

Asbury United Methodist Church Council

Minutes***March 26, 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 7:40 pm

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

Opened in Prayer by Elizabeth

1. Pastor's Report: Worship and Church Business during Covid-19 shutdown
 - a. Our Bishop has declared that the church building be closed until further notice to comply with the State of Maryland mandate.
 - b. Pastor Jen will look into Zoom as an avenue for online worship during the shutdown period.
 - c. Sunday School: discussion around logistics of several children per family needing separate Zoom calls makes logistics of continuing Sunday School by Zoom too much to overcome. Sunday School will be suspended until further notice.
 - d. Holy Week and Easter services will be conducted via Zoom.
 - e. Worship Services: The 8:am worship service will be suspended until we are allowed to meet in our building. Worship will continue on line and will occur at 11:00 am.
 - f. Weds. Check-in with Pastor: Pastor Jen will announce a weekly Zoom call at 12:15 pm for folks to "check in" and fellowship.
2. Finance:
 - a. The conference is waiving our church's payment portion of the Pastor's Health and Pension benefits for three months
 - b. Nancy reports that giving is down since we have begun meeting remotely. Council has decided to encourage giving by mail or on-line.
 - c. Council voted unanimously to continue to pay the church and pre-school staff through the pandemic crisis.
 - d. Nancy is pursuing small business loan/grant to support this.
3. Trustees:
 - a. The building cleaning service has suggested that he can tackle some of the disruptive major cleaning chores during the building shutdown. The council has approved this.
4. Reconciling Ministry:
 - a. Learning opportunities are suspended until further notice.

5. Visioning:

- a. Exploring an opportunity to start a virtual Bible study with Edgewater UMC. More info to come.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm. Closed in prayer by Pastor Jen.