

**Hopkins Community Church**  
**Consistory Meeting Minutes**  
**March 16, 2020 at 6:10 PM**

**Members Present:** Pastor Jon, Dick Boverhof, Lee DeZeeuw, Dan Kisner, Troy Clement, Joel Eding, Rich Huizinga, Jen Kerber, Eric Porter and Evan Crowe.

**Members Not Present:** Sally Burgess, Lupe Martinez

**Opening Prayer: Pastor Jon**

**Devotions:** Psalm 121 read by Pastor Jon.

**Approval of Agenda:** After one added change (add in Executive Committee information to agenda), motion to accept agenda by Bob Larr. Supported by Lee DeZeeuw; all in favor.

**Approval of February 2020 Minutes:** Motion to accept minutes by Bob; supported by Lee; all in favor.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Vision 2020 Update and Classis Actions/ Meeting:** no new update or information; things are at a status quo for the time being.

**Tithing Conversation:** review various choices for online giving, etc.

**Coronavirus Discussion:** a decision was made to suspend meeting in person until we are past the Maundy Thursday service (April 9). We will suspend all rentals/ room use at the church through Easter Sunday (April 12). Pastor Jon will continue to hold some office hours until the birth of their baby. His planned time off may or may not wait; he can also work from home as needed. Kathy will be in the office to process the financial transactions and anything else that is deemed essential. Discussion around how our giving/ tithing will function during this time. We can encourage our congregation to give by mail, ACH, a drop box located at the church, and Kathy will look at the option of giving online and what that might involve. Kathy will work with Jen Kerber in getting things set up for this once a decision has been made on which platform to use (PayPal, other tithing applications).

Looking to assess needs of our congregation and community during the next few weeks: Jen Kerber mentioned checking with Project Hope since we have an established relationship with them already, and they are a good organization that properly assesses and can determine appropriate needs. We have the HELP Fund and the balance in that fund is around \$1,300 currently. District elders/deacons could make calls to each family in the congregation to do find out how they are doing, check on how they are receiving current church information (email, text, Facebook) and verify contact information for them.

Kathy offered to assist by compiling addresses and phone numbers and get that information to Jen to be used for districts.

The Consistory voted to continue to pay church staff their current salary or hourly wages as usual until further notice so as not to create hardship on those individuals and families. Motion made by Joel Eding; supported by Bob Larr. (The staff present at the meeting are very blessed and grateful for this!)

**Policy Review Process:** we will address this at our next meeting. We are to review our church policies every two years. Currently, we are not compliant doing this. Bob Larr has a copy of each policy and he will plan to pass those out, give time for some discussion and use 45-60 days to review and revise as needed.

**Kingdom Building Fund Classis Grant:** Pastor Jon still working on this through the classis for Pastor Jim's position.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Church Security Update:** Dan Kisner has been working on this. Kevin Dewey to meet with a security person (Hopkins grad) and look at a camera set up, etc. Sunday services and Sunday School: observation and monitoring of entry doors, greet at the doors to be able to observe easily, etc. There is a training class available, but this was cancelled due to the coronavirus situation. No written policy in

place yet – just a plan to observe and station someone near the door. The goal is to be as “under the radar” or stealth as possible but this has been a challenge to implement.

**Surplus Funds Conversation:** The surplus funds conversation is on hold except for noting that we plan to use this toward Kingdom Building – assisting our community at this time of need. Pastor Jon challenged us to tithe those funds from the surplus and look at ways to honor that. From the budget surplus funds from 2019, we are taking \$18,600 and allocating this chunk of money to other people/ Kingdom work. Eric Porter suggested assisting CD’s in Hopkins. They are currently offering kids 18 and under a slice of pizza for \$1. A few others have given funds toward helping them feed the community kids. HCC could make a gesture to partner with him as he helps the community. Motion to donate \$250 to CD’s to assist with the pizza discount made by Bob Larr. Eric Porter supported this motion. Kathy will prepare a check to CD’s for \$250.

Discussion ensued as to allocating these funds and setting them aside in a designated fund. This will also be considered a supplement to the HELP Fund should it run out of money. A simple email vote by elders and deacons will allow use of these funds should the need arise. Motion made by Bob Larr; supported by Troy; all in favor.

**Statement of Faith:** moving forward on this, work to be proactive and refine this more. We will revisit this later for feedback at our next meeting.

**Ministry Team Reports:**

**Elder’s Report –**

**Deacon’s Report –**

**Finance Team Report –** information supplied by Kathy

**Search Team – no report**

**Around the Table:** Pastor Jon is looking at implementing the use of Zoom, an online meeting platform. A small cost will likely be involved with this. Bob Larr gave some information about the Executive Committee to the consistory, mostly food for thought to take into consideration that they will need more and new members at the end of 2020. Evan will plan to reach out to the worship team, keep in touch and look at setting up a Spotify account for their use. Jen will work on the congregation district lists. Eric Porter will check into how the community kids are being fed during this virus situation and see if there are ways the church might assist. Joel suggested we can meet again if needed before the next scheduled meeting and can be flexible in this area, with Pastor Jon keeping in touch. Pastor Jon reiterated his flexibility and willingness to be a familiar face to the congregation during this crisis and problem-solving as to how this might look.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Joel Eding; supported by Jen Kerber; all in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:46 PM

Next Meeting: April

Closing Prayer: Pastor Jon

Minutes submitted by Kathy Westendorp