

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

### **Congregation Council Meeting –Tuesday, January 14th, 2020**

**Present:** Tammy Johnson, Barbara Gruenberg, Sarah Sampson, Gene Hiigel, Andrew Kjoller, Nitza Wagoner, Kate Schnakenberg, Fran Onne-Fong, Pastor David Parsons.

A quorum was present.

**Excused:** Brian Kurtz, Marc Youngblood, Joseph Militello, Jolynn Johnson.

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm.

**Secretary:** Fran Onne-Fong was appointed acting secretary for the meeting.

**Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made, seconded and adopted to approve the agenda as amended to include an Executive Session.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made, seconded and adopted to approve the minutes of the Council's meeting held on December 10, 2019 as presented.

#### **Reports:**

**Senior Center:** The Executive Director of the Senior Center, Jackie Eradiri, delivered oral and written reports. The Dept. for the Aging (DFTA) made an error and registered Prospect Hill Senior Center as a 10-month program from July 30, 2019 to April 30, 2020 instead of as a 12-month program from July 30, 2019 to July 30, 2020. The error creates many problems for the Center because it will not be able to meet its financial obligations with its staff, consultants, vendors and our church from April to July 2020 until it is corrected. Ms. Eradiri has been meeting with the DFTA representatives to rectify this situation as soon as possible.

There will be a Winter Songfest featuring the Senior Center's choir on Sunday, January 19th, 2020 at 7:30 pm and Monday, January 20th at 4:00 pm at the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music where admission will be free. There will be a fundraiser for the Center on Friday, March 20th, 2020 from 5:00-8:30 pm in conjunction with Meals On Wheels of America with help for the drive by PS 295.

**Finance:** The Financial statement for January to November 2019 was delivered and discussed at the meeting. Pastor Parsons reiterated the need to emphasize

stewardship, particularly in light of lower than hoped for giving. Tammy Johnson reported that there are questions for the bookkeeper and will follow-up.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Parsons presented an oral report to the Council. He reported that attendance at worship at year end of 2019 was 11% higher than the previous year 2018.

Pastor Parsons reported on his retreat for Synod Pastors which he found very helpful and handed out materials to be looked at and discussed at our next Council meeting. The materials will clarify our Mission Focus - Welcoming All; Growing Faith; Inspiring Service and will help us be more productive.

**Executive Session:** A motion was made, seconded and adopted to move into executive session to discuss certain personnel matters at 8:05 pm and returned to regular order at 8:35 pm.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for 7:30 pm on Tuesday, February 11, 2020.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by:

Fran Onne-Fong

Acting Secretary