**Advent Lutheran Church – Church Council Meeting – August 17, 2022 Minutes**

**Present – Voting (n=8)**: Pastor Danielle Miller, Damaris Maclean, Hans Kriefall, Dorothy Trigg, Amanda Garcia-Harris, Kathy Matson, Deanne Walters, Laura O’Keefe

**Present – Not Voting** **(n=1):** Pastor Sergio Centeno

**Not Present – Excused** **(n=3):** Bree Vandenberg, Dorothy Clementson, Michael Hammett

1. **Opening Reflection & Prayer**

We opened the meeting sharing collective joys & updates since our last meeting in June. Damaris opened in prayer.

1. **Consent Agenda**

We shared a few questions & comments about the Pastor’s and financial reports:

* Hunger ministries – there has been a significant increase in need, to the point where we had to turn a lot of people away from the pantry one week. The food ministry team is instituting some new systems to help mitigate issues with guests and handle capacity. A related note is that the food ministry line is significantly overpacing in the budget. Is there a plan to address this? The food ministry team is reaching out to the existing network of current & past volunteers and other interested folks to ask for dedicated gifts to help bridge the gap. There has been some helpful grant money that’s come in, but much of it has been for specific uses and not given a lot of freedom to help alleviate serious budget concerns.
* Synod giving looks low for where we are in the year. Is this just due to the timing of our gifts vs the timing of the report? Or are we behind in our synod giving? Pastor Danielle will check with the synod to confirm we are on track.
* The system repairs budget line is at 166% of the budget. What is this due to? Deanne is confirming some accounting, the exact account in the overall building category that things are coded to might need to be adjusted.
* We noted that all dedicated accounts are currently down because of the market. If we’re counting on accounts for different things, the amount available will likely be lower for the foreseeable future.
* We need someone to coordinate the audit. Damaris volunteered to do this.

**Action** ***(Motioned, Seconded, Approved)*:** The Council voted to approve the consent agenda.

1. **Latine/Latinx Ministry Project**

Pastor Sergio shared a proposal for his internship project, for a bilingual breakfast church service that would start at 9am beginning on Sunday 9/18. It would be followed by Christian Education hour at 10am and the traditional English worship service at 11am.

This idea came out of various trials for the Latine/Latinx community that they have been doing throughout his time here (alternate worship/bible study, weekly worship, pausing worship). In talking with the community about the future of this ministry everyone says incorporating food is needed. This also combines the Latin American tradition of breakfast, the tradition of people from Advent to gather around food once a month, and the tradition of worship. The goal is to try a new, exciting, interactive format that would reconnect existing members (both Spanish and English speakers) as well as trying to create deeper relationships with the community by inviting them in.

The breakfast happens during the service in the basement, not worship followed by breakfast. This honors the tradition of Latine cooking together and ministries of the church that are related to food/feeding others.

Information will begin to be shared with the congregation & community this week to build awareness ahead of the launch. We will try this worship plan through the length of Pastor Sergio’s internship (December 2022) as his project and can either continue or pause afterward depending on success and resources.

There are minimal weekly costs to this, mostly the food for the breakfast. Some can be covered in the existing budget, and Pastor Danielle and Sergio will put in a request to Thrivent to cover the additional costs.

Who will coordinate setup? The leaders will have a setup template for AA to leave after their meeting on Saturday evenings, and worship leaders will handle the remaining setup in the morning.

1. **Building Update**

Pastor Danielle shared that the architecture design fees for the basement plans came in at over double what was expected, not even factoring in construction costs. The base services came in at $118k plus additional $31k if we needed to do the restroom. Most costs were estimated based on anticipating starting work in December, which likely won’t happen at this point.

The building team is discussing and evaluating the best way to move forward. We don’t want to kick the can down the road further and completely pause, but we also want to be fiscally responsible in this project. We’re not stopping work altogether, but will need to extend the timeline. The team is currently looking at a variety of options – additional financing suggestions, talking with finance folks about future outlooks, if we need to reevaluate elements of the project altogether.

How will the pause affect the Synod grant? The synod hasn’t given us a contract or guidelines still. We are submitting elevator costs that would cover our disbursements for this year. They don’t seem to be concerned, so neither is Pastor Danielle. The committee is keeping this in mind as well.

1. **Fall Ministry Update**

Pastor Danielle shared a programming schedule for the Fall focused around Sundays, harkening back to strategy. Three field ed students will start in September. In addition to their dedicated focus areas (food, communications, Spanish ministry) we will train them in assisting with hybrid worship, which will be good for them to learn this area of worship, and especially helpful for us and for Maya when Dawn Trautman steps back from her volunteer assistance later in the Fall after having her baby.

Hayley will come back as an intern for the full year in October. Her focus area will be building sustainable children, youth, and families ministry. Sunday School will resume in October.

October and November will have a focus on Stewardship. We are anticipating this to be our first year back fully celebrating Advent & especially Christmas with limited Covid fear, so will begin to start thinking about how to build that out.

We are starting to intentionally move down the river in a new way, first time doing “normal” worship planning and anticipating the things we plan will actually happen.

1. **Retreat Revisit & Council Future Planning**

We looked at 3 ministry areas and where we want to prioritize our time and resources. It is exciting to see that many of our conversations and thoughts are being responded to in ministry planning, especially with Hayley coming in to focus on CYF. Pastor Danielle will make sure she has access to these conversation notes. Pastor Sergio’s new idea also came out of this conversation.

We would like to talk about moving back to meeting in person, as well as looking to have a Council gathering in October.

1. **Next Meeting**

The next Council meeting will be rescheduled and the new date will be shared via email.

**Adjournment — Closing Prayer**

Damaris Maclean closed the meeting in prayer.

*Respectfully submitted by D.Trigg 08/17/22*