



GUM CHURCH

Our vision is to actively live the example of Jesus

GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING Wednesday, April 14, 2021

PRESENT: Dan DeZwaan, Ashley Forton, John Johnson, Sue Kremkow, Amy Schuiling, Kelly Goward, Karen Strickland, *Pastor Sherri Swanson, *Carol DeWeerd. (* Non-voting member).
ABSENT: Jeri Bigler, Shaun Skibinski

This meeting was held on Zoom. Dan called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

DEVOTIONS: Amy shared devotions today. The theme of these devotions was “mosaics” – and how God uses broken pieces of our lives and shows us restorative love (2 Corinthians: Chapter 4)

PASTOR’S REPORT:

- Pastor Sherri has enjoyed her break and thanked Joy Hoskins for preaching last Sunday.
- Re: Easter - 81 total attendees: 26 at the first service; 55 at the second service; and, 11 children. It was good that we had two services so there was no crowding. It is evident that we will need to work on re-building after covid. Good news – we have had guests every week in worship; and a new member class has had 5 people interested. Of these 5, four have been attracted to our church because of the doors.
- Confirmation class: 10 students who meet weekly with the Pastor and Sara. They will be confirmed at the May 23 worship service.
- Sara will continue to do the children’s time online through April.
- Baptisms: two are scheduled
- Funerals: memorial garden internment has been scheduled; and, July 10 is a possible date for a memorial service
- Coffee with the Pastor – continues
- Staff: Two departures – Norma has moved and Bailey has a new job. We thank them for their service and wish them well. Amanda has been contacted and told that the opening of the nursery has been delayed. When the positivity rate gets below 5% opening the nursery will be reconsidered.
- Finances: March has been a better month.
- Mentor: Pastor Sherri has been asked to mentor a new pastor in our conference.
- Personal note: Pastor Sherri’s father is doing better following heart valve replacement; and, she has been vaccinated.
- Future plans: Pastor Sherri would like to offer another outdoor worship in early summer.

BUILDING USE



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1. Weddings

At this time there are no requests for weddings. Regarding same-sex weddings Sherri would like to know how to respond to requests in the future.

2. Boy Scouts

The boy scout troop would like to use the church for a derby. They are proposing 2-3 adults to set up in the gym. Safety protocols will be used. No date has been set at this time. Amy will act as liaison with the troop.

3. Special Needs Ministry

This is a very important ministry in our church and has occurred for many years. The leader of this ministry has asked to initiate this program by the fall (first of October). We would like to plan on it but we will keep re-visiting the State and local guidelines in the fall.

4. Doors

Dan and Pastor Sherri expressed some concerns from church members about the continued display of the doors. Previously the Board had proposed to re-visit the doors when we were to have the General Conference. However, the Conference has now been delayed until 2022.

Remarks shared are as follows:

- the doors are appealing and bringing new people into the church
- we should consider ways to protect the doors from the weather so they continue to look good
- the doors send a message to the community that we are a welcoming church to all
- there are 3 doors in the lobby and a “handprint” door that could be removed
- a “mosaic” door done by an artist should be displayed
- Open Door committee and Church and Society should have input

The Board has proposed that the doors will stay until General Conference and be maintained to keep them looking good.

5. Black Lives Matter

We are not aligned with any organization promoting this movement.

RETURN TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP

- 1. Positivity rate:** this rate continues to be high and concerning. Our goal is to continue to re-assess to keep the congregation safe. We are continuing to offer in-person worship due to the fact that attending is a personal choice; that we are following strict protocols; that during this surge all attendees must wear masks at all times in the sanctuary (with



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nose and mouth covered); and, due to the rise in the number of attendees who have been vaccinated. We are also supportive of staff who choose not to attend in-person worship. If the Governor or the Bishop ordered us to shut down we would do so. Pastor Sherri is vaccinated and is willing to lead in-person worship.

2. Masks

Wearing a mask during the in-person worship is very important. People who sign up to attend will be reminded that “throughout the service and in the building we need to wear a mask”. Amy has volunteered to make up signs that will be posted around the church expressing “Thank you for wearing your mask”. It was also suggested that this same statement could be on the initial loop of the overhead screen.

3. Baptisms

Baptism was done on April 18 with all attendees masked and with Pastor Sherri masked. The family held the baby rather than Pastor Sherri. Another baptism has been scheduled for April 25.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Outdoor service

Pastor Sherri would like to have another outdoor service possibly in June or August. All would wear masks to sing and socially distance. To be planned.

2. Kindermusik

We cannot commit at this time to having this group.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

Sat. May 8 @ 8:30 am

Wed. June 9 @ 7 pm

Sat. July 17 @ 9 am

Wed. Aug. 11 @ 7 pm

Pastor Sherri closed with a prayer. And the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Carol DeWeerd



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