



GUM CHURCH

Our vision is to actively live the example of Jesus

GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING Saturday, December 5, 2020

PRESENT: Kyle Anderson, Jeri Bigler, Dan DeZwaan, Michael Freude, John Johnson, Sue Kremkow, Amy Schuiling, Christine Webster,* Pastor Sherri Swanson, *Carol DeWeerd (*non-voting member).

ABSENT: Craig Brodie

This meeting was held online on Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 9:08 am.

DEVOTIONS/PRAYER: Amy shared thoughts on “pausing and reflecting” during these difficult times.

A prayer was offered with special emphasis on granting the new members of Governance Board grace and discernment in their new roles. Amy also thanked all the retiring members for their good service.

LOOKING AHEAD: What would we do differently in the next year?

- Can we communicate between members of the board online in a different way? It was suggested that we might want to try Google.dox. Everyone would sign up for it.
- Frequency of the meetings: it was presented that we might consider meeting other days or evenings rather than always Saturday mornings. Also monthly meetings maybe a good idea.

REVIEW GUIDELINES FOR RE-OPENING THE SANCTUARY:

- Bishop encouragement – the Bishop will present recommendations on closing but will not say “go back”; present recommendations are for closure through the Christmas holiday;
- State Department of Health recommendations
- Area churches and schools closing or reopening
- Percentage of people in our area testing positive
- Essential staff and volunteers should be comfortable with reopening

The recent three week opening has been a good model to move forward when we feel it is safe to reopen again. During the weeks that the sanctuary was open there were no issues with the rules. We could possibly increase the percentage of attendance gradually as we have the basic model in place. RSVP sign ups would continue.

We decided that small groups would also wait until we reopen for worship.

A discussion was held on whether Pastor Sherri could conduct baptisms in the sanctuary. Sherri has done some home baptisms and she is willing to continue this. But concerning Sherri’s exposure it was felt that in the sanctuary would allow more space and less exposure. A question was asked as to how would the congregation feel about opening the sanctuary to baptism and not to worship? Some guidelines were suggested:

- Sherri should be cautious but consider the baptisms on an individual basis

- A picture of the baby/child baptized would be shared during the live service
- Presently 4 people are already in the building with the live stream
- Wait until January when we possibly will be open again

FINAL THOUGHTS ON REOPENING:

At the next Board meeting we may be better able to look at reopening. It was suggested that if we meet January 16, 2021 this would be two weeks post-Christmas. We could then look at the positivity rate and other recommendations.

BUDGET: We all need to pray about the budget. It is estimated that we have lost approximately 22 giving units which will possibly result in approximately \$30,000 less giving.

A concerted effort is being done to remind people about turning in their pledge cards. Heather will put a reminder in the newsletter. A handful of members are going to other churches, some are anticipating the church vote to possibly split, and some only give when they attend in sanctuary. We have not replaced the church janitor and have only furloughed two employees with the hope of not laying off any others.

The budget will be approved via email to Board members.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS:

Amy thanked the retiring board members for their service – they will be greatly missed. Those four are: Christine Webster, Kyle Anderson, Craig Brodie, and Michael Freude. The new members are as follows: Ashley Forton (AAHTOON@gmail.com); Kelly Goward (kjgoward@yahoo.com); Shawn Skibinski (sskibinski@chartermi.net); and Karen Strickland (kls4condo@yahoo.com).

Dan thanked everyone for all the work they have done. Dan will begin as the Chair at the January meeting.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

We will be meeting Sat. Jan. 16, 2021 @ 9:00 am

The next meeting date is Wed. Feb. 17, 2021 @ 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Carol DeWeerd
Secretary Governance Board