

ST. LUCAS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

May 26, 2020

Members present: Debbie Ball, Mike Bohn, Barb Coughlin, Joy Dressel, Ken Hamilton, Gregg Heutel, Dave Johnston, Randy Jurgensen, Don Lang, Al Lichtenstein, Skip Salomon, Joanne Scheidt, Lisa Slyman, and Carol Stelmach.

PASTORS: Rev. Kelly Archer and Rev. Bill Smutz

GUESTS: There were no guests. The meeting was held electronically via Zoom due to the Coronavirus situation.

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Rev. Smutz.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Heritage Report: **see attached**

Preschool Report: **see attached**

Membership & Evangelism: **see attached**

Building & Grounds did not meet prior to our Council meeting. They will meet 5/27/20.

Special Events doesn't meet monthly. They only meet when needed.

We will need a rep for the Caring Ministry committee since Jill Meyer resigned.

Debbie mentioned that not all committees are reporting monthly. They need to send us something so we know what is happening with these committees.

Consent agenda was approved.

CLERGY REPORT: Bill is staying connected to the staff, to people through Coffee w/ the Pastor on Tuesday mornings, and through the mid-week Spiritual Psalms. He is staying connected with the Coronavirus task force to figure out how and when to reopen. Kelly is wrapping up many ministries. Bible study decided to continue with a book study over the summer and is trying to figure out how to get more people involved. Preschool chapel is on summer vacation. She

participates in worship and the Coronavirus task force. She is adapting the church rituals such as weddings and funerals to the new safety criteria.

Report of Covid-19 Task Team: The team is looking at weighing the possibility of reopening with limited numbers in the very near future. The task force is looking at a soft opening to keep people safe while getting people back together. The team is looking at a Vespers service June 14 for a soft opening at 7 pm at the pavilion. They're making sure they have the supplies they need, ushers to make sure people are social distancing, and the golf cart available to help move people.

AV Update/Status: Randy thanked Bill, Kelly, and Megan for putting all the services together. They're doing a good job getting it out to everyone. Randy is able to live stream using the equipment in the sanctuary to get it out to Facebook. No extra equipment/money is needed. Skip suggested looking into AT&T fiber for our internet service.

Personnel Committee Report: Joanne said the part-time AV role will be posted. Lauren Hoggatt and Joanne will screen individuals and then send names to an interview team. The salary will be around \$25,000 for the part-time AV role. The hours will be around 20 flexible hours per week. Church Administrator role is paused until we are back in the building and can assess our needs.

Finance Committee Report: Gregg said there are no monthly 2020 financial statements yet. Supporting Solutions will have January through April complete in the next 3 weeks. Our regular offerings for April are behind budget. The audit of the church books will be handled by Jabouri & Schowalter. There should be a report by the Annual Meeting in November. Money from the Lorine Nolan Trust Bequest (\$25,000) was approved for the first item on the Cool, Safe & Dry list-the additional cost to put the condenser unit for the Pre-school HVAC on the office roof with the existing units for the Sanctuary. The financial committee is requesting additional information for the second project on the list-Roof and Gutter Replacement and Repair. Money for the handicap ramp for the sanctuary came in from the Kurt Hensler estate. Money from the Lorine Nolan Trust Bequest may be used for the ramp as well. Skip mentioned that Building & Grounds should oversee who uses certain rooms in the lower level and then be approved by the Council. Dave said Building & Grounds needs to discuss this issue and then come back to Council.

Mid-Year Congregational Meeting: The meeting is on indefinite hold until we can safely accommodate the entire congregation. Dave is requesting information from all groups so the congregation can have a report with all the information like they would if we were having a live meeting. Paper copies will be given to those who don't have electronic capabilities. All others will receive electronic copies.

Open Forum: Carol said Membership & Evangelism is exploring how we can help struggling UCC churches with our knowledge of streaming services. We could help train people in other congregations, help them obtain technology, help with grant writing. Joanne suggested Membership & Evangelism explore this idea and bring back a recommendation to Council. Joy suggested Membership & Evangelism talk to Mission and Outreach.

Personnel Issues: With the resignation of Jill, the By-Laws state that Dave appoint a replacement. Dave has a list of several names. He will make calls and then hopefully bring a name to the next Council meeting for consideration.

