

Asbury United Methodist Church Council

Minutes of July 28, 2020 Meeting

6:30 PM via Zoom

In Attendance: Elizabeth Tawil, Karen Beer, Dan Haas, Ann Haas, Nancy Cody, Nancy Beers, Owens Walker, Vickie Whitley, Scott Karsner, and Pastor Jen Karsner

This meeting was a special meeting to address the question of preschool re-opening.

Vickie attended the meeting to present her plan for reopening the preschool. She presented her plan, answered questions, and then excused herself from the meeting.

Vickie's Plan

Vickie presented a detailed plan for each of the classrooms – 3 upstairs classrooms and 3 downstairs classrooms - based on current registrations and the 15 person limit in each classroom.

- For the M W F classes in the upstairs classrooms, the plan showed morning and afternoon classes in the 2s classroom, a morning class in the 3s room, and a morning and afternoon class in the 4s room. The plan showed that we would not be able to accommodate all of the children registered for the 3s and 4s. To allow 90 minutes for cleaning between morning and afternoon classes, Vickie proposed having the morning classes spend the last 30 minutes outdoors and proposed using the Fellowship Hall and the Hathorne Room if the weather prevented the children being outside.
- For the T Th classes in the upstairs classrooms, the plan showed a morning class in the 2s room, and morning 3s classes in the 3s and 4s rooms. There were no afternoon classes in these classrooms on T Th and there was room in the 3s class to take some of the children that could not be accommodated on M W F.
- For the downstairs classrooms, one classroom would house the Pre K class, one classroom would house the 4 day 4s, and one classroom would house the extended care kids. The plan showed that we would not be able to accommodate all of the children registered for the Pre K or 4 day 4s classes. The plan called for the extended care kids requiring naps to nap in the empty Pre K classroom in the afternoon.
- Vickie also presented an option to house an afternoon class in the Pre-K room to accommodate children who couldn't be accommodated in the class they registered for. For this option, she would have to find some other space to accommodate the napping extended care kids.

Vickie plans to use preschool staff to do the cleaning required between morning and afternoon classes. The preschool would comply with the Preschool Safety Protocol document previously distributed. Vickie has not yet contacted staff to find out which staff will come back and has not yet contacted parents of children registered for classes to see which ones plan to attend. She will do that once we have made a re-opening decision.

Discussion and Voting

At this point Vickie left the meeting and we discussed the plan and the associated risks. After discussion, we voted on 4 options:

- Option 1 – Don't open
- Option 2 – Open but do not allow more than one class in a classroom each day.
- Option 3 – Open allowing morning and afternoon classes to share the same classroom in a day.
- Option 4 – Option 3 with the addition of the afternoon class in the Pre K room.

There were 3 votes for option 2 and 6 votes for option 3 so option 3 won.

We then discussed requirements that we felt would have to be met before the school could open. Those are listed below.

Opening Requirements

In addition to the safety protocols already presented to council on 7/22/20 the following need to be implemented:

- Staff take the temperature of students with touchless thermometer
- Hold Harmless form for Staff and Students
- Masks always
- Safe sanctuary requirements
- No singing or unison talking
- No sharing of toys
- Isolation room for children showing symptoms prior to the parent picking up.
- Teacher lunch should be socially distant
- Minimize teacher exposure to multiple classrooms

In addition, the preschool needs to develop the following:

- Infection Reaction Plan - If we have to close a classroom or the school – what is the tuition policy and the pay policy for staff. (Consider if anything virtual is being offered in a shutdown.)
- Associate Communication Plan
- Changing conditions that would result in a shut down
- Written protocol for cleaning and training for the cleaners

Opening would be contingent upon budget validation that the program is economically feasible.

Karen Beer will call Vickie to let her know our decision.

Next Meeting

Pastor Jen feels that since we are reopening the building for the preschool, it sets a precedence that we as a church feel it is safe to routinely gather in groups in-person in our building. We need to discuss if/how that will be applied to all the other ministries of the church. One of the more pressing ministries we need to discuss is how to navigate Sunday school. We set the next meeting for August 5 at 7:00 PM.

Closing Prayer – Pastor Jen closed us in prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Cody