

Hopkins Community Church
Consistory Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2020 at 6:00 PM

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

Absent: Evan Crowe.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Jon

Devotions/ Meditation: John 17:20-26 read by Pastor Jon, Pastor Jim and Sally Burgess.

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

Ministry Residency Position (Bob Larr):

The Executive Committee met with Evan and came up with a rough draft for the job description for the newly created position of **Worship Leader**. This is a result of the Ministry Residency Internship coming to an end. While in discussion about hours and pay rate, there was a discrepancy discovered from late 2018 that should have resulted in additional pay to Evan's position (based on an increase in his hours in 2018); this has been rectified and he has received the difference owed to him. The offer extended to Evan was for 20 hours per week at \$16 per hour. He did counteroffer and is asking to be considered for 20 hours per week at \$20 per hour.

Discussion led by Bob Larr around the table to discuss the new position, hours, job description and how that will function as well as some discussion on rate of pay. After discussion and questions the Executive Committee stands by the original offer for the position of Worship Leader as a one-year contract (reviewable after one year) to Evan at the stated 20 hours per week at \$16 per hour.

Motion made to offer the position of Worship Leader to Evan Crowe: Bob Larr

Motion supported: Jen Kerber

All in favor.

2021 Budget Process: to begin in July.

Consistory is planning to manage the process of creating the 2021 budget and this serves as a reminder for all to plan for that to take place beginning at the next meeting on July 20, 2020.

2021 Consistory Nomination Process: to also begin in July.

Debit Card for Kevin Dewey: recommendation made to add Kevin Dewey, HCC's Facilities Manager, to the bank signature card which would allow him to be issued a church debit card to be used for the purposes of his position. Currently, Pastor Jon and Kathy each have a debit card to be used for Ministry Team purchases by various team leaders as well as some recurring normal operational expenses and both have made their cards available for Kevin to use as needed. There was discussion as to the oversight of the church debit cards and what our policy is for these. Since we do not have a current debit card policy, it was decided that would be a good place to start. A committee has been formed (Joel Eding, Rich Huizinga, and Eric Porter) to take care of creating a debit card policy. A decision has been tabled on issuing Kevin a card until the policy has been put into place and this will be followed up at next month's meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Statement of Faith: recommendation by Pastor Jim Harrison to add the Belhar Confession to our statement of faith. This confession deals with racial injustice and at this time in our nation's history, it is very appropriate that we should consider this addition. Consistory would move to apply the Statement of Faith alongside of the Bylaws. Most likely, District meetings will be held to go through this with the congregation as well as the rest of the budget process prior to the Congregational Meeting that is held in November.

Motion made to accept this added change and the amended Statement of Faith: Bob Larr

Motion supported: Rich Huizinga

All in favor.

Re-Opening Conversation: began by outlining several areas of importance to this conversation. Below is the breakdown of the areas of concern followed by the discussion points. We have been following the State of Michigan's recommended guidelines thus far.

1. **Small Groups/ Meetings** (search team, worship team, etc.)
 - a) The Monday morning Bible Study group wishes to resume meeting in person. The Search Committee and other various ministry groups would like to do the same.
 - b) Junior High Youth Group has been attempting to use the Zoom platform for online meetings, but this hasn't been working out as well as they would like.

It was decided to allow the various groups to begin meeting in person and/or at the church beginning immediately. We will also allow the Ladies For the Lord group to prepare food in the kitchen, following all health department/CDC guidelines and taking needed precautions (they have a catering event to prepare food for). The number of people for each of the group gatherings would generally be small.

2. **Church Rentals** (outside use such as graduation open houses, bridal or baby showers, etc.)
 - a) Inside use of MP Room and/or Kitchen?
 - b) Outdoor use of the grounds, use of our tables and chairs permitted but no indoor bathroom facilities available? Use of parking lot for gathering, etc.

It was decided to allow only outdoor use of the church grounds at this time. The number of people coming to an event such as a graduation open house, bridal or baby shower, etc. would be hard to limit or contain. We will allow use of our tables and chairs for those who wish to hold their rental outdoors. There would be no available restrooms so those renting the grounds would also need to consider providing this if they wish.

