



GUM CHURCH

Our vision is to actively live the example of Jesus

GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

PRESENT: Dan DeZwaan, John Johnson, Sue Kremkow, Amy Schuiling, Ashley Forton, Kelly Goward, Shaun Skabinski, Karen Strickland, *Pastor Sherri Swanson, *Carol DeWeerd. (* Non-voting member). Also attending were Todd Potter (Trustees), Mike Lee (Missions), Rainie Wolven (Food Pantry Ministry) and Gabriel Gloria (Life Scout).

ABSENT: Jeri Bigler

This meeting was held on Zoom. Dan called the meeting to order shortly after 7:00 p.m.

DEVOTIONS: Kelly shared meditation reflections for Ash Wednesday. The theme of Ash Wednesday is to “leave our baggage behind”. She will send out further reflections to all Board members for meditation for the coming week.

BLESSING BOXES PROPOSAL: Gabriel Gloria, a member of the Boy Scout troop that meets in our church, is proposing this idea as his Eagle Project. Gabriel is proposing two boxes located on both sides of the church (28th St. and Baldwin). These boxes will provide access to basic pantry supplies to those in need when the church pantry is closed. Gabe will stock these two boxes for the first six months with the church taking over after that time. The dimensions of the boxes will be 2 feet wide by 3 feet tall, mounted on one post.

DISCUSSION WITH GABE:

- what considerations are going to be made for colder weather? What materials will be used to build boxes? Consider maintenance. Gabe will look into this.
- Will food freeze? What should be included in the boxes? consider hygiene products as well as food
- When the church takes over stocking the boxes – this will work for Rainie
- Re: vandalism/ improper use? Gabe said he will look into this
- No glass recommended in the box – just doors
- Gabe was asked if he would be willing to talk to the congregation about his project
- Gabe is planning to follow-up with the township Zoning Administrator for any regulations.

DISCUSSION OF THE BOARD:

Additional questions were asked about access and placement of the boxes. It was decided that Rainie will be Gabe’s primary contact person for the church; and, Todd and Mike will decide on the final details regarding the boxes.



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MOTION: by Shaun that we approve this Boy Scout project with Gabriel.

SECONDED: by Karen

Motion approved by all.

DISCUSSION ON RE-OPENING THE CHURCH:

1st MOTION: was made by Karen to re-open the church for worship on a limited basis and per guidelines beginning February 28. **SECONDED:** by Amy. And approved by all.

Dan will see what the latest positivity rate is and then announce the re-opening in worship/newsletter; and Heather will send an email.

Some discussion was held regarding a second service. We may need a second service at Easter.

Some considerations were noted:

- Cleaning between services would be done by the volunteer ushers
- Should we fill up one service before we open a second?

RE: FUNERALS

Several inquiries have been made for funerals/celebrations of life for persons who have already passed. It was felt that after February 28, 2021 we can proceed with caution. Discussion included the following points:

- We will maintain a limited number of attendees
- The guidelines will be the same as for in-person worship and will be re-assessed frequently based on changing State guidelines
- Military honors? We will check with the township as to regulations (Amy)
- At this time we are not comfortable with providing a lunch

2nd MOTION: made by Ashley that we as a church will abide by the State of Michigan Safe Start guidelines for groups to meet during the Covid epidemic; we will continue to regularly re-assess as the guidelines change to determine the capacity of attendees allowed in the church. At this time small groups will meet in the lounge or the gym. We will continue to consult the guidelines and adjust the numbers knowing that we cannot predict changes in the future.

SECONDED BY: Karen

Approved by all.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Pastor Sherri shared that she has finished the Lord's prayer series. Many loved hearing the prayer in other languages. She is presently facilitating a class on Basic Christian Beliefs with 9 in the class. Ash Wednesday "drive-thru" was a joy for Pastor Sherri to see the members and share a prayer. 22 took part in this. During this Sunday's worship 7 new members will be



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recognized. The monthly Coffee with the Pastor continues with 11 attendees. Sherri has provided pastoral care primarily by phone but does visit 2.

A big thank-you to Amy as she and Pastor Sherri finished the year-end reports.

General conference was scheduled for the first week in September; it may be postponed due to the virus.

SIGNS: Black Lives Matter temporary signs that were placed around the building. Many of these signs may be damaged due to the weather. Amy has volunteered to collect the signs and give the ones that are not damaged to the Open Door committee.

OTHER:

- Ann Holkeboer has notified this Board that the prayer bears has been discontinued.
- MINUTES FROM January 16, 2021 meeting.

Correction made in the minutes on page 4 – MOTION: If the positivity rate is at or below 5% for two weeks the sanctuary can be re-opened for worship. However, if the positivity rate exceeds 10% for two weeks we will reassess the need to close taking into consideration other criteria such as ICU beds available, State and local Health Departments' recommendations, school closings. **If the positivity rate returns to 5% for TWO weeks we will re-open again.**

This correction in the Jan. 16, 2021 minutes was approved by Kelly; seconded by Ashley.

All Board members will send Dan any conflicts they may have with proposed future meeting dates.

Dan adjourned the meeting with a prayer at 8:30 pm.

NEXT MEETING: Sat. March 20 @ 9:00am

Respectfully submitted by:

Carol DeWeerd



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