**Advent Lutheran Church – Church Council Meeting – February 16, 2022 Minutes**

**Present – Voting (n=10)**: Pastor Danielle Miller, Damaris Maclean, Hans Kriefall, Dorothy Trigg, Laura O’Keefe, Bree Vandenberg, Michael Hammett, Dorothy Clementson, Kathy Matson, Amanda Garcia-Harris

**Present – Not Voting** **(n=2):** Sergio Centeno, Deanne Walters

**Not Present – Excused** **(n=0):**

1. **Introduction and Welcome**

The Council did introductions to welcome our new members!

1. **Financial Review recommendation**

There were a number of questions that came up during the budget/financial review prior to the annual meeting relating to financial practices & accuracy, as well as overall budget presentation and detail. Damaris Maclean shared a recommendation to put together a financial review committee with 3 goals:

1 - To think about how we present our budget to the congregation so that people understand it more fully. We have a lot of unique projects in addition to general operating expenses (such as food ministries and Music Mondays). It’s important for the congregation to know how the money they give and the grants we receive go in and out, but also important to understand that our food ministries are not separate from all of our operations. What’s the best way to present those numbers so the congregation understands the big picture of our financial circumstances?

2 - To look at the past few years’ financial reports and do a restatement to confirm that the expense and income reports are accurate.

3 - To think about how we as a Council, and also as a congregation, are receiving, understanding, and asking questions about the reports. This will involve doing a bit of training for Council, and perhaps for Congregation at large, about best practices and how to look at these reports.

This committee is finalizing members, and includes Madelyn Soussoudis, Jim & Linda Kelly, Charles Miller, Norma Martin, and Carolyn Riehl. Hans Kreifall volunteered to help with goal #3.

Damaris also reminded us that we are still actively looking for a new Treasurer, or someone who can serve with Deanne to support as Treasurer. Any recommendations are much appreciated!

1. **Election of Officers**

The Council must elect executive officers annually. The executive positions are: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Damaris Maclean is nominated for President. Hans Kriefall is nominated for Vice President. Dorothy Trigg is nominated for Secretary. Deanne Walters is nominated for Treasurer (noting that we are actively looking for a new Treasurer to support Deanne’s work.).

**Action** ***(Motioned, Seconded, Approved)*:** The Council voted to approve the slate of nominees.

Thank you to all nominees for their willingness to serve, and to Michael Hammett for his service as Vice President for many years.

1. **Review of consent agenda & Council information**

Damaris Maclean shared the items that are normally part of a monthly consent agenda – financial reports, Pastor’s report, and the minutes from the previous month’s meeting. It is the executive committee’s goal to have these materials ready to share with the Council a few days in advance of the meeting, so that Council members can come to the meeting prepared with questions.

We discussed that there has been lots of change at Advent over the past few years–staff, congregation, and global–and the Council will need to address some changing needs and priorities. The executive committee will meet to bring more fleshed out priorities & goals for the Council this year, including a return to visioning & strategy work. The Council will also determine a time to have an in-person Council retreat to work on relationship building and priority setting.

We also reviewed how to access Council files in the shared Google folder, including mission & vision documents, past meeting minutes & agendas, and the Advent constitution.

1. **Pastor’s Report**

Pastor Daneille reviewed a few highlights from the Pastor’s Report. The Council will need to have a conversation soon about Covid protocols and what adjustments need to be made. She also shared that Lent is coming up along with the start of the next round of small groups, and shared a few property updates including the status of the elevator installation.

1. **Website updates**

Dorothy Trigg is going to update the website with our new Council members, please send photos by next Wednesday 2/23

1. **Stewardship Updates**

Michael Hammett updated us on current & future stewardship plans. The team met last week to recap events from the last year – Thanksgiving Sunday and launching a phone tree to support pledges and help congregants switch their giving platforms if needed. The team is working to organize programming for the year to integrate stewardship & giving into the full year rather than just an end of year appeal. Upcoming there will be some mission moments about people’s role in the community and how they see themselves as a steward. These mission moments will look across ages to talk about how individuals’ giving & stewardship has changed as they grow. This Sunday is from LMHE/The Vine. The theme for this year is “rooted” and showing how gifts and giving help us grow.

1. **DEI Updates**

The congregation agreed to do work on DEI with a consultant at the last annual meeting. The Council is planning to work with a DEI consultant named Korin Mills, and funding is set aside for this. We are looking for someone to spearhead this effort to helps look at Advent and at our practices to be an anti-racist congregation, especially knowing that Lutheranism is the most white denomination in the country.

1. **Next Meeting**

The next Council meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 16, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

**Adjournment — Closing Prayer**

Sergio closed the meeting in prayer.

*Respectfully submitted by D.Trigg 02/16/22*