

Minutes of Church Council Meeting

September 15, 2011

Attending: Pastor Brown, Djamillah Samad, Madelyn Soussoudis, Karen J. Cantrell, Elba Cabrera, Julie Hagen, Becky Clawson, Naomi Frost, Damaris Maclean, Brian Peck, Rose Tregallo.

The following minutes summarize the council meeting. More complete information can be found in the handouts referred to in the sections.

Meditation: Djamillah shared a story about Naomi and reflected upon the choices people make. She asked everyone to “cut our lives in half” and think about where we were at that time.

July Minutes: The minutes were approved with two spelling changes on page 1: Konoinia and Tregallo. Another change was to include that the purpose of the sidewalk art (page 3) was to make the exterior of the church more vibrant and that we decided not to hire the artist.

Pastor's Report:

- Emma Sadler and Robert Williams's baby, Alexandra was born on August 26; she is doing well.
- Expectant parents: Damaris and Reid Maclean, David Miller and Dana Rasmussen, Elaine and Steven Divelbliss, and Holly and David Chacon.
- Carly Wendt and Philip Strom are marrying on November 19.
- Tom Taylor and Marta Green will lead a grief workshop on September 18 to help the Kelly and Warwick families and the congregation cope with their grief over the deaths of Meghan Kelly and James Warwick. The Advent congregation was also thanked for showing such strong support to these families. The spirit was at work: PB had not left for her vacation and so was available to be with the

families.

- The Muhlenberg celebration at Advent will be September 18. PB and Pastor Sudbrock took Dan Muhlenberg to the Muhlenberg Seminary in Philadelphia, where he was celebrated as a Muhlenberg descendant. Advent was started by people from Holy Trinity, which was started by Muhlenberg. Advent made a charitable contribution to Muhlenberg College and will celebrate Muhlenberg's ministry throughout the month of October.
- Ministry fair is scheduled for September 18.
- Property
 - The southwest corner of the downstairs meeting area has been Thurosealed.
 - The tree pit on 93d Street has been fixed and mulched.
 - The chimney was rebuilt
 - The air conditioning compressor was replaced.
 - The rose window is being fixed; scaffolding is going up.
- Vicar Marc Stutzle has transferred to General Seminary and wants to do a second year with Advent, working as a full-time intern in 2012. The ELCA requires candidates to do an internship, and Marc lives uptown. Marc has communication, teaching, and other skills that would benefit Advent, and Advent has a full range of activities that he could learn from. Advent would need to pay him a stipend.

Children, Youth, and Family: Julie Hagen reported on the following:

- Julie gave up a trip to Italy to be with the Kellys after Meghan's death, and the prayers and other support were especially meaningful for her.
- The High School ministry has three seniors this year, and four young people went on the Pittsburgh trip, where they volunteered at the Pittsburgh Project and the Ronald MacDonald House charity, and World Vision. They ended with a trip to Kennywood Amusement Park. Their energy, excitement, and willingness to make a difference were amazing.
- Lighthouse and Youth Sunday School have started again and are going well.

- Confirmation has 11 students; Vicar Marc will help teach and share time with Julie.
- Middle School night will be on September 16.
- The Weaving Project in church last week was a way to engage the youth in creating an altar cloth. On September 18, the kids will make key chains.
- Blessing of the backpacks will happen on September 18.
- Children's Church is still happening; kids are coming downstairs during the service.
- Labor Day Weekend at Konoinia had 40 attendees, 4 from Advent.
- New Members Class has 12 people, including two families with young children. It's a diverse group.

Marks Bequest: Damaris Maclean reported that the committee (Hans Kriefall, Linda Kelly, and herself) recommends donating to Battered Women or something similar because of Helen Marks's imprisonment in Germany. The Property/Parsonage/Reserve funds should get \$25,000. She also recommended that someone walk through the parsonage once a year to make sure everything is in good working order. There also needs to be contingency funds should Columbia University no longer continue to rent the current space.

Stewardship: Naomi Frost reported on a joint Council-Stewardship Committee gathering scheduled for October 20 at 6:30 p.m., with about 28 people expected, including staff. All Advent members present will be invited to make their own pledge commitments at this gathering. Madelyn Soussoudis will host a pot luck dinner at her home, to which Council and Stewardship members are being asked to contribute. Pastor Chris Mitlowski of Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church in Manhattan will speak both at this gathering and in worship services on Consecration Sunday, November 20. This year's theme is "Come, Ye Thankful People."

Community Lunch/Food Pantry Funding: Pastor Brown reported that issues with the current grants caused Frankie to cancel the Food Pantry over Labor Day weekend. During Hurricane Irene, Community Lunch served 105 guests. Advent currently receives about \$24,000 from grant sources, but PB wants Advent to generate our own funds. A

dedicated line exists in the budget, but donations ebb and flow. It is not enough.

Upcoming Meditations: Djamillah asked for volunteers for upcoming devotions.

- Naomi will lead the November
- Karen will take December
- Brian will take January

Faith and Family Day at the Mets: Djamillah reported that if than a 100 people attend a Mets game that day, they get a banner – this could be a way to promote the church.

Chris Dundon has invited the congregation to a party on the Willy Wall, a barge anchored in the Hudson River, on October 4 to watch regattas.

PB would like for Advent to have a dance on a Friday night in November.

Minutes respectfully taken by Karen J. Cantrell