**Advent Lutheran Church – Church Council Meeting – May 19, 2021 Minutes**

**Present – Voting (n=11)**: Pastor Danielle Miller, Damaris Maclean, Miriam Sitz Grebey, Hans Kriefall, Juan Minier, Laura O’Keefe, Dorothy Trigg, Deanne Walters, Bree Vandenburg, Deanne Walters, Kika Wright

**Present – Not Voting** **(n=2):** Kevin Bowen, Madelyn Soussoudis

**Absent – Excused (n=1):** Michael Hammett

1. **Call to Order**

The Council split into small groups and prayed for one another.

1. **Consent Agenda**

The Church Council accepted the consent Agenda, consisting of:

* Pastor’s Report
* April Meeting Minutes
* Financial Reports:
  + April Finance Report
  + April 2021 Dedicated Accounts
  + April 2021 Statement of Activities
  + April 2021 Statement of Financial Position

**Action** ***(Motioned, Seconded, Approved)*:** The Church Council voted to accept the Consent Agenda.

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

**Role of Council According to the Constitution**

In general, Council meetings will strive to hold the following goals, in addition to the mandates of our Constitution:

* Hold strictly to 90 minutes
* Primarily be a decision making / action oriented session
* Discussion will happen between meetings in dynamic working groups that include both Council and non-Council members.
* Meetings will help the Council to fulfill its constitutional mission to “have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,” and to “be responsible for the financial and property matters of this congregation.” (An excerpt of Advent’s Constitution as it applies to the Congregation Council is included at the end of these notes.)

The Council reviewed sections of the Constitution (C12.04.-C12.05.) and discussed major takeaways about our roles and responsibilities to the Congregation.

In addition to the committees outlined in the Constitution (Executive, Audit, Call, Nominating and Mutual Ministry, which can be—and in our case, usually is—the Executive Committee), the following working groups will help to support the work of the Senior Pastor, staff, and the rest of the council this year. The names in parenthesis indicate members of Council (not including Pastor / staff) who will lead or are already associated with these groups. Most groups already have additional volunteers from the Congregation, which is important for inclusivity and involvement of our broader community.

* Strategic Planning: to look at the Strategic Plan and suggest to Council what groups and what timeline we need in order to move the Strategic Plan forward (Damaris Maclean, Dorothy Trigg, others)
* Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity (Damaris Maclean, others)
* Stewardship (Michael Hammett)
* Hunger Team / Food Ministries (Laura O’Keefe, Kika Wright)
* Personnel (Hans Kriefall)
* Call for the Music Director (Hans Kriefall, Kika Wright)
* Investment (Madelyn Soussoudis, Deanne Walters)
* Hybrid Community Development: to develop community between those who are in the church building and those who are worshiping from home (??)
* Property Committee / Construction Project Group (Laura O’Keefe)

It would be helpful to write up descriptions of these teams, the expectations of regular time commitment, overall anticipated duration of the group’s work, and the goals expressed.

To this end Council will need to recruit members for each working group. Groups will propose a timeline and goals to share with Council.

**April Through June Strategic Plan**

The three goals for this quarter are: the planning and preparing for hybrid worship; planning for a Stewardship Committee; and to create a working group to dig into the Sundays part of the Strategic Plan.

* What more support do Pastor, Kevin, and the committee need from Council for this first hybrid Sunday?
  + Several open roles remain: 2 in-building hospitality team members (11am) and 4 for Spanish-language service; 1 in-building virtual greeter
  + Encourage people to fill out the survey afterward
* What will mark Sunday’s success? When will we return to the sanctuary? To the park?
  + Please keep notes on your thoughts about both the virtual and in-person service so we can debrief next month.

**Approval for Organ Work**

Pastor Danielle Miller reported that there is urgent work required (estimated at $13,724) to keep the organ in our sanctuary functional. We must replace both manuals (keyboards) because the keys, key bed, and frame have been warped by heat. These repairs are essential to keep the instrument playable. We also should consider reimaging the layout of the space, as moving the console away from the radiator( and/or somehow deflecting that heat) will help keep the instrument safe in the future.

There are further repairs that should be completed within 5 years:

* $17,857 (2019 quote): Recondition 4 ranks of pipes includes insulating the blower box, which we did already. This has already been deferred, and should be addressed within the next few years.
* $4,720 (2019 quote): Regulate the speech of these four ranks of pipes while they are in the shop.

For the immediate repairs, the Council discussed which repairs to take on, and from where to pull the necessary funds. The Council agreed to undertake the urgent work of replacing the organ manuals (estimated at $13,724), adding this into the budget.

**Action** ***(Motioned, Seconded, Approved)*:** The Church Council voted to proceed with the essential repairs to the manuals of the organ.

**AA Return Date**

Pastor Danielle Miller is meeting a representative from AA later this week. The organization has had multiple conversations about switching the meeting from Saturday to Sunday, but there aren’t many groups that meet on Saturday night. They have offered to organize additional volunteers to help clean up after our Hunger Ministry programs on Saturday and after their meetings, as well, in preparation for Sunday. Pastor Danielle asked Council to consider where we are headed with AA, and when they can meet in person once again.

The Council agreed that this is an important, valuable, and long-standing partnership for the Congregation and the community that we want to see continue. Council, staff, and Property Committee will consider what new/expanded requirements (cleaning tasks, furniture arrangement, etc) we have for their continued use of the space in order to streamline Sunday mornings. We will then bring this to AA, expressing our support and continued partnership.

**Action** ***(Motioned, Seconded, Approved)*:** The Church Council voted to welcome AA back into our building on a conditional basis, as we communicate needs for cleaning/setup of the space, and as we continue to evolve in our own needs/use of the space.

1. **Next Meeting**

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

**Adjournment — Closing Prayer.**

Damaris Maclean closed the meeting in prayer.

*Respectfully submitted by M.S. Grebey, 05/19/2021*