

APRIL CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

The April 15, 2021, the Church Council meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Jeanne Mantsch, Moderator.

Present were: Jeanne Mantsch, Phil Stepanski, Reverend Dr. Scott McLeod, Savannah Anderson, Kathy Bretl, Jason Jacque, Eric Olson, Ric Probst, and Mike Spalding

Opening Meditation - Marti was scheduled to give the opening meditation, but was not in attendance. Pastor Scott led us in an opening prayer.

Approval of the Minutes - This was moved to New Business.

Financial Administrator's Report- Lorraine Halls, Financial Administrator, provided a Statement of Activity for January - March 2021 and a Budget vs. Actuals: January - March 2021.

Several questions/suggestions arose - Mike Spalding: What is the \$733 under Pulpit Support, it would be more clarifying to put the category title at the top of the section, he'd like to see the approved budget amounts next to the monthly totals so they can be compared line by line, and is it possible to create a line for each line in the budget; Jeanne would like to be able to use the budget as a guide; and Phil believes the format could be clearer. All of this was discussed keeping in mind that Lorraine is learning as she goes there is confidence that, in a couple of months, things will come together. Kathy will connect with Lorraine to share questions/suggestions.

Pastor Scott told us that Lorraine shared that more pledges were received in March. Kathy will ask Lorraine to share the specifics with Jason so the Stewardship Team can follow up.

Old Business

Reopening Team Report- Phil said that the Team met on Tuesday and they covered the same territory - looked at numbers, etc. As of today, the Vaccination Rate is 46.1% (the Team decided to consider 1 vaccine, as opposed to full vaccination rate), the 7 day average of positive tests is 10.7%, and new cases per 100,000 is 12.0, which is down 1/10 from 4/13/21. They decided that they will weigh the numbers as #1 - New Cases/100,00; #2 - Vaccination Rate; and #3 - 7 Day Average of Positive Tests.

They continue to monitor the numbers for any sign of a spike because they do not want to compromise what they have decided the parameters are, but they do plan to be a little flexible. While worshiping in person has been cancelled for this Sunday, they do believe it will be possible in the very near future. This Sunday, the Team plans to record a "What to Expect" when worshiping in person video. *(continued on next page)*

In terms of the flexibility mentioned earlier, a request from Port Preschool 3K for a gathering in Fellowship Hall for May 25th, for approximately 44 people has been approved, with the understanding that it will be cancelled if there is a spike in the numbers. (It is expected that we will be worshipping in person by this time. Confirmation Sunday is scheduled for May 23rd, and that is expected to be celebrated in person, as well.)

In addition, the Team has learned that a 30 minute time frame for gathering (especially, small group gatherings) is not realistic. So they believe the gathering time also needs flexibility.

The Team realizes and understands that there is a lot of frustration related to worshipping in person, but they are trying to be true to what they believe are the safest standards for reopening.

Financial Separation of Duties- Jeanne reported that she, Pastor Scott, Lorraine, and Kathy have not met again, but plan to in the coming week to finalize the duties.

New Business

Justice Team Representation on Council? Others?- Jeanne said the Justice Team met on Monday and decided they would not like to have a representative on the Council. They would prefer to work through the Community Outreach Team/Eric so that someone in the governing body of the church knows what the Team is doing. Eric thinks it is appropriate for Community Outreach to connect with the Justice Team, and he will be happy to work with them.

Pastor Scott added that there are other ideas for new teams that will fit well with existing teams. Examples: A Pastoral Care Team, which will take care of following up with loss or joyful events with congregation members, will fall nicely under Fellowship; a Pastoral Relations Team will be added to Staff Support and Review; and Lighthouse Ministry will fall under Christian Education. This will create a "chain of command". It won't give Council members more to do, but rather will get more people involved. Another example is the Liturgy Team that has huge responsibilities, but Mike Spalding shouldn't have to be the only one doing all the work. Putting teams together will help get the work done and create a reporting structure.

Approval of March, 2021 Minutes- Jeanne revisited the minutes and how to best move forward with approval, because the present system of emailing as an attachment, asking if there are any changes, and then asking for approval, is not working. Phil explained that emails on his phone are difficult to find once there's a string of more than a couple, so he asked Brett Dimmer about whether there's a service that could help and Brett said Slack.com.

(continued on next page)

Pastor Scott suggested Google Docs. If Kathy sends the minutes to him, he'll put them into Google Docs and send to Council members. At first he said he'd give members editing abilities, but then it was decided that corrections (without getting too picky) could be made in a comment section. A list of Council member's names will appear at the bottom of the document and members will put an X next to their name after reviewing them. As long as the minutes are reviewed by a majority of members, they will be considered to be approved.

Pastor's Report - Pastor Scott felt very good with the way the Lenten season, Lenten Connections and Lenten projects went. There was good participation. He said a thank you to Brett Dimmer for all the work done for the services. The Palm Sunday drive-thru with palms and cinnamon rolls was very well received. The e-newsletter has been well received with positive feedback.

A fire alarm recently went off. Scott will work with Jim Clements to update the call list.

Pastor Scott talked with Jeff Suddendorf about a week ago to ask about the Memorial Garden. A member is preplanning a memorial and they plan to be cremated and want to be scattered in the Memorial Garden. Jeff said there is not a Memorial Garden, but did talk with a funeral director a while ago and learned that ashes can be scattered because it would be on private property.

Pastor Scott's church in Elkhorn did have a Memorial Garden and he is in favor of having one as it is a valuable and meaningful way to memorialize someone. He will talk with Jim and get a team together to begin working on one.

Pastor Scott is continuing to be very pleased with everything he's encountered at church. Everything is going well and he's definitely looking forward to in-person worship.

In addition, he feels, and we should all feel, very fortunate to have a great staff, wonderful musicians, and Brett Dimmer handling the YouTube channel. He feels very lucky to have inherited this group.

Pastor Scott and the office staff assigned the Spring Congregational Meeting to the last Sunday of June, June 27. The goal is to have a Nominating Team formed before then, which will be able to present a full slate of Officers and Team members for the new term. Also, Pastor Scott wants to resurrect the writing of annual reports. Each Council member will need to summarize in a paragraph or two what's been going on this year—remember and recall. It will be a powerful statement of the kind of work and hours that have been put in. These paragraphs should be completed and submitted by June 10, 2021.

Jeanne had to call for a vote on adjourning the meeting as it was not on the agenda. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Bretl