



GUM CHURCH

Our vision is to actively live the example of Jesus

Governance Board Meeting Minutes Saturday, June 27, 2020

This meeting was held via Zoom online. In attendance were: *Pastor Sherri Swanson, Kyle Anderson, Michael Freude, Jeri Bigler, John Johnson, Amy Schuiling, Dan DeZwaan, Sue Kremkow, and *Carol DeWeerd. (* non-voting members) Christine Webster and Craig Brodie were absent.

Amy Schuiling called the meeting to order at 9:04 am. Dan shared devotions with the group today. His message was “what language is God speaking to you?”.

COMMITTEE/STAFF REPORTS:

OFFICE MANAGER - Amy Schuiling

- Amy continues to stop by the office 2-3 times a week
- gathering ideas to create a plan for reopening that includes safety for staff and the congregation for review and approval by the Governance Board
- the staff will return to their offices under the directive of the SPRC

ADULT CHOIR - Lynette Cole

No report at this time. Lynette did praise Alex for all the hours he has logged in planning and editing for the online service.

TRUSTEES - Todd Potter

No report.

MISSIONS - Mike Lee

- serving the community through the Pantry the 1st and 3d Tuesdays of each month
- will continue to promote the Pantry through our website, signs, and the Ottawa County 211
- Food Truck: increase in number of families needing food assistance
 - additional distributions for May and July added
- we are helping the Midland flood victims
 - 10 flood relief buckets were assembled and sent to Midland
- waiting to see what the future finances are and how they will affect the Missions budget before moving forward

YOUNG DISCIPLES - Sara Zallar

- maintaining all of the programming but planning future needs for Sunday School for younger and older kids, as well as Youth and EDGE Fun Friday events
- are maintaining the garden and donating vegetables to the church Pantry program
- virtual VBS is scheduled for next month: Christmas in July is this year's VBS theme
- planning to send mail to all of our Young Disciples and reach out to the families in the next few weeks

PASTOR'S REPORT - Pastor Sherri

No pastor report at this time as Pastor Sherri is spending most of her time planning and researching the reopening of the church. Before we reopen much planning and work needs to be done. Sherri provided the group with several documents that were discussed: resource information and a **"Plan for Relaunching"** for our church.

SPRC - This committee has been working to create a Return-to-work plan for staff.

DISCUSSION OF SURVEY RESULTS:

***Highlights of the survey were:**

- 58% of the congregation considered themselves in the high-risk group
- the online service exceeded expectations
- many compliments for the great job that the staff is doing
- most were more comfortable resuming church services in September as opposed to August
- must be considered that this survey was presented to the congregation at the same time that the statewide restrictions were lifted
- many appreciate the weekly newsletter and the phone calls

DISCUSSION OF THE PLAN FOR RELAUNCHING:

(Refer to the handout "Plan for Relaunching")

A. When do we reopen?

- July 12 the online service will be a live stream with the music still pre-recorded
- kickoff proposed for September 13 with 2 services in the sanctuary (but we will continue to be cognizant of the recommendations of the Governor and the Conference)

***Should we start sooner than September?**

- Outdoor service?
 - weather dependent
 - need to buy extra equipment for outdoors - money may be better used for equipment enhancing the experience in the sanctuary
- special service? what would this look like
- discussion that we should inform the congregation of the transition to live stream for now and mention the fall opening - best to start slowly as we work through this process

***If we have 2 services could both be the same?**

- Pastor Sherri said that studies show that people are looking for a certain style of worship and music

***Preparation for Kickoff Sunday:**

- a "soft launch" was proposed for the end of August

-include ushers and various church leaders

B. How do we reopen? Guidelines for reopening to be communicated to the congregation
(Discussion based on the “Plan for Relaunching”)

-we are presently at Phase 4

-re: Masks - What do we do if someone comes to worship and refuses to wear a mask?

-if the policy is that masks are required each person should comply

- providing a separate worship area was mentioned

-the congregation must be made aware that out of love for others masks are required

-the online service is offered to those who refuse to comply or for some reason cannot wear a mask

-Sherri plans to take off her mask for the sermon and will be on stage to increase the social distance

-re: staff - -guidelines differ between SPRC and Plan for Relaunching

-SPRC says 2 person rule - could 3-4 persons be in the building at same time?

-may need several musicians in the building to prepare

-re: building use -

-small groups could meet after the initial opening

-need a plan for cleaning the building

-no commitment to any group on building use at this time

-Task Force on building use needed:

Member from Governance board, SPRC, Trustees, Heather

Amy and Michael to represent Governance Board

-Sue K. volunteered to clear out all the items in the pew racks in the sanctuary, as well as coat hangers.

C. How do we communicate a plan/guidelines to the congregation?

- Dan will record a message from the Governance Board to the congregation to be presented at the worship service on July 12 - tell the congregation what is being planned

- Amy will re-work the wording in the Plan for Relaunching and provided this committee with a revised copy

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Re: Fall Church conference

-we have been asked what dates we have available

-this will be done virtually

-this is a Charge Conference not a Church Conference - just key members/committee members involved

2. Discuss building use in more detail next meeting.

3. Dan has donated masks and wipes for use in the office/church

Thank you Dan.

JOYS AND CONCERNS:

1. Great appreciation for Amy’s work as chairperson of the Governance Board; and prayers for her and family on the passing of her father

2. Prayers for Brad and Sherri as Brad's brother and father are in palliative care; and, Brad is traveling often to Ohio to be with his brother
3. Prayers for Kyle's family on the one year anniversary of his cousin's drowning

Meeting adjourned at 10:52 am

THE NEXT MEETING IS: SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2020 at 9:00 am.

Amy has volunteered to share devotions and prayer.

Carol DeWeerd

Governance Board Secretary