

**Minutes**  
**Advent House of Perinton (formerly, Perinton Ecumenical Ministries, Inc.)**  
**(dba Advent House and Sweet Charity)**  
**QUARTERLY MEETING OF MEMBERS AND DIRECTORS**

**Monday, December 9, 2024 7:00 pm @ Risen Christ Lutheran**

**Directors Present:** Kevin Cooman, Ray Buchanan, Rick Hill, Dave Wideman, George Havens, Jim Brekovsky, Judy Burgeson, Jay Saylor, Julie Wood, Susan Amrine, Pat May

**Directors not present:** Doug Osterling

**Others Present:** Advent House co-directors Brenda Ferraro, Molly Shanto; Treasurer Ray Wager and Incoming Treasurer, Eric Lunger

Kevin opened the meeting with a prayer at 7:15 pm following the Annual Meeting.

Jim B. moved and Ray B. seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the September 2024 quarterly meeting. Motion was approved.

Appreciation was expressed for the long service of George Havens, the director designee from Risen Christ Lutheran Church, who has for many years has served as Treasurer of our sister corporation, EMP. Doug Osterling will replace George as the Risen Christ director designee, and will serve as Secretary of both Advent House of Perinton and EMP.

Ray Wager reviewed the Advent House finance report, which incorporates the sales and expenses of Sweet Charity (see website folder). Overall, the finances are doing better than expected and narrowing the net loss. Pat May moved and Sue seconded a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Ray also made copies of the annual tax return available.

Co-directors Molly and Brenda had previously submitted the comprehensive report of the staff members at Advent House (see website folder). They answered various questions, and noted the continuing challenges of staffing and volunteers. A wish list of requested items was circulated. Of particular note, Allison Brumm has been hired to replace Nicole McClurg as Advent House fundraising coordinator. Allison's CV is in the website folder. Nicole will work with Allison on a transition of responsibilities.

Jim B. reviewed the actions of the Sweet Charity Oversight Committee. After careful assessment of staff skills and interests, and organizational needs, some adjustment of responsibilities was made. Nancy Loughran, a former Sweet Charity manager and longtime volunteer, is being appointed as Administrator of Sweet Charity, with responsibility for organizational and administrative tasks, and sales data analysis. Meg Sarnoff and Ward Pedde will continue as Manager and Assistant Managers, respectively, with responsibility for day-to-day shop operations.

Jim also noted the cooperative relationship with Saints' Place, the charitable organization in Pittsford that primarily serves the resettlement needs of immigrant families in the area. Furniture and other items that might not be suitable for sale at Sweet Charity are turned over to Saints' Place. The truck owned by

Saints' Place has been loaned to Sweet Charity on the occasions where the truck we own has been out of service.

Discussion regarding the interest of Mary Magdelene Church in East Rochester in membership in Advent House and EMP was deferred to the EMP meeting. See the minutes of that meeting.

The board discussed the impact of vacancies on the boards of Advent House[PEM] and EMP as a result of the loss of church designees. At present, there are no director designees from the following member churches: St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Greystone Church, South Perinton United Methodist Church and First Baptist Church of Fairport (defunct/dissolved).

Former designee from South Perinton UMC, Brent Smith, is working to identify a successor. Kevin is in touch with Pastor Brian Warner about a successor to John Riccione from Greystone, and Pat has provided some suggestions for identifying a new person from St. Luke's, following the loss of Warren Knapp. Kevin has also discussed with our Advent House co-directors, and several board members, the potential for strengthening the boards by way of additional at-large directors, as our bylaws permit. Particularly for Advent House, there are committed contributors/constituencies from which at-large directors can be identified with useful skillsets.

The next quarterly meetings for 2025 will be on Monday, March 10 at Perinton Presbyterian, and on Monday, June 9 at St. John of Rochester.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 7:55 pm. A cake recognizing the service and dedication of George Havens and Ray Wager was shared by all.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kevin S. Cooman*

President and Secretary Pro Tem