

October 13, 2020 Council Reports

Visits & Communion Report- Jim Puhl

- WMA meeting
- Taping church service
- Aspen Grove 12
- Office Work
- Vibrant 9, Office Work, Taping
- Office, Moongate, South 4
- Church
- Passed out cards to 2 places in Toledo
- Taping church service
- Sunset Village 9/11 remembrance, taping of service.
- Vibrant 16
- Funeral
- Church Service

Treasurers' Report- Rick Taylor

1. I turned in the application for tax exemption status which was requested by the Bedford Township Assessor. The cited state statute, MCL 211.7o, states that assessors “should” annually review exemptions to determine if any changes in the use of a property have been made. It does not mandate submission of a new application for tax exempt status. Nevertheless, I completed the form as requested, rather than fight with the bureaucrats about it. (I had to leave a voice mail message with the assessor’s office, could not talk to them about the form.) A copy of the completed form will be left in the church office before Tuesday’s meeting.
2. PPP funds are depleted. First Merchant bank statement shows approximately \$1100 balance. We should pay utility bills from the account, and then submit the request for loan forgiveness.
3. At our current Rate of giving, we will not be able to pay all current expenses without a renewed PPP program.

Worship, Music, & Art Report- Bernal Koch

Meeting - September 29, 2020

Members in attendance remotely - Pastor Lew Carlson, Linda Taylor, Molly Spitler, Mariana Steffen, Jim Puhl, Bernal Koch, and guest - Heather Parker

Pastor comments - We began live video with our new camera the first of July and have yet to get it to work. Our website cannot live stream through Facebook but must go to YouTube. With a new capture card, Ethernet and a 24 hr. subscription to YouTube Pastor thinks we should be able make it work. We can invite people to a link but they need to subscribe to the google channel and YouTube to view the video. Heather Parker was at our meeting to clarify the situation.

Governor Whitmer's executive order is now allowing churches to open October 7th. We have decided to open our church for service October 11. Council needs to approve opening so Bernal will contact Council President, Ron Koch, to survey Council members for their approval. We are going to start simply - no singing except for a couple cantors, no communion. Congregation will wear masks, socially distance, and register as attendees. There will separate entrances for entering and exiting with no congregating of people before or after service.

Sunday school will not meet physically. "Sermon for Kids", an online streaming program (\$97.00), will offer a weekly lesson. Christian Ed will supply free take home materials.

Pastor is working with Sarah to create a user friendly bulletin for our Parking Lot services. They will be emailed for our service Sept. 13. Plans are in the works to put up a tent permanently over the area where Mariana and the Pastors stand for our service.. A tent has been donated that fits the space quite nicely.

The committee discussed how we can begin serving communion. Linda suggested bringing our own bread and juice that the Pastor could bless. There are also individually wrapped communion cups and wine but are a bit costly (about \$1.50 each). Pastor could pass out wafers using proper sanitation and tongs for distribution. Nothing was decided.

Calendar of Events:

October 18th - Trunk or Treat outside after service, 11--12 am. Helpers will wear masks and gloves. Contact free games will be provided.

October 25th – Reformation Sunday.

November 1st - Outside services in the parking lot every Sunday.

November 1st - All Saints Day Service.

November 26th – Thanksgiving

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 20 at 5:00 pm.

September 15th Council Minutes Report- Molly Spitler

Present: Linda Meinhart, Dean Yarger, Thomas Yarger, Pastor Lew Carlson, Kathy Mozena, Ron and Bernal Koch, Ray Balduf, Rick and Linda Taylor, Molly Spitler

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 P.M. Pastor Lew led the group in a devotion centered around the struggles of the black community and the women's movement in our country.

Dean Yarger moved to accept all reports. Second by Bernal Koch. Motion carried.

JIM PUHL

Jim was thanked for his service with the elder population during this difficult time.

SECRETARY

The council minutes for August were not included with the reports. Molly Spitler will e-mail them to all council members after the meeting.

TREASURER

Rick Taylor reports there were some mix ups with checks intended for the food closet which got deposited in the general account. The bank has been contacted and will make corrections. The August profit and loss statement is more accurate than past statements as they work with Quick Books. Giving is not adequate and it was suggested we implement a stewardship drive.

MUSIC WORSHIP AND ART

Live streaming and DVDs for shut-ins is in the works. Linda Taylor moved to take out the middle pew in the back of the sanctuary to facilitate filming. Second by Molly Spitler, Motion carried. A platform is also needed for the camera.

Bell Choir is to resume September 30 with social distancing. Bernal Koch moved to allow the bell choir to use the coffee area or the sanctuary for practice and filming to allow for social distancing. Second by Kathy Mozena. Motion carried.

CHRISTIAN ED

Linda Meinhart is planning a Trunk or Treat on October 18 in the church parking lot. Linda Taylor moved to approve the Trunk or Treat Halloween party on October 18 in the parking lot after the church service. Second by Bernal Koch. Motion carried. The kids must wear masks and volunteers handling candy must wear gloves. Volunteers will do the hand outs in stations.

