

Minutes of ALB Meeting on
May 12, 2020

Attendance

ALB: Kathy Schluter, Mike Stoehr, Dick Barnes, Sean Gaffney, John Fruncek, Sharon Garrett, Julie Whitney

Staff: Pastor Matt, Pam Vaughan, Nell Nash, Steve Lirely

Guest: Laurie Jeffery, Dick Steinmetz, CJ Neville, Bonnie Barr, Shere-Ling Kraus-Lao

Mike opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of Minutes - Kathy

The minutes of the April 14 meeting were approved.

Devotion - Pastor Matt

Pastor Matt referred us to Psalms 20-23 that describes God as one who helps in times of trouble. He asked each of us to name some help that we are praying for during this pandemic. Our prayers are for health, hope, optimism, wisdom, isolation fatigue, hunger, small business, the church, and youth.

Pastor's Report - Pastor Matt

The livestream worship service is improving a little each week. Mary added captions to the screen last week and everyone is getting more comfortable with the format. About 400 families are watching the worship live on livestream or Facebook and more watch the taped service during the week.

Pastor Matt will start a 7-week sermon series on Encountering Jesus on May 17.

The District Superintendent holds weekly calls of senior pastors to share information about the shutdown and the Bishop is leading a call on Wednesday, April 15. He has called on the 20 largest churches to provide a digital worship experience.

The Chapins are moving to Lake Forest for Linda's new job.

Coronavirus - Impacts and Strategies - All

Confirmation - the Confirmation ceremony will be postponed until it can be held in person. Steve is considering some recognition event during the summer, however. Most faith statements have been completed and sent to Pastor Matt and on-line interviews will be scheduled. A class for 6-8 grades and a high school class will also be offered this summer.

Walk-Up Communion - will be held on May 17, rain or shine, from 11:30 am to 1 pm. Masks will be required and 7-foot spacing imposed. Pastor Matt will distribute the container with the hosts and give the blessing. Nell will bring the host to waiting cars if preferred. Both the Health Department and the WFB police have approved the event.

Carpenter Shop - will reopen as soon as the public health restrictions are lifted, presumably on May 26.

Tree of Life - will not reopen since the school year ends at the end of May.

Missions - the Food Drive is ongoing and over 100 bags of groceries have been delivered to UMCS and MacCanon Brown. Cash donations are being split evenly between UMCS and MacCanon Brown and checks are being sent to the meal programs we support. The Missions Team is communicating regularly with the congregation and accepting suggestions from members.

A Mask Ministry has started with 4 women. They have made 34 adult and 24 children's masks. Shere-Ling offered to donate 50 disposable masks.

Pastoral Care - the staff have called every member of congregation for a second time and

referred some members to the new Congregational Care Team for follow-up.

Classes - Pastor Matt will hold a Monday evening Zoom class on his sermon series beginning May 18. Nell has hosted three virtual coffee hours after Sunday worship and the Progressive Christianity class is meeting on-line.

Blood Drive - at the request of the Blood Center, the church held a blood drive last week.

Re-open Timeline and Strategies - Pastor Matt

The Conference and District have held meetings recently on when and how to re-open UMC churches. Rules that might apply are limiting occupancy to 25%, seating worshipers 6 feet apart, requiring hand sanitizer and masks, using greeters to hold open the doors, serving communion outside, eliminating bulletins, removing prayer cards, hymnals and Bibles from the pews, replacing an offering plate with a Joash box, wiping down the sanctuary and Narthex after each service and limiting use of the restrooms. Pastor Matt will establish a team of staff and laity to consider these issues. Sharon will serve on the team from the ALB. [The Bishop has since set Sunday, June 21 as the re-open date.]

New Annual Conference Date - Pastor Matt

The Annual Conference has been moved to October 23-25 and will be held in the Ki Convention Center in Green Bay.

PPP Loan Act Issues - Kathy

The PPP loan proceeds were received on April 25 and deposited into a separate account for the church. The 8-week period to spend the proceeds runs from April 25 to June 20.

Kathy briefly reviewed a memo she had sent to the board earlier discussing the outstanding issues related to applying for forgiveness of the PPP loan. Key issues involve the good faith certification, the calculation of payroll and the determination of FTEs. Guidance is expected on these issues. It is possible that we will repay a small portion of the loan if we do not have sufficient qualified payroll and other expenses.

Financial Update - Sean and Pam

FY 2019-20 Budget - The church finances rebounded in April. Although non-pledge income lags last year by over \$15,000., the increase in pledge income and the lower expenses reduced the deficit to under \$500. However, our expenses are understated by \$20,000 because we have not paid our monthly apportionment for March or April. The Easter offering also increased to \$9,685.

Capital Campaign and Special Roof Appeal - The Capital Campaign has received \$857,741 and has a cash balance of \$191,376. The Special Roof Appeal has received \$323,061 net of the \$2,271 cost for the roof patch.

Text Giving Option - Although the text giving number is being displayed on the screen during the worship services, most pledge and other payments are being received by mail.

Pledge Drive - Pam

A letter was included in the quarterly giving statements sent to the congregation informing members that a formal pledge drive would not be held this Spring and asking those who are able to continue to give at the same level as last year or take a step up. The letter also recognized that some members might be experiencing uncertainty that will affect their ability to give.

Trustees - Dick

Church Roof Update - Ron submitted the Bid Specification Manual for the roof to Trustees for review and approval. Trustees will meet with Ron in person on May 13 to discuss any questions

and concerns they have with the Specifications. Ron hopes to bid the project out and start construction in early July.

Sale of 810 E. Glen - Dick

The deed transferring the Church Walk parcel to 816 E. Glen was recorded in early May. Kathy spoke with the Milwaukee County real estate lister and the Whitefish Bay assessor to confirm that the transfer satisfied their requirements. The Village will redraw the 810/816 lot line upon formal notification of the recorded deed by the Milwaukee County real estate lister.

The 810 lot was listed on May 12 and showings will begin tomorrow. The list price is \$250,000. The lot is being sold "as is" for development only. The deed will contain a restriction that the house must be removed within one year of sale. [The 810 lot was sold on May 28 to KL Construction for the list price of \$250,000.]

Proposed Christ Scientist Development

WiRED Properties has not submitted a final proposal to the Village and the Village Board is meeting only on-line. Dick Steinmetz asked why we have not met with the Village about our concerns and Kathy responded that the Village is not willing to meet with us until they receive a final submission for the development. Pastor Matt reaffirmed that the Church would try to purchase the Christ Scientist property if it became available.

Closed Session

Julie closed the meeting in prayer.

The next ALB meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 9 at 6:30 pm in the Youth Room (or by Zoom or conference call).

Respectfully submitted, Kathleen Schluter