

## **Advent Lutheran Church – Church Council Meeting – June 20, 2018 Minutes**

**Present – Voting (n=10):** Pastor Danielle Miller, Pastor Gary Miller, David Richards, Michael Hammett, Charles Miller, Miriam Sitz Grebey, Norma Martin, Juan Minier, Blessing Tawengwa, Bree Vandenburg

**Present – Not Voting (n=1):** Kevin Bowen

**Not Present – Excused (n=2):** John Dohlin, Bayardo Peralta

### **1. Call to Order**

Bree Vandenburg led the devotion in which the Council discussed our responsibilities as Christians to be welcoming and loving to the immigrant and the refugee, and to hold institutions of power accountable when they are acting in injustice.

### **2. 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.
- **Meeting Minutes** — May 2018 Council meeting minutes.
- **Latino Ministry Report** – Provides updates about the Latino ministry.
- **Communications and Youth Ministry Report** – Provides updates about communications and outreach efforts and youth activities.
- **Financial Reports** — Statement of Activities, Statement of Financial Position, Dedicated Accounts
- **Audit Committee Report** – Provides updates about the Audit Committee.
- **Property Report** – Provides updates about the Latino ministry.

**Action (*Motioned, Seconded, Approved*):** The Church Council voted to accept all items of the consent agenda as indicated above.

### **Conversation on Increasing Transparency**

Pastor Danielle Miller opened a discussion of how to best share the building master plan and the Property Committee's findings with the Congregation, so that the whole Advent community is made aware and kept updated on the many concerns related to the physical church building. Going forward, Meeting Minutes will be added regularly to the website.

The Council also brainstormed ways to keep the Congregation more connected to this group. Ideas included:

- Each Council member could speak up during the service announcements or Mission Moments
- Kevin Bowen could share photos from the Council meetings
- Wine and cheese nights, or other social events, with the Council members

David Richards will write an update email to be sent out the second week of July.

### **3. Strategic Discussions: Presentations, Feedback, and Actions**

### **Meal Packing Event**

Charles Miller presented an unbudgeted item for Council approval: a \$6,000 contract with a company that will help us to run a meal-packing event (the company brings the materials and helps to set up an assembly line, which keeps the cost-per-meal to about \$0.25.) as a part of an Outreach Inc. day of service. Linda Kelly has requested approval for a grant proposal of approximately \$6,000 to TD Bank to fund this expense. If the grant does not go through the funds would come from the food program budget.

**Action (Moteded, Secoded, Approved):** The Church Council voted to approve the unbudgeted contract as presented.

### **Stock Policy**

David Richards presented a new policy for the Council's approval that outlines how individuals and corporations could donate a gift of stock to Advent.

**Action (Moteded, Secoded, Approved):** The Church Council voted to approve the stock policy as presented.

### **Music Mondays Hiring Request**

Norma Martin presented a proposal for the Council's approval to hire a "Program Associate"—a part-time administrative position dedicated to Music Mondays. The candidate is a recent Julliard graduate, who would be paid \$1,000 per year from the Music Mondays budget to help with tasks such as creating event programs, handling year-end tax forms, and taking care of other logistics.

Pastor Danielle Miller pointed out that the policies for addressing a request such as this are normally brought to Council and approved only if the request falls within the budget line for the current year. However, since Music Mondays, like the Food Ministries, operate outside of the church's budget, the normal procedures don't technically apply, making this an example of why we need to have a bigger conversation about moving non-budget items into the formal budget, and how our budget should be a moral document that demonstrates our values and ministries.

**Action (Moteded, Secoded, Approved):** The Church Council voted to approve the hiring of a Program Associate for Music Mondays.

### **Survey Results**

The Council discussed the results of the recent Congregational survey, discussing the following points:

- The disconnectedness of the English and Spanish services
- Community perception of the church: different than what we perceive
- Thoughts on the building: beautiful but an imposing/closed-off street presence, with some serious capital concerns that need to be addressed
- The ranking of our ministries: Surprising prioritization of Christian education and Food Ministries, given the relatively small number of regular participants; perhaps reflective of an aspirational vs objective analysis?
- Challenges: Not responding to the changing environment—what did people mean?
- Worship and leadership: Positive feedback! Would be interesting to dive in further to find out what are the specific parts of worship that are most important: music, preaching, liturgy, the beautiful space, etc.

Kevin Bowen and Pastor Danielle noted that the broad trends of the survey, as well as a few interesting anecdotes from the results, should be shared broadly with the congregation.

### **Scholarship Fund**

Pastor Danielle Miller reported that the Scholarship Fund established by Dorothy Metzger has dwindled to roughly \$2,500, and there has not been great energy around continuing to run the program. While the guidelines currently state that distribution from the Fund should not exceed 60% of the fund in any given year, Pastor Danielle proposed that Council approve a shift in the Fund guidelines to allow the Church to award 100% of the funds this year, then close the account and conclude the ministry.

Pastor Danielle Miller reflected on the incredible legacy that Dorothy left in her commitment to education, to women, and her faith. The desire to close the Fund does not in any way diminish her the impact of her gift and the memory of her life and passions.

**Action (Moteded, Seconded, Approved):** The Church Council voted to approve the shift to the Scholarship Fund guidelines, allowing the Church to award 100% of the fund this year, then close the account.

### **Executive Session**

#### **4. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on **Wednesday, July 18th at 7 p.m.** Juan Minier will lead the devotion.

- **Adjournment – Closing Prayer.**

The meeting closed in prayer.

***Respectfully submitted by M. Sitz Grebey, 7/15/18***