

Asbury United Methodist Church Council
Meeting to address Covid-19 Emergency Measures
Minutes***March 17, 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 6:30 pm

Attending: Elizabeth Tawil, Nancy Cody, Owens Walker, Susan Hall, Dan and Ann Haas, Karen Beer and Pastor Jen Karsner

Opened in Prayer by Pastor Jen

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss shutting down normal business operations of the church during the covid-19 pandemic.

1. Effective immediately, the church building will shut down.
 - a. Asbury Pre-school will close per Governor Hogan's mandate.
 - b. All church and community sponsored programs held in the church building are suspended.
 - c. An announcement will go out to members and affected parties via email.
2. Discussion of church community needs:
 - a. Form an "old school" phone tree to reach out to all church members. Jen will implement ASAP.
 - b. Encourage current small groups to meet on line. Nancy Cody has a statistical report that lists members of the small groups. She will send it to Sherika and Pastor Jen.
3. Discussion of Community needs:
 - a. Encourage congregants to buy gift cards to local businesses for use at a later date.
 - b. Nancy Cody will contact Meals on Wheels to see what kind of help might be needed. She will report back.
 - c. Offer up a "my little pantry" for parishioners in need. Check in with My Brother's Pantry to see what they need. Ann will check with Marilyn Betz on this.
 - d. Free meals to kids are not available close by. What should we do to support this?
4. Worship:
 - a. Per Bishop Easterling, live worship is suspended.
 - b. Worship service will occur on line. Platform TBD at Pastor Jen's discretion. (Zoom may lift 40 min limit for free meetings)
 - c. Bishop's next update is due 3/25
 - d. Should prepare for suspension for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and possibly Easter.

- e. Cancel order for palm fronds. Do not order Easter flowers. We can buy some last minute if suspension is lifted.
 - f. Need to explore our current license for music outside of the hymnal. Streaming may not be allowed.
 - g. Pastor Jen will be brainstorming ideas of “Drive In” services with other area clergy as a means to meet in a socially distancing compliant way. Could broadcast through radio???
5. Logistics:
- a. WiFi is weak in the sanctuary. Dan will research increasing capacity and perhaps a mesh system to boost this.
 - b. Nancy Cody will call Verizon to get an appointment for them to come out.
6. Sunday School:
- a. Amplify Media has our Sunday School content on line and it could be taught virtually.
 - b. Decision to move forward tabled until we know more about length of shutdown.
7. Pre-School:
- a. Teachers would like access to the building to retrieve things from their classrooms.
 - b. Pastor Jen will allow this but the effort must be coordinated and entrances staggered so that minimal contact and interaction between people.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm. Closed in prayer by Dan Haas.