

Church Council Meeting
April 14, 2020

CALL TO ORDER: Scott Fierle

PRESENT: Pastor Steve Biegner, Janell Andersen, Scott Fierle, Cheryl Gillen, Nicholas Hazlett, Debbie Howe, Bill Niblock, David Schunak, Vern Stein, Barb Walter

EXCUSED: Sue Renken-Mintzer

DEVOTIONS: We shared our experiences on this very different Easter.

MINUTES OF RECORDING SECRETARY: Barb moved to approve council minutes from March 21 and 31. Nick seconded and the council approve unanimously.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS: Pastor Steve has received numerous notes (at least 2-3/day) from people who are grateful we are offering services online.

TREASURER'S UPDATE:

Scott thanked Bill for handling Diane's payroll work and for applying for the PPP loan. Bill has used this opportunity to clean up Quikbooks

We are grateful that people have continued to give offerings both online and mailing checks to church. Bill shared the quarterly report for our long-term investments. In this quarter, we took a loss of \$70,411 and also transferred \$10,000 from church reserves to the general fund. However, we are not worried because this is a long-term investment; we have enough liquid for payroll and bills right now.

Debbie made a motion that the Council appoint Bill Niblock, our Treasurer, to apply for a SBA Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan through M&T Bank. The loan will be used to retain and pay all our employees that have been on our payroll before and during the COVID-19 crisis. Scott seconded it and the council approved the motion unanimously. Bill has prepared the necessary paperwork for a low interest loan with forgiveness, meaning that the entire loan will be forgiven as long as we keep our current staff employed for the upcoming 60 days. 75% must be used towards payroll and the remaining 25% may be used for utilities, pension, and other expenses.

Janell made a new motion that Bill is not in any way obligated as a guarantor on this loan. Scott seconded, and the council approved unanimously

NEW BUSINESS:

Pastor reiterated that he is counting attendance by the number of people who were engaged enough to reach out and contact the church (rather than number of views). Attendance is at 200+

We will continue to partner with Parkside and Zion for Sunday morning services. Pastor is also teaching confirmation and Adam is running youth group. Church is very present in the community through the work of the food truck including 225 meals on Thursday, 150 meals on Saturday, and 50-60 meals on Sunday. Pastor has some scheduled weddings that are the wedding couple plus witnesses; the service will be repeated at a reception months from now. He is postponing baptisms and has been fortunate to not have any funerals in the past two weeks.

Nick has worked very hard moving our website to a new platform that will be much more up-to-date. The website has shifted its purpose; it used to be a resource for current members and is now a way for people to learn about us and find out how to get involved. Katie will maintain the website, but it will be great to have Nick as a backup.

Pastor applied for a \$500 Daily Bread Grant through ECLA to support the Daily Bread Food Truck.

We will need to complete the wiring and software for Facebook Live until Kyle can clearly work in the sanctuary (when protocols for working during pandemic change).

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, April 28, 2020

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will not meet on May 17; a new date is not yet set.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Vern motioned, and Debbie seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah R. Howe, Recording Secretary