

Minutes of the March 15, 2020 Congregation Council Meeting

Present: Pastor Mark Laatsch, Ronda Pedersen, Kathy Bero, Terrie Porras, Dave Anderson, Stacy Hansen, Boni Nerat-Heckel, Matt Vanni, Jim Zobel, Jeff Hines, Bill Taccolini, Bill Kuhnlein, Jeremy Sallgren.

Excused: Jeff Hines, Kylie Chevalier

Pastor Mark called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m. and opened with prayer. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our church and to make necessary plans to manage through it.

A **financial impact** based on decreased giving is anticipated as fewer people attend church due to fear, recommendations to self-isolate, and to maintain social distancing to prevent spread of the virus.

We discussed ways to decrease our costs. A suggestion was made to decrease staffing hours. Pastor stated he will be spending more hours at church as Nursing Homes have closed to outside visitors. Proposed staffing for the next 12-16 weeks was made as follows: Patty 2days/wk, Judy 8-12 hrs/wk., Lee 8 hrs/wk, and Carol 8 hrs/wk. **Motion** made by Boni: Pastor has the authority to make a staff schedule based on hours needed and to meet with staff to implement new staffing hours, Stacy seconded; motion carried. We discussed when to meet next to review changes and their effect and agreed we should meet sooner than the next scheduled council meeting. **Motion** made by Dave: Our next meeting will be on April 5th after church, Jim seconded; motion carried.

Pastor Mark will talk with Finance Committee to get their recommendations for maintaining giving and reducing costs. Bill recommended if we ask the congregation for continued giving, we also share with them that we are being dynamic by reducing costs as able, however we still have fixed costs (i.e. utilities). Pastor will also discuss with Financial Committee electronic ways for people to give. Dave texted Keri Delgoffe during our meeting and they scheduled a Financial Committee meeting for the start of the week with a goal of having a plan in place by the end of the week.

When and if to **close our church** was discussed, decided we will stay open for now and re-evaluate this daily.

Pastor Mark is scheduled to be on vacation next week but is not sure if he will go or not based on what is happening with the COVID-19 pandemic. If he is gone, the Executive Committee will meet as needed to make decisions regarding church closure. If closure is mandated by our synod, Judy Raygo (who monitors church e-mail) will contact President Ronda Pedersen.

Boni motioned to adjourn meeting, seconded by Kathy; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:45am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terrie Porras, Council Secretary