Minutes of CSL Council Meeting Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Meeting called to order at 5:10 PM by Abbess Martha.

Opening prayer by Brother James Rafael, Obl/OSB

Br. James Rafael offered to take minutes.

Present: Abbess Martha, Brother Anskar, Sister Madeleine Sophie, Sister Julian, Brother James Rafael, and at 5:15 pm Sister Mary Magdalene

Excused: Brother Raymond

Communication:  Abbess Martha emphasized the importance of our Facebook pages, and encouraged members to contribute. She pointed out that this is important because the public Facebook Page is a front door for many who wish to learn about our Community and we want them to feel welcome.

Formation: Brother James Rafael gave an update about recent positive meetings between the 3 Deans, Sister Julian, Dean of Professed Life, Sister Genevieve Lynn, Dean of Education, and himself as Dean of Oblates. The formation manuals are being reviewed and edited, and committee members for these tasks have agreed to serve.

Also 3 books are being selected to forward to the Abbess who will choose a book for the Community Lenten book group. Sister Genevieve Lynn will again moderate the discussions.

Much of the Agenda for this meeting focused on Finance, and since the interim Treasurer, Brother David was not in attendance, the voting members assented by raising hands unanimously to rearrange the agenda and defer 5 Finance agenda items to the January meeting. The finance report by Sister Mary Magdalene was received and will be brought back in January for a vote. Donors have been generous and so far 2023 income is greater than expenses. The voting members also assented to review and receive the 2024 Budget which will be on the agenda for review and approval by Council vote in January. There was a positive discussion about rearranging some items in the Proposed Budget for easier reading and comprehension, agreed by all voting members and Sister Mary Magdalene.

Safe Church: Brother Anskar has sent out a letter asking members to update their Safe Church Training on Praesidium by December 31, 2023.  9 members have responded so far. Please reach out if assistance is needed. This training is required by the Episcopal Church.

5 year Plan: Sister Julian provided a graph showing good progress on the 5 year plan. Thanks were expressed for Sister's work on the plan.

Habits: Process of moving to new tailor going smoothly. Thanks to all involved.

Brother David appeared at 6:20 pm. He was delayed by storm related flooding in the basement. This was stabilized and he and Sister Brigid are well. Brother David moved the donation of 600 dollars from CSL through Episcopal Relief and Development to an Anglican Hospital on the West Bank which serves Palestinian and Jewish people.  Seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

Closing prayer by Sister Madeleine Sophie.

Amen.

Submitted by scribe Brother James Rafael,

January 15, 2024