

Hopkins Community Church

Consistory Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2020 at 6:00 PM

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

Opening Prayer: Pastor Jon

Devotions/ Meditation: 1 Peter 5:1-11 read by Pastor Jon

Time of reflection and prayer on these verses followed by a time of sharing.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Jon

Approval of March 2020 Minutes: Motion to accept minutes by Lee DZ; supported by Bob L; all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Check-ins: How is everyone doing? Any concerns either personally or within assigned districts?

Key concerns: pray for our school district as teachers figure out what school might look like in the fall and they are stressed. Pray for the church as we work to keep relationships and trust together despite distance from each other in person; and be in prayer during this time for one another and for all involved in church leadership.

Costa Rica Mission Trip Discussion:

No decision has been made by CR mission trip team yet on whether to go or to cancel. They would like to wait and see if it will be possible to go before making any final decisions. They would also adhere to whatever the elders/ Consistory decide is best. The Costa Rica border is currently closed until June 15. A decision will be made by the country on June 12 – that is the earliest to know if the borders will open. Trip is scheduled for July 11-17, 2020. There is one person who has dropped out, but all others are good to wait out the process. They are really at the mercy of Praying Pelican as to whether they go as well as Costa Rica's border decision. Consensus to allow them to decide and wait until the time is closer to make final decisions.

Re-opening Survey Review and Discussion:

Review data from surveys taken (about 60 surveys total). Several different categories were included in the survey such as: How eager to reopen/ in person comfort levels/ reopening in June/ continue drive-in services etc. Many are moving from doing nothing to doing something (unlike HCC). Many are making moves out of desperation (unlike HCC) and our main goal is to witness to Jesus Christ, not to get political.

A praise: we are NOT in a desperate situation to resume meeting. We have been blessed abundantly!!

A question to ask: What is our best worship format to tell people about Jesus right now?

A comment: We have had positive responses to the livestream option and likely we will move to make this permanent as we work on the technical needs to achieve this goal. No reason not to continue to offer this for worship services now and going forward.

Consensus: after a thorough and lengthy discussion about all options, formats, viewpoints, etc. it was decided to continue drive-in worship services until June 21, 2020. This will allow for further development from our governor as to the state of the shut-down orders that currently are set in place through June 12, 2020. Motion made by Bob Larr; supported by Dan K; all in favor.

Pastor of Prayer Update:

- Pastor Jim has begun the Thursday evening prayer meetings via Zoom platform.
- Dennis Norman, Kyle Hoffmaster, Pastor Jim, and Pastor Jon have all been working on this together.
- Pastor Jim will also be preaching this coming Sunday, May 24.

Facilities Manager Update (given by Lee DeZeeuw):

Main concerns and focus – ongoing water and building issues. Excess moisture has caused roof to bubble. We reached out to the insurance company for an appointment with an adjustor to see what the options are. The main issue with the roof is that the ducts underneath the church fill up with water causing moisture to be retained in the building.

Options presented:

- Run tile around exterior of church to draw water away from the building (est. cost \$3,500)
- Rain gutters (est. cost \$2,500)
- Kevin would work on getting volunteers and renting equipment as needed
- Work on concrete pad under the unit on the west side by nursery door where it the concrete is sagging; build that up along with the ductwork (one quote was about \$8,000)

The nursery and women's restroom has been dealing with wet carpet and tile for quite some time.

Executive Committee notations:

- Agreed with above options for gutters/tile to begin work on the issue and spending up to \$6,000
- Sufficient funds in the Capital Improvement Fund (balance on hand is \$59,000)

Motion made by Bob Larr to move on the gutters and tiling; Dick Boverhof supported; all in favor.

Additional Facilities update:

Recommendation from the security team for a variety of options utilizing cameras, card reader for door access, locks, etc. Estimates are between \$700-\$7,500 for varying levels of security. Lee DeZeeuw will be putting together a formal proposal for security options that we can move forward on. Dan Kisner mentioned that at this time, the security team has not met due to the class in Allegan that is on hold (from cancellation due to the Coronavirus).

