



Board Meeting – April 15, 2020

Our Mission: To be a compassionate, welcoming community that nurtures spiritual growth and practices justice.

Meeting Minutes

Board: Gail Bishop, President; Ann Hutton, Vice President; Rob Harveland, Treasurer; Greg Turosak, Secretary; Kim Reid, Dave Siljenberg, Joe Lobl, Molly Dingel and Sarah Hayes, Members at Large; Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer, ex officio

Absent: Sarah Hayes, Member at Large

1. **Call to Order and Chalice Lighting:** Gail called the meeting to order virtually via Zoom. Ann reflected on the theme of Liberation, shared a reading “Sacred Unknowing” by Amy Carol Webb, and lit the chalice.
2. **Consent Agenda:** Motion by Joe, second by Dave to approve Consent Agenda and minutes from March. Approved.
3. **Old Business.**
 - a. **Shared Ministry Team update.** Gail framed the purpose of the discussion being to talk about the best timeline moving forward. Shared Ministry Team has met with some groups and committees, and still has a few to go. Forums about the topic have gone by the wayside because of the pandemic. Kim said it’s important that group members feel their points of view are heard despite the pandemic. Kim also said we need to get clearer on what things will look like. Gail suggested an item in Grace Notes clarifying questions that congregants may have. Aleta Borrud, a team member attending the board meeting, said the initial timeframe was perhaps ambitious and that there would be a trial period of trying out the new governance model. She said some people were feeling a sense of loss about the change, and the trial period would help. Aleta suggested that the Grace Notes article also reflect the work that the staff has done by default during the pandemic. Kim suggested we continue to have meetings with groups via Zoom to move things forward. Gail said it would be good to announce at the annual meeting who are the continuing leaders in various church areas. Rev. Luke said that he and Erika Fetterman could take care of setting times for next Shared Ministry Team meetings and to work on a broader communications piece.
4. **Financial update.** Rob reported that things are looking pretty good. Expenses are exceeding income, which is typical for this time of the budget year. He pointed out that Rev. Luke is working on a “pandemic budget” in view of the fact that some people are paring back and less able to donate given the pandemic. The current anticipated budget level for 2020-2021 would be about \$457,000. Professional development for staff will be cut, and salaries will remain flat. As of mid-April, 207 pledge units have pledged \$425,509. Connie Schuelka has begun sending out emails to people from whom we haven’t heard about pledging. Board members will also help contact people. Rev. Luke said we’ve lost in the range of \$10,000 to \$12,000 from people who had pledged for the current year but have changed their pledge because of the pandemic. Joe suggested including a link about collections on one of the screens for the weekly online services.

5. **Minister's report.** Rev. Luke said it has been a month since we closed the church building because of the pandemic. The church and staff have adapted quickly, focusing on what matters most. He highlighted a few program updates: Amy Nelson's "Story Time With Miss Amy", Derik Robertson's You Tube content for youth; the work of Melissa Egglar and others with cards, phone calls, showing up in people's yards, making and distributing masks; Darin Podulke-Smith continuing to manage the building; Connie Schuelke continuing with administrative tasks; Joe Mish recording music with ease and creativity; Erika Fetterman crafting together the online Sunday services. In planning a pandemic budget, Rev. Luke said he is thinking of the core of what ministry is, and trying to give people courage and hope. He said that he and staff are doing well, but also have faced challenges in navigating change and trying to reach a plateau of a new normal. Ann said that from the perspective of people involved in the worship services, she is grateful for Rev. Luke quickly offering direction and support.
6. **Continued Old Business.**
 - a. **Liaison reports:**
 - i. **Endowment.** No updates.
 - ii. **Personnel.** No updates.
 - iii. **Property.** No updates.
 - iv. **Faith Development.** No updates.
 - v. **Safe Congregation.** No updates.
 - vi. **Sanctuary.** No updates.
 - vii. **Stewardship.** Nothing beyond what was covered earlier in this meeting.
 - b. **Building Visioning Team.** Gail reported that George Huston, a member of the Building Visioning Team, received a note from Locus Architects, the second architectural firm that the team has been consulting, inquiring about status of our plans. George replied to them that we're "on hold" with our building plans for the time being.
 - c. **Board Forum.** Rev. Luke said it's important that congregants hear from their board and leaders at an upcoming Wednesday online forum. The forum would provide updates to congregants and give them a chance to ask questions. Gail suggested that she and Ann plan the forum, divide up topics and assign topics to various board members to cover at the forum.
7. **New Business.**
 - a. **Annual meeting.** Gail said the essential business that we need to conduct electronically is to vote on the slate of board officers and members of the Nominating Committee. This could be done ahead of the time that the annual meeting would normally be held. Rev. Luke said that Erika could prepare a special edition of the E-news regarding news of the annual meeting and links to online voting.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Greg Turosak, Secretary