

Hopkins Community Church

Consistory Meeting Minutes

July 20, 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, Eric Porter.

Absent: Lupe M.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Jon

Devotions/ Meditation: John 15:1-17 read by Pastor Jon, Pastor Jim and Eric P.

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

Closing Prayer: Pastor Jon

Approval of June 2020 Minutes: Motion to accept minutes by Joel E; supported by Lee DZ; all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Pastor Jon's Evaluation (presented by Pastor Jon as requested by Bob Larr)

November-December 2019 goals were laid out for 2020. Covid-19 did not stall or eliminate those goals! We hired a Facility Manager (Kevin Dewey); developed a Search Team (currently doing vision work); created a Faith Statement (next step presenting to congregation); Pastor of Prayer and Discipleship (Pastor Jim Harrison was hired and now meeting in person to form/ equip prayer teams); more frequent and better communication to the congregation on all fronts and using as many avenues to do this as possible; General Synod (canceled); a conclusion for the Ministry Residency Internship (Evan Crowe's position). We look forward to the Search Team having some information and a presentation for the congregation in November; we are working to build a resource team around Kevin Dewey for building and grounds; working to prepare our Statement of Faith to be presented to the congregation in possible District meetings for questions and discussion; and working on the Expectancy group/prayer team formation and execution.

We are very much on track with where we wanted to be, and **we are moving forward!**

Bob Larr pointed out that with a turnover of 4 people in Consistory this year, we should keep in mind the process of goal-setting and use the tools implemented and provided by Doug Collier to continue moving forward as this has been very helpful and beneficial.

Worship Team - Future Ministry Options

The declination letter from Evan Crowe closes the chapter on his employment with HCC. He turned down the offer extended by the Consistory for position of Worship Leader (see June 2020 minutes for position details if needed). We have accepted his letter and he has completed the tasks we asked of him prior to the end of his position with HCC. He has cleaned out his office space as well, and that brings us to the question of where do we go from here and what do we do next? There are three options to be considered:

1. "Holding Pattern" – we currently have a working plan for Sundays. Help is needed with prayer by Consistory. (Thank you to all those who have already stepped up to fill this need) Pastor Jon has the praise team planned out through September. Chris P has taken on the audio responsibility and Pastor will confirm with Jason Veenstra whether he will take over the tech responsibilities. This is workable for Pastor Jon, although it does take up more of his time. He will cut out a few hours each week that he spends in the office in order not to sacrifice family time to make this scenario work for all.
2. "Interim Adjustment" – we could attempt to find and hire someone on a temporary basis (6 months?) to alleviate and fill in the gaps. OR we find someone to handle the Discipleship responsibilities from September to May. Suggestion by Pastor Jon would be to consider using Pastor Jim Harrison and have him step into the discipleship role and mentoring/growing people for discipleship and small groups (which we began in 2019). He has experience and passion for those areas.
3. "Permanent Hire" – we would post the job description for Worship Leader (the job offered to Evan C) and hire someone. This may be a conflict with the search process potentially.

Following a time of questions and discussion around these different options, it was decided to ask Pastor Jon and Pastor Jim to leave the meeting so that an honest discussion and evaluation might take place amongst the Consistory members. There are many facets to each scenario that were explored and discussed. It was decided to table the discussion/ decision and call a special meeting for Monday, July 27, 2020 at 6:00 PM. All agreed and the pastors were brought back to the meeting.

2021 Budget Process: Beginning Work (Deacons)

Kathy has prepared the 2021 budget worksheet for each Ministry Team, on which shows the 2020 budget and expenses to date through July 15, 2020. Each Deacon has been assigned a Ministry Team budget to review with the Ministry Team leader(s) and consultation with Pastor Jon and/or Kathy if needed. These will be distributed to the appointed Deacon and brought back to the Consistory by the August meeting.

2021 Consistory Nomination Process: Beginning Work (Elders)

We will be reviewing the list of eligible active, confessing members of HCC and ensure that this list is accurate with membership records. Next month in August we will begin distributing the 2021-2023 nomination ballots to the congregation. Bob Larr will be preparing a letter to go along with the packet of information to be sent out. Target date we would like to receive the ballots back will be September 13, 2020.

Donation Offer: presented by Pastor Jon

A church member has graciously extended an offer to fund the purchase of 2 large screens that could be placed on either side of the cross, which would replace our current pull-down screen that is centered over the cross. Pastor Jon indicated that these would likely be 75" or greater size monitors and there is a bit more research to be done as to what would fit our church for size and clarity and obtain a cost to provide the donor with.

This will be further explored by Pastor Jon and he hopes to have more information to provide the Consistory with at the next meeting in August.

OLD BUSINESS

Debit Card Use Policy (Joel Eding)

All deacons met together to review, discuss, and approve the policy with minor tweaks. The committee will amend and have the new policy in place to present at the August meeting.

Policy Review (Bob Larr)

Most of the policies have been reviewed and notations made for updating. The deacons would like to go over the financial policies more in depth. Kathy will work on updating these and ensuring that there is review information provided along with a date noted on the documents for continuing to aid in future policy revisions and updates.

Vision 2020 (Pastor Jon)

An update was emailed to all. We essentially have an entire year of time to process the report as a congregation.

Re-Opening Conversation (entire Consistory)

Quickly reviewed the current virus numbers and trends this past month in Michigan.

Do we re-open in August? Do we re-open the Sunday after Labor Day (September 13, 2020) as "normal" which gives us a 5- or 6-week timeframe in which to work and prepare the church building, etc? People may feel more at ease as school is set to resume on August 27, 2020.

A variety of scenarios on ways to maintain social distancing, sanitization, etc were discussed and also the timeline for re-opening was discussed. Drive-in church has been planned to go through the end of July, which is next week Sunday (July 26, 2020). Do we extend our drive-in church schedule, do we go inside, or do we consider a September 13, 2020 re-opening date?

It was decided to use the target date to re-open on September 13, 2020.

Therefore, we will continue to keep the church "closed" as we have been, with the understanding that no church rentals will be able to take place until we are back in the building. Kathy will contact the one church rental (MP room for a graduation open house) on the calendar in August and offer them the option to have it outside on church property instead.

Pastor Jon invited all who have ideas on how to re-open to please share that with him in the upcoming weeks prior to the August Consistory meeting. He will be preparing information to share with the congregation as well as Ministry Teams.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

- 1. Elders' Report (Bob Larr):** went through the list of membership as provided by Kathy for the nomination ballot.
- 2. Deacon's Report (Jen K):** the deacons have divided up the budget worksheet duties, Kathy to provide Jen with the worksheets and she will distribute to each deacon.
- 3. Finance:** we continue to be thankful for the generous giving from our members during a difficult time. Please continue to keep the budget process for 2021 in prayer.
- 4. Search Team (Pastor Jon):** meets tomorrow and again in two weeks, and they are continuing to move forward.

5. **Property Team (Lee DeZeeuw):** a quote was received from a mechanical engineer for the water/humidity issue and Lee and Kevin need a chance to review that and discuss.
6. **Worship Team (Pastor Jon):** all worship, tech and sound updates have been completed. The new system is functioning well, and we are very pleased with it. Worship team planning to go through September. We can always also use more volunteers willing to learn sound and tech for Sunday services.

Motion made to adjourn meeting: Bob Larr

Motion supported: Sally Burgess

All in favor.

Meeting adjourned: 9:00 PM

Next Meeting: August 17, 2020 at 6:00 PM

Closing Prayer: Pastor Jim Harrison

Minutes submitted by Kathy Westendorp