Audio Technology Proposal (presented by Pastor Jon and Evan):

Overview - there are some definite needs for tech equipment upgrades to further our online presence. We are just not wired for what we are currently doing right now with online worship and livestreaming – the old format is 15 years old and we're using our systems much differently now than what it was really designed for. When we come back to meeting in the building some decisions will need to be made both for our tech capability, sound board and worship teams. Looking at needing additional screens (Evan is using 2-3 currently), a digital sound board upgrade (better sound and mix options, 40 channel option) wireless mic options, etc. Putting together the most optimal package for our current needs, future needs (15+ years) and the investment into our tech capabilities leads to asking for \$6,000 to fund the upgrades. **The funds would be coming from the Capital Improvement Fund.**

Time was spent on some questions/ discussion as to the nature of the tech upgrade and specifically questions relating to whether this upgrade will be "enough" or is it just something to get by with temporarily. It was sufficiently expressed that this is our best upgrade for both now and future needs and capabilities. The old system was just not designed with expansion in mind.

Motion made by Lee DZ to approve \$6,000 sound package; seconded by Sally B; all in favor.

Pastor Jon and Evan will begin implementing this ASAP.

OLD BUSINESS

Policy Review (Bob Larr): we attempt to review all church policies every two years. All current policies are on the back table, please pick one up and review over the next 60 days. All changes to be received by August. Please make the notations for the needed updates and changes and give those back to Bob or Kathy in the office.

Statement of Faith: elders have made some minor changes. Pastor Jon to revise and resend. We will vote on this at the June meeting. Review and pray (homework) so that we can vote on it.

Financial Reports: April 2020 and May 1-15, 2020 copies given to all. Giving in May has been slightly down from what was received in April.

Ministry Residency Position/ Evan:

Evan provided a brief update about his position that comes to an end in two weeks. He challenged us to think "what's next?". There was a good deal of crazy in the past two months with worship planning. One of his goals is to have the full band lead worship even if we are not yet meeting in person. He would get all the systems installed, teach others how to use the technology, etc. A couple people expressed interest in learning more or adding to our team (Jason Veenstra, Chris Penning, possibly Terry Jordan). Evan is in the running for a position at a church in Charlevoix, MI and he is awaiting the final word on this. He expressed deep appreciation to all who have helped him grow in the last two years while serving at HCC. His time frame of leaving HCC will be flexible to some degree (maybe July/August) so he can continue to help/work at HCC before transitioning to Charlevoix.

Pastor Jon mentioned that without Evan's help, drive-in church really would not have happened and a big thank you was expressed to Evan on behalf of the church for all his work and effort.

Discussion led by Bob Larr after Evan departed the meeting.

A brief overview was given that HCC began work as a "teaching church" with the hiring of Pastor Sarah Farkas. We took a short break following her departure and then went on to hire Evan. Following a 5-week time study that was done by Evan, there are two proposals on the table. It is logical to offer a position to Evan as we still need him to help us with drive-in worship.

1. Worship Minister - new position?
2. Song/ Worship Leader – leading worship and all the details that go along with service preparation
PT position, \$15 per hour at 10 hours per week (+ 5 hours/wk. for drive-in church)

Only intended to be offered as a one-year position, or until he leaves for a new position with a one-year limitation. This offer is not intended to keep Evan at HCC. Essentially it creates a position for Evan to fill the needs we currently have with drive-in worship and the new tech equipment coming on board and the training of those individuals by Evan. Motion made by Bob Larr to offer new position to Evan; supported by Sally Burgess; all in favor. The Executive Committee plans to move forward with defining/refining the job description and consulting with Evan further.

June Meeting:

We will work on looking ahead to November (Budget, Consistory Nominations, Congregational Meeting)
The Consistory plans to oversee the budget process.

Reminders:

Statement of Faith: be ready to sign this or make changes

District Needs: Check in with families, update them on church information, invite them to join us however they prefer

Pick up policies on the back table on your way out

There will be no rentals of the church facility through June 21, 2020. Everything is still considered to be closed to in-person meetings and gatherings at this time. We should have more clarity from the state of Michigan on this for our June meeting. Kathy will communicate to those who have reserved the church for graduation parties or other events that they will need to reschedule or cancel.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Bob Larr; supported by Sally Burgess; all in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:36 PM

Next Meeting: June 15, 2020 at 6:00 PM (Elders to meet at 5:00 PM)

Closing Prayer: Pastor Jon

Minutes submitted by Kathy Westendorp