Dave asked if we want to have a couple of people make presentations at the beginning of our Council meetings. Joanne added that we might want to add a password to our Zoom meetings for security. Don said we need to limit the time of how long people can speak and limit how many people can speak. We will limit the number to the first 3 people who ask to speak. Each person will be given 5 minutes to speak. Guests need to provide a copy of their subject matter to Council before the meeting so we have an opportunity to review before they speak. This will also help Lisa prepare the minutes. Barb suggested doing a Zoom meeting once a month where people can come to the Zoom meeting and ask us questions.

Don Lang is concerned with how far our offerings are running behind this year and feels we need to start taking some corrective action in order to save money on our expenditures. As of April close, we were running \$57,324 behind our 2020 General Funds Regular Offering budget plan. We need to start looking at cuts or deferral of expenses. Don Lang made a motion. **Motion:** We temporarily suspend donations to the Covenant Ministries – St. Louis Association until June of 2021 to ascertain whether our finances have sufficiently recovered or if the suspension needs to be revisited. Lisa Slyman seconded. Our annual donation to the Covenant Ministries is around \$6000 per year. Joy spoke against the motion saying these are donations to our mission partners like the offerings we give. When asked what the Association does for us, Joy said we receive services...like the Search and Call, weekly Covid Seminars to pastor. When asked what happens if we don't give that money to the Conference, she answered that they provide the same services whether we donate or not. Our conference donations also go to support Camp Mo-Val and Shannondale. Bill suggested we look at the entire budget and not take out specific pieces at the start. Carol feels this needs to go back to Stewardship and look at it as a whole. Bill commented that the motion to suspend giving to the association would prohibit the M&E Committee to move forward with their project. **Motion passed. Votes: 9 yes, 4 no, 1 abstain.**

Ken stated that Bill had said he wanted to meet with each of us to get to know us. He suggested having a Zoom meeting one on one. Don also asked for a one on one with Bill. Bill agreed to meet with those wishing to do so.

Joy said the collection of suitcases to donate to foster care programs has been delayed. Skip suggested using the shed to store the bags. Debbie said to check with Cemetery Board since they are the ones who cleaned it out.

Joy also requested that Lisa forward the emails that are sent to the Council in the Gmail account to all Council members. Lisa agreed she would forward those.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted by Lisa Slyman

May 2020 Preschool highlights

The preschool held a “reverse parade” mid-month to bring closure to the end of the school year and to distribute refunds for the weeks that school was not in session. Staff is being paid for the whole year the amount that was contracted at the beginning of the year.

The board voted to not hold the summer camp program this year. Enrollment for next year has been strong despite the COVID situation. The Missouri Dept. of Health guidelines are being studied and discussed and action is being taken to prepare for classes in the fall.

The board members who are reaching the end of their term have agreed to continue to serve on the board for another year.

Submitted by Joy Dressel

Membership & Evangelism

“Checking In” with all members of St. Lucas UCC continues with about 60 percent of the “Ringers” reporting in. So far about 20 volunteers (Kay Zink is the Queen of Ringers!!!) have helped with the calling and reporting back. The overwhelming comment is “thank you for thinking of me” and “thank you so much for checking in,” exactly what we hoped would happen. And thanks to Linda Simons for sending about 20 masks to those who requested one. A team effort for sure!

We have been able to add about 10 people to the eblast and 15 to list to receive materials in the mail. We’re close to 50 phone numbers that have been disconnected or not good, so we will be sending them a letter to help them “connect” and offer them the ways to engage with St. Lucas UCC via online or written materials and encourage them to update their information.

We’ve had much email conversation about how to use the what we’ve learned – so many disconnected phones, change of addresses and how we can help our members stay engaged with St. Lucas UCC, maybe even thinking about texting groups! More discussion to come.

M & E members are also keeping in touch with new members who joined last year and prospective members on our list. There were about five people interested in joining in May but we will schedule that when church is up and running!

May 2020 Report on Heritage

The Heritage Committee has been working for the past couple years on plans for 2020, the year of St. Lucas' 140th anniversary. COVID has interfered a bit.

Printing of the Commemorative Confirmation List booklet has been postponed. The plan was to distribute it around the time of the Rite of Confirmation, which was originally scheduled for April 26. Since COVID has affected this year's Confirmation program in an unprecedented way, we have decided to document that in the booklet. We still plan to distribute the booklet around the time of the Rite of Confirmation, now scheduled for September.

The suitcase drive mission project has been postponed as well. Every Child's Hope is currently not accepting used items due to COVID and there is currently not as much movement of foster care children due to COVID. We will schedule the collection of 140 suitcases and duffels when we get the go-ahead from ECH.

Worship service DVD's from our church archives will possibly provide some choir music to add to our online worship experiences.

Submitted by Joy Dressel