3. **Indoor in-person worship**
 - a) Cleaning/sanitization questions
 - b) Food handling and serving questions
 - c) Nursery...Walk Out Worship...and the impact for families not having these amenities during worship
 - d) Should we have the congregation take the survey again to see if anything has changed?
 - e) Continue outdoor worship with streaming and YouTube/Facebook through Sunday, July 26 and reassess the situation at our July 20, 2020 meeting?

Discussed how it might work if we continue drive-in worship with the pastor delivering the message outside on the lift while broadcasting this in the sanctuary on the screen for those who want to worship indoors. We would also allow use of restrooms. After various pros and cons were cited, it was decided that we would continue with our drive-in worship for now "as is" with no changes through Sunday, July 26 as the majority wishes to re-open without restrictions if at all possible. It seems wise to wait and see how the reopening of our state progresses, any changes in the situation of the virus in our communities, etc. and plan to discuss this again at the July 20 meeting.

Policy Review: reminder given to Consistory members to please make any changes to the policies they are each reviewing, meet or discuss with Kathy as needed, and plan to turn them in at the July 20 meeting.

Kingdom Building Grant Fund: paperwork available for review; Pastor Jon submitted this grant request for helping to fund Pastor Jim's position at HCC.

Costa Rica Mission Trip Update: Praying Pelican organization has now canceled the Costa Rica trip. The HCC mission team requests that we send the \$1,550 budgeted funds (approved Dec 2019 meeting) through Praying Pelican to Costa Rica for the purpose of assisting in their food distribution programs, in lieu of purchasing building supplies and materials as originally planned. This was agreed upon by all in Consistory. Pastor Jon will get in touch with Brad and Becky Bliet to work with Kathy in getting those funds sent to Praying Pelican for Costa Rica.

Vision 2020 Update: Synod canceled their meetings. Their report is technically still coming (?) and would be released to congregations to think and pray about over the course of a year. Waiting to hear more about this.

Ministry Team Reports

1. **Finance:** spending has been kept down and to a minimum in as many areas as possible as we strive to be good stewards of all that is being given by our congregation in this difficult time. Giving is trending slightly lower than April/ May but looks to be some normal fluctuations. We cannot say this enough – we are thankful and blessed by our congregation's giving through this very trying time for our state and country. Thank you to ALL. We continue to be humbled and thankful.
2. **Search Team:** continues to meet. Working on mission/vision and Pastor Jon to encourage them in the second part of their mandate (defining the needs of this church). Zoom meetings have been a bit rough and not nearly as productive as they would like. It will be good for them to begin meeting in person again.
3. **Property Team:** Lee DeZeeuw reported that the side yard was seeded this past week following the drainage tile project that was organized by Kevin Dewey. The north side of the church building was also power washed today (June 15, 2020) and the approved gutter project will be taking place soon, likely in the next few weeks. Kevin has been also been working on what the "next steps" might look like for addressing our HVAC system and ongoing humidity issues. There have been several recommendations by outside contractors/companies for ways to solve our water/humidity problem and some of them will be quite costly. It was offered that perhaps we should consult with a mechanical engineer for an expert opinion rather than a contractor/company who might just be looking to "sell" the job and not necessarily fix our issues correctly.

One other suggestion was made that Kevin should also compile a list of church volunteers who have specific skills/gifts to aid in various projects from time to time and to call on them for assistance. Lee will take these recommendations back to Kevin.

Joel Eding asked two questions regarding communion and printing a bulletin. Is there a way we can celebrate communion at drive-in church? There are disposable pre-packaged communion and wafer sets available for purchase, so it was recommended that we proceed with purchasing a supply of these to be used for communion. The second question was inquiring about have a printed bulletin or informational sheet that we can hand out to those who come in person, as well as a printed sheet for the song lyrics. Kathy said she would start printing a modified bulletin and song lyrics starting with this coming Sunday, June 21, 2020. Those who are comfortable in taking printed material may do so, and others may decline as they wish and the choice will be left up to the individual.

Motion made to adjourn meeting: Sally Burgess

Motion supported: Dick Boverhof

All in favor.

Meeting adjourned: 9:10 PM

Next Meeting: July 20, 2020 at 6:00 PM (Elders to meet at 5:00 PM)

Closing Prayer: Dan Kisner

Minutes submitted by Kathy Westendorp