



GUM CHURCH

Our vision is to actively live the example of Jesus

Governance Board Meeting Minutes Saturday, August 1, 2020

In attendance: *Pastor Sherri Swanson, Kyle Anderson, Craig Brodie (via phone), Michael Freude, Jeri Bigler, John Johnson, Amy Schuiling, Dan DeZwaan, Sue Kremkow, *Carol DeWeerd(*non-voting member). Christine Webster was absent.

Meeting was called to order by Amy Schuiling at 9:05.

Devotions/Prayer: Pastor Sherri led a devotional about “6 Seeds to plant and nurture a church”

1. conversational - language needed to increase understanding (Acts 17)
2. invitational
3. relational - small groups (Acts 20:20)
4. glocal - combine local and global (Acts 1:8)
5. digital
6. foundational (Acts 4:12)

Pastor Sherri led us in prayer.

Thanks were given to Sue and Jim Kremkow for clearing the pews.

Committee/Staff Reports:

Trustees - Todd Potter

- shut off the drinking fountains
- updated to a higher quality of furnace filter
- installed sneeze guard on reception desk
- hired a cleaning service

Office Manager - Amy Schuiling

We continue to meet as a staff every Wednesday to touch base and keep everyone updated. Once our state reaches Phase 5 and we return to work in our offices, we will be using a state health screening tool each time we report. We also plan to stagger work times and be diligent about sanitizing our work spaces to ensure the safety of all our staff.

Pastor's Report:

- Coffee with the Pastor was held with 14 persons attending. Another in person coffee with the Pastor is scheduled for August
- Pastor Sherri has met with prayer shawl member attended youth gatherings, softball games

participated in virtual VBS

-New member class

2 new members at this point - question of how to present them to congregation

baptisms - one baby scheduled to be baptized in September - 1 other baby outside the church

-Live stream of service going well with few glitches -

problem accessing the service via phone or not being able to stream at all (service streams on Facebook at 10:30 and on YouTube later)

-Led a Book Study on racism using the book "Anxious to Talk About it". (Heather and Amy were small group facilitators.

27 people participating

Ashley Fortin to lead follow-up class

-Food truck - attendance has been down - September in question

-Hand-to-hand - continue but will wait and see what the plan is for schools to meet

Joy Freude will be meeting with Hudsonville soon

-Annual Conference - all virtual

-Pastor Sherri is taking a Webinar class on "Spiritual Economics"

-Vacation plans for Aug. 10-16 - Lynn DeMoss will be preaching

Building Use:

-met with Amy, Mike, and Todd

-only 10 or less allowed to meet in the church at one time - but does not apply to worship

-RE: groups

-need to get correspondence out to groups (ie. Boy Scouts, KinderMusic, Special Ministries)

-only church groups (not outside groups)

-may need to assess a cleaning charge

-everyone must wear masks

-take attendance for contact tracing

-no wandering in the building

-rooms cleaned after use

-cleaning service has been arranged by Trustees

-weekly crew: cleaning and sanitizing crews

-Todd and Stacy Potter have already done cleaning - many thanks to them!

Motion proposed and passed:

Re: small groups -

-10 or less

-after we are in Phase 5 will we re-look and let groups know how to plan

"Black Lives Matter" signs:

-2 sign designs were presented:

"Love Thy Neighbor" Black Lives Matter (colorful with uplifted hands)

"Black Lives Matter - I see you. I hear you. I stand with you"

Discussion:

-opinions are very "raw" right now in the community - many feel negatively towards the protests

-why are we posting signs?

It is felt that this is a justice/spiritual issue and we should show where we stand; and, we are currently holding book studies/small group discussions on racial issues.

-the colorful sign "Love Thy Neighbor" was approved

Relaunch:

Discussion on re-opening the church:

- We're still hoping Sept 13 will work, but the Board discussed concerns about reopening Sept. 13 if our state is not in Phase 5.
- Even though some UMC churches have already opened, we would not want to open and then close again.
- We realize that there are many who are very anxious to get back to worshipping in person.

*Motion proposed and passed: **We will re-open 2 weeks after Phase 5 declared.**

*Aug. 29 take a look at the status of present Phase

- Dan DeZwaan will record a message to communicate to the congregation about our reopening timeline.

-The Board also discussed other issues that will need to be decided before we open, and will also get input from staff regarding:

- which service do we live-stream?
- style of service provided
- we will encourage people to "internalize the words as a prayer" for the songs during worship
- we must keep in mind that this will be a temporary situation

Joys and concerns:

- Brad's brother passed on July 5 - our deepest sympathy to Pastor Sherri and Brad and family
- Jim and Sue Kremkow have a new granddaughter

Other:

Next meeting of Governance Board: Saturday, Sept. 26 @ 9:00 am
Devotions - Amy

Please note:

We will meet when necessary. May re-look via email or Aug. 29.
Cancel soft opening Aug. 30

Amy closed with prayer. Adjourned at 10:32 am

Respectfully submitted by,
Carol DeWeerd
Governance Board Secretary