

Hopkins Community Church

Consistory Meeting Minutes

August 17, 2020 at 6:00 PM

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

Absent: Bob Larr

Opening Prayer: Pastor Jon

Devotions/ Meditation: Mark 6:6-13 read by Pastor Jon, Pastor Jim and Lee D.

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

Closing Prayer: Pastor Jon

Approval of Agenda: Motion to accept by Jen K; supported by Dick B.

Approval of July 20, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes and Special Meeting on July 27, 2020: Motion to accept minutes by Dick B; supported by Eric P; all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Youth Group Update (presented by Cindy Kukor)

JR High Leaders/ Helpers: Doug and Sally Hoffmaster, Suzanne Antvelink, Allison Halsted, Corden DeZeeuw. Planning to have a mud kickball event on August 30 with the official kick off to the season on September 20. Meetings will be at the Hoffmasters on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month as in the past.

Junior High YG looks to have approximately 25-30 kids this year with the theme for this year centered around what it looks like to live out our faith daily and being real.

Would like to plan for a mission trip of some kind for the summer of 2021 since 2020's was canceled due to Covid.

SR High Leaders/ Helpers: Cindy Kukor, Robin Ballard, Cindy VandenToorn, Kennedy Porter, Tyler and Kristin VanderSyde, possibly Loren Forbes. Beach Day scheduled for August 23 and an official kick off to the season on September 20. Meetings will be the 1st and 3rd Sundays in the youth barn. This year's theme will be based on identity and who we are in Christ. Doing a bit of rebranding with SR High youth group and new name of "R-Gen". Some future goals would include working on cleaning up the youth barn, installing new basketball hoops outside (current ones broken), identifying the building a bit better for kids not from HCC, working on a better presence online for communication purposes, taking inventory of our dodgeballs and various equipment. Looking to change direction with the mission trip that was originally planned in the Bahamas and instead travel to Alaska for summer 2021 and explore how or if they can work with Praying Pelican on this.

There are still some items from the auction that had been planned earlier this spring and they will look at possibly utilizing a virtual auction of some kind. The Consistory was very supportive and appreciative of all the information provided by Cindy and thanked her for her time in giving that update.

Pastor Jim Harrison Contract Follow-Up/ Finalization (Pastor Jon)

Following the added special consistory meeting on July 27, Pastor Jon made the recommendation to the consistory to proceed with the following offer to Pastor Jim: \$24.46/hourly rate for the 10 additional hours per week. These funds would be paid directly to his 501(c)3 plan to cover insurance costs and not added to salary. The revision to Pastor Jim's contract is retroactive to August 2, 2020.

A time of discussion followed the proposal then a final individual vote was taken around the table. All yes votes, one yes absentee vote, one abstention vote. Motion to approve had been made earlier by Eric P via email; supported by Jen K.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Request to allow the blood drive to be held here at HCC instead of at the school for Oct and Dec dates. If we reopen, we will allow the blood drive per discussion. Motion made to approve by Jen K; supported by Sally B; all in favor.

First blood drive will be held on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 and there will be advertising and publication about this forthcoming.

RCA Growth Fund/ Loan Modification Application

We are in the process of reviewing our loan documentation. Cindy Lowman has reviewed our current loan structure and requested a modification of our rate to return us to a fair market value and fixed rate of interest. We need to approve this and sign the loan paperwork and send to Classis.

Motion to approve made by Jen K; supported by Dick B.; all in favor.

Special Meeting Scheduled with Search Team

The Search Team wishes to schedule a time to meet with the Consistory. Discussion around a possible time was conducted and it was decided to meet on Monday, August 24 from 6:30-8:00 PM for all who can make it. There will likely be a video recording of the meeting for all who cannot attend. The search team is excited and ready to move forward following our reopening on September 13.

Social Media Presence (added to agenda by Joel E)

Questions concerning our church's social media presence were voiced. We have been using various platforms such as Facebook, YouTube for livestreaming our services, etc. These are somewhat new platforms for HCC due to our situation with Covid. How do we handle our "church business" online? Do we have a policy or guidelines for this? What is our current structure as to who may post, who may run or manage the platforms, etc.?

Pastor Jon offered to gather policies from other churches and get some more information for the next meeting in September. No motion required.

