

## **St. John-St. Matthew-Emanuel Lutheran Church**

### **Congregation Council Meeting –Tuesday, March 10, 2020**

**Present:** Tammy Johnson, Marc Youngblood, Joseph Militello, Yonni Matson, Tom Reiner, Andrew Kjoller, Nitza Wagoner, Barbara Gruenburg, Fran Onne-Fong, Sarah Sampson.

A quorum was present.

**Excused:** Pastor David Parsons.

**Absent:** Katherine Anderson, Anne Voorhies.

**Also Present:** Jackie Eradiri, Deacon Eric Johnson

**Prayer:** Opening prayer was led by Pastor Parsons.

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm.

**Secretary:** Fran Onne-Fong

**Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made, seconded and adopted to approve the agenda as amended. Pastor Parsons approved the agenda.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made, seconded and adopted to approve the minutes of the Council's meeting held on February 11, 2020 as presented.

#### **Reports:**

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Parsons presented a short oral report to the Council. He was then excused from the meeting.

**Senior Center:** The Executive Director of the Senior Center, Jackie Eradiri, delivered oral and written reports. The DFTA (Dept. for the Aging) has given the Center a contract that will extend funds from April 30th to May and June 2020. The Center will also receive funds for July 1st, 2020 to June 30th, 2021. It took a lot of work from Jackie to make these contracts happen but she succeeded. She also received grant funding approval for two artists to work at the Center.

There is a planned fundraiser for the Center on March 20th, 2020 from 5:00 - 8:30 pm. However, the Covid 19 virus pandemic has caused a lot of confusion, fear and panic among the seniors. It remains to be seen if the fundraiser will take place.

**Finance:** The Financial statement for July - January 2020 was delivered and discussed at the meeting.

**Pastor's Report:** A written report from Pastor Parsons was delivered. He reported that attendance for the month of February 2020 exactly matched the average of the last five years.

Pastor Parsons noted that we culminated Black History Month with a visit from the Assistant to the Bishop of our Metropolitan New York Synod, the Rev. Kevin Vandiver, on Transfiguration Sunday. The congregation found his sermon powerful and the worship inspirational.

Ash Wednesday services were well attended and Pastor noticed that the coronavirus outbreak affected the attendance of the initial Lenten supper. He considered just having Lenten Bible study with a brief devotional service and not sharing a meal during that time in the coming weeks. The first modified worship service in response to the coronavirus went very well. Some of the modifications were bumping arms rather than shaking hands at the passing of the peace; receiving wine only in small cups, and not having a common cup passed; ushers extending the offering plates into the pews rather than passing them.

Pastor received the funds to purchase the new copier from TGI to replace the old one.

**Stewardship:** The importance and necessity of stewardship was discussed and the Council decided that we will bring back "Moments for Mission" where parishioners talk to the congregation about their own stewardship. Tammy and Eric Johnson volunteered to speak first.

**New Business:** A special Congregational meeting was proposed and agreed upon to approve the roof repair expenditures which will exceed the budgeted amount. It will be held on March 29th following service.

The Council also discussed the possibility of a Council retreat to build better relations with each other and the Pastor.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for 7:30 pm on Tuesday, April 14, 2020.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm with a verse from Isaiah 12:2 and a prayer from the President of the Council Marc Youngblood.

Submitted by:

Fran Onne-Fong

Secretary