

University Mennonite Church Congregational Meeting

May 24, 2020 Meeting

Via Zoom

Pending Congregational Approval

Attendance – The meeting was via Zoom and no attendance was recorded

Opening – Doug opened meeting with a reading about community by Wendel Berry

Review and Approval of February 23, 2020 meeting minutes

- A motion was made to approve the minutes. It was seconded and passed.

Pastor's Report

- Kate's report reflected on the last eight weeks of virtual church life.
- Kate welcomes feedback on ideas, thoughts, concerns, about moving back towards in-person church community.

Treasurer's Report and Draft 20-21 Budget Review (reports on web site)

Jim reviewed the treasurer's report and current fiscal income and expenses.

Preliminary Budget Highlights

- 24 pledges of \$150,000
- Because of uncertainty of COVID 19, the budget is maintaining local and church-wide ministries at current levels.
- Total budgeted income of \$206 K
- One month of Corinthian Plan premiums were waived but was contributed back to the Everance to distribute to church wide ministries
- \$3,000 designated for delegates attending conventions
- Allegheny Mennonite Conference budgeted for \$1500
- Ten Thousand Villages State College budgeted for \$2000
- Ben Wideman's salary budgeted at 20%
- Net income of \$12,161 estimated

If the budget plays out as planned we can determine what we should do with the net reserves

A question asked about Camp Hebron. We decided to leave in the budget for now, not knowing exactly what will happen this year.

Jim thanked the group for the continued financial support of the church

Zoom Worship Support

A proposed motion from the leadership team to pay Ben Wideman for Zoom Worship Service support was presented.

Motion

Leadership proposes a continuing role for Ben to help shape/coordinate Sunday worship, continue with video editing and producing, continuing to be in charge of leading Zoom worship and coordinating the involvement of UMC members. This arrangement would be experimented with during the month of June at 10 hours/week. We would look at the future in July and adjust or discontinue this approach. Based on Ben's current salary the total cost would \$1100 for the 4 weeks of June.

Ben asked how we would decide if we needed to extend the engagement beyond June. Based on the discussion the motion was amended to extend the agreement to **"as long as needed."** The amended motion was seconded and passed.

Doug mentioned that Ben would be willing to train others if they were interested in helping. He also asked what a hybrid worship would look like where we could continue to include others around the world.

Planning for post-COVID-19

Kate gave an updated on her conversations with AMC and local ministers. She suggests a three-point plan.

1. Create a COVID task force for guidelines for safe gatherings (in building and/or small groups)
2. Create a Hybrid worship service planning group
3. Thinking outside the box for creative ways this summer to foster community group

This time calls us to be both flexible and resilient

Congregation Positions for 2020-2021 Church Year Beginning on September 1, 2020

Rick Stehouwer reviewed the list of volunteers and vacant slots

Still Needed: Male elder, Stewardship representative, music committee, sound operators, adult SS committee, children and youth program committee, Centre Volunteers in Medicine rep, Out of the Cold Site Coordinator, Creation Care Committee.

- Doug Yoder volunteered for Janitor, meetinghouse, and Everance representative
- Jim Rosenberger asked if there were nominations from the floor for any of the positions.
- Jim Rosenberger nominated Tom Spicher for elder (Tom was not present).
- Evelyn Bartsch commented that the music committee be incorporated into the worship committee.
- Jim Rosenberger added his name to the list of song leaders and creation care committee.
- Doug and Kate shared that there are some things related to creation care going on at the MCUSA conference level.

Doug requested that those in the meeting affirm the volunteers via the Zoom chat and the list of volunteers was affirmed.

Other Business

Doug asked if there was additional business that needed to be discussed and reminded the group that there are other committee reports on the web site.

Ben expressed appreciation for the last six years as campus pastor.

Kate closed the meeting with a prayer, reading words from hymn, Come let us all unite to sing.

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm