

Washington DC Parish of Church of Sweden Abroad (SLCW, Inc)

Church Council meeting *Kyrkorådsmöte*

Meeting minutes *Mötesprotokoll*

Sunday, April 5, 2015 - 10:05am – 11:50am

Söndagen den 5 april 2015, 10.05 – 11.15

Augustana Lutheran Church, 2100 New Hampshire Avenue NW
Washington, DC

Present: Pastor Mona Svensson, Anneli Sexton, Eva Perdahl, Sören Karlsson, Agneta Mitchell, Ann-Marie Brisbois, Annika O'Hara, Marie Jefsell and Gunnel Hamilton .Gunnel left during discussion of item 4 b after that Eva Perdahl took over the writing of the minutes.

1. **Opening of the meeting** – *Mötets öppnande*. Council Chair Anneli Sexton opened the meeting. She welcomed the new members of the churchboard Agneta Mitchell and Marie Jeffsell and also Annika O'Hara as new treasurer and Gunnel Hamilton as new secretary.
2. **Review of quorum and agenda**. – *Fastställande av beslutsmässighet och dagordning*. It was established that quorum was met.
3. **The Pastor's Forum** *Kyrkoherden har ordet*.
 - a. **The web page** – *Hemsidan*. Mona Svensson suggested that we should not post meeting minutes on the church's web page. The church board voted to continue posting the minutes on the web page as previously done. Mona Svensson asked that the minutes should reflect her strong disagreement to this decision. The pastor also pointed out that the announcements on our web page should be in Swedish. She did not approve of "Ärkemässa" announced in English. She asked who was responsible for our web page. Clarification whether it is the chair of the Church Board who is responsible for the web site alternatively the pastor will be forth-coming.
 - b. **Video recording of service** – *Videoinspelning av gudstjänst*. Mona Svensson asked who was video recording the service today. She expressed her opinion to not record her sermon. She will talk to Pastor Kidd about it.
4. **Other Business**- *Övriga ärenden och rapporteringar*
 - a. **Augustana news** – *Nyheter i Augustana*. Anneli Sexton informed us that Pastor Kidd will retire this autumn. He has given Mona Svensson permission to use the church library on Saturdays.
 - b. **Report from Marie Jefsell's visit to the Swedish Church in New York** to observe the children's programs available there. Both Pastor Svensson and Marie Jeffsell found the visit inspiring and several good suggestions how to expand the children's program in Washington DC were discussed. The main obstacle at this time is the lack of an appropriate venue for children's activities outside of the monthly Sunday School. [Gunnel here left the meeting.]
 - c. **Search for access to more space and venue** so the congregation can expand its activities for children, a place for the pastor to meet in private and additional and desired activities for the congregation in general. Pastor Svensson will reach out to Swedish companies with presence in the greater Washington DC area to ask for sponsorship of a small apartment or other space appropriate for the expansion of activities, especially for children. Sören Karlsson said he had contacts in Real Estate and will look into spaces of interest...
 - d. **Information about church conference in Uppsala** – *Information om konferens i Uppsala*. Mona Svensson informed about the SKUT conference in Uppsala in August 2015. SKUT will pay travel and lodging for one representative from the church board. The chair person, Anneli Sexton, will be the representative for Washington Parish.

- e. **Traditional June Picnic.** *Picknick efter gudstjänsten 1 juni.* Sören Karlsson will arrange to get the park permit from the DC Parks and Recreation Office. It will be a potluck and the church will provide hot dogs and hamburgers.
 - f. **SWEA Grant.** *SWEA stipendium.* The Parish has been awarded a grant of \$500 to sponsor music during the church services. Representative(s) from the church board will be at the Jenny Lindh Concert on June 14th to receive the check.
 - g. **Swedish Church and SKUT Instructions for the Congregation's Activities.** *Församlingordningen och Församlingsinstruktionen.* Eva Perdahl will provide a draft of the Församlingsinstruktionen available from previous work done.
 - h. **Newsletter.** *Församlingsbladet.* After 11 years Gunnel and Kenneth Hamilton will step down as the editor and publisher of the Parish newsletter. Suggestions are to develop a one page monthly bulletin (annonsblad) and Sören Karlsson is willing to be responsible for the production of the bulletin. The meeting also discussed the possibility to blog on the Parish website.
 - i. **Assigned Duties for members of the Church Board.** *Sammanfattning av arbetsuppgifter inom kyrkorådet.* The pastor is a full member and is responsible for the formal contact with the SKUT and the Swedish Church leadership in Sweden on behalf of the Parish. The pastor, Mona Svensson through Jan 31, 2016, is responsible for every church service (except the Nordic Christmas Service). The pastor is to guide and educate the church board regarding the duties and responsibilities of the board following the guidelines of SKUT and the Swedish Church governance. Anneli Sexton, chairperson. Annika O'Hara new treasurer, Gunnel Hamilton new secretary. Ann-Marie Brisbois will continue to be volunteer coordinator for the church service.
5. **Preparation for the Church Service May 3, Årkemässan.** The music-in-the-church group and Pastor Svensson will need to coordinate the service music and liturgy. The time for the service is 13.00. Ann-Marie Brisbois will find volunteers as greeters, collectors of the offering and other church service duties.
 6. **Treasurer's Report.** *Kassören's rapport.* Annika O'Hara, as the new treasurer, reported that she and the former treasurer Christina Hoffman have reviewed and transferred information, check signing rights and all accounting for the congregation to Annika O'Hara. As an information item- the budget for 2016 will need to be sent to SKUT by June 17, 2015.
 7. **Membership.** *Medlemskap.* Sören Karlsson did not have any new information. There are some new and returning members still sending in 2015 membership forms.
 8. **Newsletter.** *Församlingsbladet.* The item was tabled due to time not available.
 9. **Adjournment** *Mötets avslutande.* The meeting was adjourned at 11.50 am and all members wished each other a Happy Easter.

Respectfully submitted

Gunnel Hamilton

Gunnel Hamilton
(¶ 1-4b)

Eva Perdahl-Wallace
(¶ 4c-9)