ferjak

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 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.
* **Communications Report** — Provides updates about communications and outreach efforts
* and youth activities.
* **Meeting Minutes** — Notes from the May and June Council meetings.

**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**

**Status Update on Mission Goals.**

Kevin Bowen gave an update on Advent’s five objective and key results.

1. Support Food Ministry: Volunteers have taken steps to increase safety. More volunteers are needed to receive deliveries at unexpected times and to cook. Damaris Maclean is working on how we can increase congregational support.
2. Increase Online Outreach: Campaign launched to ask members to participate (inviting a friend, sharing posts); need more to meet our goal of 50. Worship invitations have been designed in English and Spanish to be distributed at Food Ministries. Working on a process for online visitor follow-up; three volunteers have signed up. We aren’t seeing an increase yet but the delay is to be expected.
3. Growing Faith & Relationships: We are launching the next round of online groups this Sunday; next 4-week cycle starts Aug 3; we have had 70 people participate since March, which is great. We have launched a family resource page, thanks to Vicar Abby Ferjak. One of the online groups will also be for families, about talking to kids about race and racism. Care team has been moved to Phase 2. We also will be launching a second new say of engaging; the first was a StoryMap and a second way is coming soon.
4. Increase Giving: We are resting out Tithely to see if that’s a good platform.
5. Reopening Safety Plan: Property team is meeting weekly with Frank as staff representative.

**Evaluation and Casting of Vision for Next Three Months.**

The Council broke into small groups to discuss who is being engaged, who is being left out, where do we experience energy, and where do we need more? See notes in Google Drive: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cHqeQp-Yl7oSQOdNkZhMbosssEf4DfmJ/view?usp=sharing

**Financial Update.**

Deanne Walters reported on the SOFP. Investment accounts have been losing money because of taking out money and the markets: Parsonage is down about $34K and the Tiffany account is down $2K. Mission Fund have been overall positive (including regular 2020 draws and making up deficit for 2019). The Property Fund, some things were misapplied there, so there are $10k that should be in the Statement of Activities. We’re still ending up with $92K more in income than expenses. We are about $17K behind where we were last year on weekly envelopes. We’re much farther behind in terms of YTD because we’re spending a lot less this year than in previous years, so we’re still ending up in the positive.

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

**Property Committee.**

Damaris Maclean reported on the findings of the Property Committee, a group of people with diverse voices that is meeting regularly and working hard. Overarching question: should we be thinking about short term or long term of the building? This pending question makes the work of the Committee much more difficult and leaves everyone in limbo.

The Committee’s is mostly concerned about the roof and a fire protection service. Recommendations:

* New banners
* Service repairs: Lift, drain pipe, wall plaster
* Service contracts: vent cleaning, pest, fire protection
* Operating budget concerns: Roof repairs—long term approach? Half of roof is slate (not doing well) and half is shingle (doing fine); we could do a $10K patch, or replace the shingles for $66K. Property Committee recommendation is to do full repair—to replace shingles—BUT this raises questions about the long- or short-term life of the shingles, and the future of the church building.

As laid out, the estimated cost of a full repair is $6500 over budget; we could fundraise for difference, or ask roofer what they could do for $60K rather than $66K. Damaris also discussed the potential use of our $200,000 matching property grant from the Synod.

The Council understands and agrees that the roof does need to be addressed, in one way or another. The group discussed options, including borrowing money from the Mission Fund, or making a grant to Advent itself from the Mission Fund, would require a Congregational vote. The Financial and Spatial Planning Teams have done a lot of work around this topic; perhaps those groups should come together to discuss where they intersect, to help determine the best path forward.

Also, Pastor Danielle Miller noted concerns about diverting time and energy from keeping the Advent community united during this time, which takes considerable effort and time. That fact must be held in tension with addressing capital needs.

Damaris will email to Council a draft reopening plan from the Committee.

**Treasurer Change and Financial Review.**

David Richards reported that we need a review of 2020 financials before transferring responsibilities to Madelyn Soussoudis. A Review committee will be convened, including David, Deanne, Damaris, and Hans.

**Audit Report.**

Deanne Walters reported that the 2019 audit has been completed.

**Personnel Update.**

Pastor Danielle Miller reported that Kevin Bowen’s roll is going to be shifting into Director of Mission Development. She will supply the new job description to Council. Also, this is Vicar Abby Ferjak’s last Council Meeting and last Sunday.

1. **Next Meeting**

The next Council meeting will take place on **Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.**

**Adjournment — Closing Prayer.**

David Richards closed the meeting in prayer.

***Respectfully submitted by M.S. Grebey, 8/23/20***