

Asbury United Methodist Church Council

Minutes***April 23, 2020

Our council mission is to envision, plan, implement, and evaluate the mission and ministry of the church.
[Book of Discipline, 252]

Meeting called to order at 7:35 pm

Attending: Elizabeth Tawil, Nancy Cody, Owens Walker, Dan Haas, Alberta Stornetta, Nancy Beers and Pastor Jen Karsner

Opened in Prayer by Dan

1. Pastor's Report:

A. Worship and Church Business during Covid-19 shutdown

- We will continue to live stream worship service on Zoom for the foreseeable future.
- There is not adequate wifi service in the sanctuary to live stream the service.
- Verizon is not making in person visits right now, so we can't evaluate our options.
- Nancy Cody mentioned that the copy machine company might be able to help us with our wifi needs. She will investigate.
- We now have a CCLI license for on-line streaming that covers contemporary music.
- Hymnal music has different licensing that we need to be aware of before streaming. Sometimes the music copywrite is owned by a separate entity than the words. Not all hymns can be used in on-line worship.
- There are two separate copywrite issues with streaming and recording. All music used In on-line worship must be legal with both.
- Outreach to church members who may not have internet or email: need to mail cards with dial in information so that they can join by phone. Pastor Jen will ask Sherika to do this.
- Live church services will resume as a hybrid of streaming and live. Parishioners may be assigned to a group, and groups come at different times or alternate weeks. The offering plate will not be passed, Choir might be suspended, and communion will be different. All TBD.
- Vacation Bible School is not likely to be in person. On-line programing is being explored.

B. What might we be doing to appropriately engage the greater community?

- Access to food is huge as unemployment skyrockets.
- Our church does not have the bandwidth to create a program but we should support others already in place. We currently support My Brother's Pantry and the MD Food Bank. Nancy Beers will call around to see if they need another distribution point or more people power.

- Ask the congregation to plant a pandemic garden. Excess produce will be donated to support this effort. A table will be set up on church property for those in need to take what they can use.
- Post a sign that lists food resources that folks could take a photo of.
- Sherika has knowledge of these types of social services from a prior job. Pastor Jen will ask her to compile a list of these resources.

C. Engage the community walking by with something?

- Pastor Jen would like to create something interactive for the community at large to visit as they walk by.
- Would like it to be contemplative. Perhaps prayer stations or a prayer walk? Maybe a walk put down on the parking lot with semi-permanent paint?

2. Finance Report:

- Nancy Cody was able to apply for and get a PPP loan for salaries, utilities and mortgage. She will attend a WebEx to learn how to document use of the loan so that it is forgiven. \$136,000 is the amount granted toward expenses.
- Motion was made and was passed to move start date for Music Director Gregory Parker to ASAP.
- Giving was down by 20% for March.

3. Trustees:

- Thermostats are not working well as Pastor Jen's office is very cold. Dan will look into this.
- The fourth boiler is being repaired.
- Vicky Whitley, Preschool Director has gotten a grant for school improvements. She is expecting \$12-14 k, and has earmarked it for new sidewalks and front doors.
- Janet has agreed to look into a concrete contractor and Dan is researching front door options.
- A window in the Belfry has been removed for repair. Janet and Chris are working on it.

4. SPRC Report:

- Nancy Cody's work on securing a PPP loan has enabled us to meet our commitment to pay all our staff through the pandemic.
- Staff reviews are scheduled to take place in May remotely.

5. Youth Ministry:

- Youth Leaders are reaching out to youth members one on one to check in.
- God's Garage continues Sunday evenings remotely via Zoom.
- Refuge 2021 planning is proceeding.
- Confirmation class will be offered in the fall of 2020. Planning is underway.

- Scott recently replaced his ministry laptop. Very timely as he really needed it to support on line programing.
6. Reconciling Committee Report:
 - Working to draft statements for who can vote, when and how.
 - Looking to continue learning by offering on-line programing.
 7. Visioning:
 - Men's Retreat planning is underway. Kurt Kuhn is handling.
 8. Minutes from March 26th meeting were accepted as amended.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm. Closed in prayer by Pastor Jen.