

Asbury United Methodist Church Council

Minutes of February 25, 2021 Meeting

7:30 PM via Zoom

In Attendance: Elizabeth Tawil, Dan Haas, Anne Haas, Nancy Cody, Nancy Beers, Karen Beer, Scott Karsner, and Pastor Jen Karsner, Owens Walker, and Vickie Whitley, Director Asbury Preschool & Clubhouse.

Open in Prayer

Nancy Beers opened us in prayer.

Minutes

We approved the minutes from the January 28, 2021 and February 15, 2021 meetings.

Trustee Report

Dan reported that he still needs to follow up on the sink hole in the cemetery and the electric problem in the sanctuary. He has the part to fix the sanctuary steam heat. He descaled the icemaker and will have the water fountain checked out. We have resumed our snow removal contract since the preschool is now open.

SPRC

Nothing to report.

Finance Report

Nancy reported that the PPP 2nd Draw loan was approved and we should receive the funds in a couple of days. We will allocate the funds \$100,000 to the preschool and \$36,000 to the church. We were projecting a \$36,000 operating shortfall for the church for 2021 and the \$36,000 should allow us to break even for the year. Nancy presented the Asbury Good Faith Certification for PPP2 for review and approval. **It was approved and is attached to these minutes.**

Nancy recommended that we not file a 941-X to claim the employee retention credit for 4th quarter 2020 at this time. The PPP funds should be sufficient and Vickie has applied for the MDSE Child Care Pandemic Relief Fund Grant available to all open and operating child care programs in Maryland.

Elizabeth suggested that we inform the congregation that we are no longer projecting an operating shortfall this year and she and Pastor Jen will get together to decide how and when to do that.

COVID 19

Nancy Beers, Pastor Jen, and Owens Walker met after our last meeting and developed the first document listed below and updated the second document listed below.

- **Proposed Allocation of Metrics and Protocols for Indoor Gatherings.** We discussed and approved the attached document. Basically the preschool will follow the class number and size limits and mitigation protocols previously approved by the church council on 7/28/20 and licensing requirements. All other groups will follow the Guidance for Indoor Gatherings. Spiritual Formation groups and Recovery groups can meet in the designated rooms at the assigned socially distant capacity limits. Other groups e.g., Scouts will be further limited to the AA county size limits for indoor social gatherings. When reserving rooms, priority will be assigned in the following order Spiritual Formation groups (and within that group, Youth Group, Children's Sunday School, and Adult Classes), Recovery groups, and all other groups.
- **Guidelines for Indoor Gatherings at Asbury UMC.** The original restrictions were loosened somewhat based on current understanding of how the virus is transmitted. We discussed and approved the attached document.

Scott shared the COVID era Sanctuary Seating Options that he had developed. He determined maximum seating capacity based on different scenarios involving individual seating and family seating. The single only option provided 22 seats on the main level, 7 seats in the balcony, and 9 seats in the altar/choir area for a total of 38. We decided to use that limit for groups meeting in the sanctuary.

A subgroup was formed including Pastor Jen, Owens Walker, Anne Haas, and Nancy Cody to develop a plan for return to in-person worship.

Anti-Racist Church

Pastor Jen suggested that we start working on a racial justice statement that could be approved by the church at the charge conference in the fall. Scott volunteered to have the "Be the Bridge" leaders draft the statement for our review.

Pastor Jen closed us in prayer and the meeting adjourned at 9:38.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Cody