**COUNCIL MINUTES: Sunday, 1-22-17 at 11:45 am**

Present: Matt Norvell, Ann Ivester, Anne Yenchko, Ken Katzen, Don Link, Theresa Gale, Judy Hoke, and Heather Kirk-Davidoff

**AGENDA**:

Judy led us in prayer

Anne presented the jest.

**MINUTES**: **MOTION was made and approved to accept the Council Minutes for December 18, 2016.**

Minutes for the Executive Meeting on 1-9-17 were accepted (motion not necessary.)

2017 Council Officers were elected unanimously:

President – Theresa Gale

Vice President – Ann Ivester

Treasurer – Don Link

Secretary – Anne Yenchko

Don requested two (2) items to be added to the Agenda.

1. A loan guarantee that requires action by Council:

**MOTION was made and approved by email on 1/3/2017, 2017 to grant to a KC Member a 1-year emergency loan of $1,000 to be funded from the fund for such loans.** This loan was guaranteed by 10 KC Members each guaranteeing $100 apiece.

2. The consideration of the agreement with Lutheran Social Services regarding KC's involvement via Seeking Refuge.

**Defining Priorities**

Discussion ensued regarding what Council's priorities will be for 2017. Members shared their desire for the Council’s priorities. As the discussion ensued, a theme arose: strengthen connection with members. Combining the Community Meeting and a Worship Service on the 4, 5th Sunday’s in 2017 was agreed to by the 2016 Council so this Council is excited about implementing this new format. Other suggestions included creating more opportunities to interface with, and gather new ideas from, the Leadership Teams, callers, and the CARE Groups and their leaders. Going forward, consensus is that there are many good reasons to work on strengthening connectivity within the KC community, but more discussion as to how that gets accomplished is a subject for future consideration.

**Leadership Teams**

**Finance:**

Don reported that the 2016 closing is in process. He distributed drafts of those reports and will have the final version at the next Council meeting. Expenses ended up being less than anticipated, while income in December was amazingly greater than anticipated. The KC 2017 Interim Budget is in place until mid-February when the customary adjustments will be made and the final budget presented. At that time, FLT will also have recommendations for the use of the 2016 overage amount.

Don will sign the Lutheran Social Services agreement regarding Seeking Refuge. The document is not a legal document/contract, and a Motion is not required to enable his signing.

**Building and Grounds:**

Matt reported that the LED lighting has been installed and while most comments have been positive, 1 complaint letter was received from a resident in the surrounding community objecting to the brightness of the outdoor lighting upon his property. Bob Engelbach will talk with the resident, and work on getting the offending light repositioned.

The Rental Team presented a contract for signature by President Theresa Gale. As part of their 2017 marketing strategy, the Rental Team is contracting for 1 year with Wedding Spot , a bridal referral company. Judy Hoke has worked with them on a trial basis over the past few months with good success, and the contract was budgeted for in the 2017 Budget.

**MOTION was made and approved that Council approve the signing of the 1 year contract with Wedding Spot in the amount of $2,000.**

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

Heather's review will be in March, and HR will present Council with her new contract by the end of March. Anne commended her team for the good work on reviewing and revising the HR Policies and Procedures, especially the job descriptions. Amy's review will be in June. The annual renewal fee for the contract with Pinkerton for background checks is $250.

**Community Life:**

Bonnie O's report was submitted and there were no questions. However, a discussion followed regarding carrying out the specific duties of both Community Life and Spiritual Education LT's, which have at this point no official leaders. Should Council or the Executive Committee take over in the absence of LT leaders? Community Life encompasses the keeping of Membership records, and a spreadsheet of Members might be a task that could be done by Amy in the KC office. But 2 other basic CL tasks which need to be addressed are (1) following up on the accountability of Members to do as they pledge and (2) signing off on expenses for the various CL events. **Heather will work with the Executive Team on #1 and Don will discuss #2 with the FLT** in their next meeting and bring recommendations to the next Council meeting.

**Enabling Minister’s Report:**

Heather submitted her report and there were no questions. She will be out of town on Sunday, February 4, and noted that the February WTG is all male.

Announcement was made of a meeting entitled “Intricacies and Legalities of Becoming a Sanctuary,” sponsored by Columbia Jewish Congregation at the Oakland Mills Interfaith Center on January 24, 2017 at 7:30. The speaker is an immigration lawyer expert in this matter. As we in Howard County are in the midst of passionate sanctuary discussions, KC is offered this opportunity to educate ourselves on the topic.

**Worship:**

A Community Meeting/Community Worship combination is being planned for Sunday January 29, the first month of 2017 in which there is a fifth Sunday. This will be the first time to combine the two events in this manner, instead of the Worship-first-then-Community-Meeting that has been customary in the past. The Council will serve as the WTG, and report back at next Council meeting as to whether and how this format will continue to be used for the remaining fifth Sundays of the year: April 30, July 30, October 29, and December 31.

**Parking Lot**:

None.

**Assignments for next Council Meeting**:

Facilitator – Theresa

Process – Ann

Jest – Judy

Timer – Anne

Parking Lot – Don

Chaplain – Ken

Judy closed the meeting with a prayer.

**Dates to Remember**:

Council members will serve as the WTG on Sunday 1-29-17

Executive Meeting February 14 at 9:00 am

Next Council meeting February 26 at Ann's

Easter Sunday is April 16

Next Fifth Sunday service will be April 30.