

## Board Minutes - September 21 2020

Board members present: Amy Preston, Brad Miller, Chip Wall, Katie Mitchell, Paul Arnold, Shellie Jeffries, Steve Depolo, James Taylor, Jean Bahle, Kathleen Higgins, Kathleen Higgins, Kristin Mayer, Win Irwin, George Zuiderveen

Staff present: Christopher Roe, Melissa Hoezee, Rev Mariela

Guests: Bunny Johnson, Buzz Wynbeek, Carol Kooistra, Carole, Constance Graham, Gretchen Zuiderveen, Kirsten Lundeen, Kirsten McCarrel, Matt Reigler, Patrick, Peter Lundeen, Tim Creamer, Todd Johnson, Will Gallmeyer

Chip corrected an error on the Agenda. Officers meetings will be Nov. 3rd. Tuesday. The Board Meeting will be Nov. 16th. Monday.

Rev. Mariela gave the call to community with a quote from Rumi on the need for joy.

Congregation Comments: Todd Johnson wanted to Board to consider opening up the building for services as his letter indicated.

Covid Coordination Team (CCT) Report: Peter Lundeen reported from the CCT that the pandemic has remained stable at a level too high to resume in-person church services. He related a story from a local Minister who just started up in-person services and was admitted to the hospital with Covid 19. It was a large church and they took a casual approach to mitigation.

Kirsten noted that the Summer pilot wedding posed challenges in getting compliance on Covid protocols. Kristin related her experience teaching and noted that having an authority figure enforcing the rules is very important. She suggested that some type of in-person service could be tried if careful mitigation was conducted. Mariela responded that the Sanctuary is open from 2:00 -4:00 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays for meditation.

Shelly asked if there is evidence of the effects of Covid 19 when churches do strictly enforce proper protocols. Peter is not aware of any such evidence. He said that the CCT committee has only an advisory role and it is up to the Board to decide. He is aware of the tight protocols in a hospital setting and not sure FSC is ready to adhere to those restrictions so he recommends the church stay closed for now.

Chip asked about what markers will be looked at by the CCT. Peter referred to the Governor's recommendations for guidance. He stated that even with the religious exemption, we should adhere to the more general advice of no more than 50 people in an enclosed space.

George had some feedback from other churches. LaGrave had in-car services as well as spread out in-person services. Calvin Christian is not holding services yet. Kirsten said that St Andrews is holding services with masks. Central Reform is doing outside services. Chip said some churches are doing lotteries and working in pods.

Mariela said the staff has thought about many of these ideas. She does not think it fair or practical to exclude certain people. It is also difficult from a technical point to do both a broadcast service at the same time as having in-person congregants attend. The need is great to minister to people but the risk is too great to open the church at this time.

Kirsten noted that good air flow/ventilation is important for rooms being used. Kristin asked about the actual airflow in the Sanctuary. Melissa responded that airflow is not good unless the windows are open and fans are brought in. Chip noted that the Social Hall and Sanctuary have high ceilings so they are not as bad as some of the other areas of the Church.

James suggested we take a survey of congregants about people's willingness to come in for services. Jean followed up by saying that we need to be better about communicating to the congregation about all the thinking that is going into our decision making. Katie suggested that we keep reminding people of our Tuesday/Thursday open hours. George said that if we do a survey, we need to gauge from the many possible options available. He suggested that even if we had as few as 35 people in-person, it would do some good for those who stay home to know that there is not an empty church.

Mariela said she is planning on putting out a video that communicates to the congregation the decision making process. The focus now needs to be to get the tech part right for broadcasting and having people in the sanctuary complicates that spiritual delivery method.

Chip will put together a new team to develop a survey. Will said the Communications Committee would be good to look at the survey. Christopher said that the CCT team supports considering a survey and he wants to do something that focuses on people with kids.

James sat in on a Facebook forum that discussed that YouTube is having difficulty streaming Church services because of bandwidth and copyright issues.

Will is compelled to say that even though we have to make a choice, it is complicated because of our lack national political leadership.

Nominating Committee Report: Kathleen gave Conor info for the Friday Flash asking for candidate nominations. She has a list of all members and send it to the Committee. They came up with 19 names to mail a letter. Four women responded positively and will be mailed an application. Applications are due back by October 1. She is confident we will have a slate of eight but the Committee is still looking for additional candidates. Board members are encouraged to make recommendations.

Approval of Minutes: Shelly noted a typo and the adjournment of the meeting should have been noted. George motioned to approve minutes as amended. Paul seconded. Motion carried.

Properties Committee: Kirsten introduced Matt Riegler who reported a potential major roof leak but found a clogged drain and a few clay tiles needed replacing. \$590 was spent. There is a sink-hole in the alley to the west of the building. It is a safety risk so a registered letter was written to the owner of the Keller building as well as to the City. Kirsten noted that the Properties Committee is being very careful in spending money. Income this year was \$260,000 and to date only \$25,000 was spend. The Tower repair is planned for 2021.

Financial Report: Win reported that income is behind in all categories by \$75,000 but we are \$86,000 underspent on expensed since we are closed. We are still tracking close to what we have planned. Win moved to accept the report and Jean seconded. Motion carried. Win said that detailed recommendations from our financial advisor will be reviewed by the Financial Committee. A report to the Board will be made at the next Board meeting. The Committee reviewed a preliminary draft budget for 2021. Three options will be presented based on how open the church building will be. Will asked if we will be asked to approve three separate budgets and Win confirmed that we will.

Mariela noted that even if we open fully, we will still need the tech staff for video productions.

Staff Report: Christopher said they need better performing wi-fi services which Melissa is looking into. The Ministers will be meeting with parents in the park on Tuesday. Jean was impressed with all the programs in the works and was happy with the outreach to parents. George was impressed with the number of people watching the services on-line. Christopher is excited about our outreach. Shelly noted the low amounts in the plate offerings. Chip asked about pledge fulfillment. Melissa said Summer is always slow but a statements will be going out next week. Mariela noted that every element of services is being examined including how we make the request for contributions.

New Business: Chip noted that Paul drafted a letter of recognition to Dave Smith on his retirement.

Chip moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.