

Council Meeting – April 6, 2020

Meeting was called to order at 7:33pm

Attendees:

Rev Bernard

Pastor Thomas

Mary Crawford

Kurt Schreder

Dave Lummis

Calvin Mew

Mary Peniston

Bayard Dodge

Eric Braun

John Moran

Andrew Cummings

Taffy Miller

Anne Troxell

Tara Quist

Shivanthi Edwards

The covenant was read, Bernard opened with a devotional and prayer.

A motion was made to approve the last Council minutes, it was approved and seconded.

Minister's Report

Bernard acknowledged that the world has changed since we last met. There has been an outpouring of support from the community, outreach board and church council. Bernard has been talking to clergy all over the tri state. Both the ministers admitted that there are more people stepping up than need assistance. Mission trip has been postponed and confirmation class meets via Zoom.

Treasurer's Report

March was not a great month, we had an operating income of 18K. Expenses are above budget, part of it is due to the replacement of the water system for the entire church complex. Investments are down by probably 120K. Bulk of our investments are in a Balanced fund. Pledge income is down, only 13 people donated online. Bernard agreed that we need to be more aggressive in asking for pledges, others were

doubtful we would meet our pledges given the current economy. The board agreed to make a concerted call to action in all communication which includes emails, during online services and during virtual board meetings.

Outreach

Volunteers are willing to help but need direction. Taffy sent out a survey to Weston and neighboring towns and provided us an update on the results.

Andrew's Report

Work at the Carriage House continues and should be completed in May. Norfield has applied for government loans.

New Business

New start time of 7pm for Council meetings.

Each Board has agreed to send in their updates in advance of the meeting.

CE

*44 enrolled; 34-44 attending class depending on season (school vacations, illness sports demands, etc.)

*12 rotating teachers

*Spark House Curriculum: We changed to this curriculum about 5 years ago because it was designed to engage all ages in a way that focused on a key Bible passage. Seasonal lessons that tie to the birth, life/teachings, death of Christ and the Gospels link to the adult sermons given in church. All CE Board members agreed that the curriculum is accessible to all ages from K-8 and is interactive, and fun. We have voted unanimously to renew this curriculum.

CE MINISTRY TEAM:

*We have 14 members including 2 junior members with one-year terms

*Penny Anderson and Pastor Thomas Burke are essential members who give their opinions but don't vote.

FIRST MEETING MARCH 1st 2020:

*We will meet once a month with one month off during the summer. Our agreed meeting time is the first Sunday of each month at 9:00 a.m.

*Adrienne A. Wallace took minutes which will be amended/accepted at our next meeting and put up on the NCC website.

*We agreed to:

1.) Continue our book series but limit it to once a year;

2.) Reach out to Fellowship, Outreach and other Ministry Teams so that we may help each other rather than work towards the same goals from opposite ends (we have a draft calendar the we will send out to all chairs next month so that we may maximize our opportunities to work in synchrony.)

3.) Initiate a teacher training program so that more of our teachers are not just well-versed in the curriculum but feel more comfortable teaching it!

4.) Continue current programs such as Hearts and Hands but expand that to incorporate a multigenerational (CE is for all ages!) and SUSTAINABLE approach.

Deacons

Deacons meets every week, we have assigned 6-7 families per Deacon to shepherd during these times. The virtual services have been a success and we have Deacons lined up to provide the readings and prayers.

Fellowship

Board is thinking of ways to connect during these times.

Music

Ellen has started a Norfield e-singing program to replace Wednesday Music Makers.

Trustees

Calvin stressed to the Board that we need to be careful about discretionary spending and we have to be prepared for the worst. David plans to make a personal plea to certain individuals to send in their pledges.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Shivanthi Edwards