PROPERTY

Ray Balduf met with Frames. Ray was able to fix the toilets downstairs that were not flushing. Lona will check with the daycare to see if they are using flushable wipes. The wasp nest in the fellowship hall was removed. Ray is looking for a place to recycle fluorescent light bulbs. The grass was cut with help from Rick and Linda Taylor.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

25 families were served at the food distribution on August 19. Food was delivered to 6 seniors on August 20. The committee is waiting for the checking account issue to be fixed. Pastor Lew asked if anyone has sent a food basket to Frank Csendes at Oasis. Kathy Mozena agreed to take care of it.

PASTOR'S REPORT

The Wednesday bible study on the book of Mark is going well. Pastor Lew is planning another study of the book BECOMING AN ANTIRACIST CHURCH to begin next Thursday evening. Pastor and Jim have received both positive and negative feedback about the Black Lives Matter sign which has been included in his report. Ron Sedlock requested the funeral for his wife Kathy be held a week from Saturday with a funeral lunch following. There were concerns about social distancing. It was recommended that the lunch be held outdoors either on the church lawn

or in Carr Park with catered food. Pastor will talk to Ron Sedlock. Sarah has asked to change her hours to 9-2 instead of 10-3 as she has taken on another commitment. Council is not concerned as long as work is getting done.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We received a thank you note from the Hunger Project which Ron Koch will put on the website and Facebook page.

OLD BUSINESS

A new employee evaluation is to be sent to Mutual Ministry committee by Rick Taylor. The committee discussed the possibility of the safe return of communion in the future.

NEW BUSINESS

Dean Yarger moved to purchase an additional CCLI license for \$68 to allow rights to the music for streaming. Second by Bernal Koch. Motion carried.

GOALS

The Black Lives Matter sign shows intention to follow through on our Christian beliefs. Council is encouraged to participate in the Thursday night book study. It was suggested we invite black people to participate in Zoom meetings. Mutual Ministry will be meeting within the next few weeks. Stewardship needs to make it easier for people to give online.

Council needs to think about when we can safely reopen the church for services. Pastor Lew led the council in prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 P.M.

Christian Education Report- Linda Meinhart

Not submitted

Property Report- Ray Balduf

Hornets' nest at overhang on south side of building was resolved. While meeting with Frame Pest Control. I had him treat the wasps and nest, and then I sealed the opening. Moved used fluorescent bulbs into large shed until recycling day for hazardous waste. Dave Irons installed rebuilt pump on heating system and fired up the boiler. We are getting a used compressor for the heating system, which will then be installed. Continued assisting with yard care.

Social Ministry Report- Kathy Knackstedt

We were privileged to help 26 families at our Sept. Distribution. Our grant \$\$ was received and deposited. We spent approximately \$228 on food and meat. We were grateful for numerous very generous food donations. Our seniors at Ivor Lindsay were delivered their food boxes. We will start preparing for the upcoming holidays. Any donations of turkeys, stuffing, cranberry sauce, gravy are appreciated. We are still trying to figure out banking errors so personal funds have been used to purchase supplies and will be reimbursed when everything is clearly corrected.

President's Report- Ron Koch

Payroll Protection Loan funds are in a special bank account and are being used for payroll and utilities. We have just a little left to spend and will then work on the paperwork to achieve loan forgiveness.

The township is reviewing township entities that have been receiving a tax exemption and has requested certain documents including our Articles of Incorporation. Rick is checking with the township to clarify what documents would suffice.

The WMA Committee had a meeting last month after our Council meeting and requested approval to open on Sunday's for indoor church services on October 11, 2020. I sent each of you an email and a text requesting permission to do this. It was approved and services were held indoors this past Sunday.

I recently sent Sarah an e-mail about getting the minutes and monthly reports posted to the website. Let's continue to work to continue to make real and documentable progress on our goals.

What are your thoughts on where we are and where we should go? It is up to us to keep things moving, work on our goals, and lead St. Paul's to be all that it can be!

Old Business:

- Black Lives Matter/ Anti-Racism Work
- Blizzardfest
- Soundproofing of Pastor's office
- Employee evaluations
- New Check signers
- Appreciation for Sandee Bowman
- Review of Goals

New Business:

Goals:

Overarching goal:	Be intentional; practice living our beliefs
Supporting goal:	Reach out to the local community, reach out to the world.
Supporting goal:	Practice being good stewards.
Supporting goal:	Try to focus our mission work to meet the needs of the Congregation and to maximize our ability to serve.

Goals for Pastor Lew and Church Council:

1. Hold regular (quarterly minimum) Mutual Ministry meetings. We should review with the congregation the function and value of the MM committee and revisit this with the congregation frequently.
2. Set reasonable boundaries on duties of the Pastor. Having the Pastor stay away from finances seemed to be of utmost importance.
3. Pastor and Council need to work together to not overpromise and/or overextend. All need to realize that there are limits to what we can ask of each individual.
4. Council needs to endeavor to be very clear with directions/guidelines to Pastor. Pastor needs to endeavor to follow the intentions of directions/guidelines from Council, and ask questions for clarification.
5. Council needs to find a way to keep the Pastor's office locked and to make it a place of privacy, either through soundproofing, white noise or some other technique.
6. Set up a system for regular employee evaluations.