OLD BUSINESS

Debit Card Use Policy (Joel Eding)

A rough draft of the debit card policy was received from Joel E. Kathy requested the opportunity to review and look this over before the September meeting.

2021 Budget Process (Deacons)

Jen K has distributed the worksheets to the deacons so they can meet with the Ministry Team leaders and complete the budget request forms and return to Jen/Kathy within the next week or so. Note: some were received by Kathy tonight following the meeting.

2021 Consistory Nomination Process (Elders)

Ballot submitted for approval by the Consistory. It was noted we may need to add a few individuals to the ballot based on our membership review (Corden DeZeeuw, Halsteds, Knowltons, and Tom Jansma). Motion made to accept by Pastor Jon; supported by Dick B; all in favor.

We will be mailing ballots to each active, confessing member along with a self-addressed stamped return envelope. Ballots will be due back by Sunday, September 13, 2020.

Policy Review Update

Rich, Jen and Joel still have a few policies that need completing. Work continues on these.

Vision 2020 (Pastor Jon)

Update included with a few changes that are still happening and the notation that we will be looking to address this sometime in the near future as to the direction of the denomination.

Re-Opening Conversation (entire Consistory)

- 1. Survey Feedback** – review surveys received from congregants (powerpoint and handout). It was noted that more people seem anxious to get back inside; many seem fatigued/not as concerned as earlier. A good percentage are happy with multiple formats and very accepting for all to be able to worship which is a good sign. Mask response was good (78% wished to allow people the choice to wear or not wear a mask) and 90% felt that the church is not responsible to provide masks.
- 2. Reopening Worship Plan Proposal** – review of reopening document as a base to start from, not just to "rubber-stamp" it as-is. All agreed that September 13 for a reopen date was still a good target date. Addressed the "how" and what this will look like, what people can expect, etc. Wrist bands to be mandatory so you can know a person's comfort level immediately by the color band they are wearing. No opposition to the idea of just having church services and nothing else to begin with. This might be a better option instead of trying to plan each part of ministry to start all at once. We could open in phases. Phase 1 would be just church, nothing else. Phase 2 would be working back into Sunday School/ Discipleship Hour, etc.

Phase 1 (start Sept 13) and Phase 2 (start Oct 4)

Phase 1: to have greeters/door openers; nursery to be an open room but not staffed; no WOW, Sunday School/ Discipleship Hour; coffee served outside or at coffee bar (no cookies, just coffee). This will not be dependent upon the school situation with Covid.

Phase 2: will reinstate Sunday School/Discipleship Hour, WOW, nursery, etc. and work back into what a typical Sunday looks like for HCC.

Pastor Jon to communicate this information to the congregation and will revise the working document for reopening as well.

- 3. Reopening Ministry Team Proposal** – discussion on the directives to give to the Ministry Teams. Small groups can continue to meet. GEMS and Cadets and youth groups, etc. are all a “go”. We will allow leaders to choose what steps they want to implement in terms of the guidelines for social distancing, masks, etc. We will keep SS/ Discipleship Hour, WOW and the church nursery excluded from Phase 1 at this time.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

- 1. Elders' Report:** nomination ballot set. October 4, 2020 scheduled as a baptism date.
- 2. Deacon's Report (Jen K):** budget and policy updates are all undergoing work and moving along well.
- 3. Finance:** we just really 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 Monday, August 24 with the Consistory from 6:30-8:00 PM. One thing to mention is that we are one of the few churches to have kept moving forward with plans and decisions and ministry in comparison to other classis churches. This is awesome!
- 5. Property Team (Lee DeZeeuw):** no update.
- 6. Worship Team (Pastor Jon):** new faces, planning is still going well.
- 7. Outreach (added to agenda):** village clean-up project scheduled for the end of September; maybe a leaf clean-up the first couple Saturdays in October. Looking at ways we can be servants in our community. Prayer walk around the neighborhood went well last Sunday following church and again on Thursday (thanks from Sally B to all who participated). Possible neighborhood watch idea coming soon as mentioned by Pastor Jon via the village council.

Motion made to adjourn meeting: Joel E.

Motion supported: Jen K.

All in favor.

Meeting adjourned: 9:35 PM

Next Meeting: September 21, 2020 at 6:00 PM

Closing Prayer: Pastor Jon

Minutes submitted by Kathy Westendorp