

Hopkins Community Church

Consistory Meeting Minutes

July 19, 2021 at 6:30 PM

Members Present: Pastor Jon, Pastor Jim, Dick Boverhof, Kyle Hoffmaster, Dan Kisner, Curt Leep, Troy Clement, Joel Eding, Rich Huizinga, Eric Porter, Tyler VanderSyde.

Members Absent: Sally Burgess, Mike Maule

Opening Prayer: Pastor Jon

Devotions/ Meditation: Luke 5:1-11 (reading; reflection done with district partners; sharing around the table)

Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve **amended** agenda made by Dan K; supported by Rich H; no discussion, all in favor. Amendment to include discussion on office space needs, add Property Team Formation and a contract amendment option for Pastor Jim.

Approval of June 2021 Minutes: Motion to accept minutes made by Curt L; supported by Eric P; all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Vision Action Team Update (Bob Larr)

Bob addressed Consistory members tonight and his message was meant to make those present a bit uncomfortable. There was a lot of work involved on the part of the Expectancy group for the implementation of the Vision Action Team and only 2 members of Consistory and 5 from the general congregation turned out for the connection event which is going out into the community door-to-door and asking the two questions "How can we pray for you?" and "How can we serve you?" Bob's purpose tonight is to challenge each member to support this endeavor and those who are organizing it, and to underscore the importance of having Consistory show up. There were 37 kids who signed up and came out for the Middle School Bible Study on Thursdays this summer that Pastor Jim helped lead. Seeds are being planted! By showing up, you're making a commitment to save lives and to plant seeds. There are two dates coming up: July 29 from 6:30-8:00 PM and July 31 from 10-11:30 AM.

There was a time offered for questions and answers with Bob, and a time to review the functionality for our prayer list as well as the deacon service list that are generated following our connection events. We need to keep pressing forward.

4th of July Outreach Event Reflections

1. Over 400 people were served at breakfast (approximately 100 over the norm)
2. Most of these people also stayed for the worship service
3. Many new and unfamiliar faces in the crowd at church
4. Logistics in setting up and sound all seemed to go smoothly and we only need to maybe work on the video presence (live stream) a bit as the camera was out of focus at times.
5. Float was good! We had a good turnout to participate with the float. Thank you to Joel/Rich who helped with the truck and trailer we needed.

Homeschool Learning Connection Idea

There are some families concerned about mask mandates and schools that are potentially teaching the CRT (Critical Race Theory) learning, among other concerns. There is an option for those families to pull their child(ren) from traditional learning in school to a homeschool alternative. After conversations with Pastor Jon, he has offered to bring consideration for a potential use of space at HCC to the Consistory as something to consider and discuss. Questions such as whether HCC could "host" this learning environment, what that would look like, who would be supervising/staffing the learning environment, etc. are all things that would need to be considered and discussed. There are logistics to walk through (funerals, weddings, blood drives, and potentially other church use that could present a conflict for available space), cleaning schedules to consider, and placing filters on our internet/network. At this time, they have not made a formal request to use the church, so we don't have answers for some of these questions.

Finance Team, Personnel Team, and Property Team Formation

Formation needed for all three of these areas. HCC needs to have structural support and these three areas are key. Pastor Jon suggested that Consistory members should intentionally pray about and discern over the next week, then submit 2 (two) names to him by next week Sunday, July 25.

1. Ideally, it would be good having 3-5 people to serve on each team and with some continuity.
2. Finance – seek people who we know are gifted in that specific area.
3. Personnel – seek to ensure staff does what needs to be done, review of job descriptions, and provide encouragement and feedback to staff.
4. Suggestion to tackle each of these teams one month at a time.

Preparation Work for 2021 Congregational Meeting

The meeting will be held on Sunday, November 14.

1. Elder-Deacon Nominations and Absentee Ballots (Kathy to send active membership list to Elders)
2. Budget Process (we'll look at that at the August meeting)
3. By-Laws' update (please read)
4. Statement of Faith (please read over) – each year the Elders look at this and see if anything needs updating. The Elders have added some information and resources to the Statement of Faith.

Pastor Jon commends both the By-Laws and SOF to all the Consistory. Please read through, be ready to discuss and vote at our next meeting as they both need Consistory approval prior to being voted on by the congregation.

At the Congregational Meeting we will discuss the state of the denomination and the information that they have presented. Synod will meet in October and some decisions will be made by the denomination pertaining to what direction they will take. At that point, HCC will need to make a decision as to which way we will go (see ARC handout in your packet).

5. Staff Reviews will take place and be handled by the Executive Team since there is no Personnel Team formed at this time. The Executive Team will meet soon to go through that process.

Upcoming Vacations (FYI)

Pastor Jon (July 26-August 4 and will be here Sunday, August 1)

- Faith will plan worship while Pastor Jon is gone. If you get a chance, listen to the first song from Sunday, July 18 and listen to Faith lead. She is amazing!

Pastor Jim (August 15-22)

Pastor Caleb (August 15-22)

Faith Reurink (July 22-25 and August 11-14)

Vision Update – included in your packet for the meeting today. The is quite a lot already completed!

Office Space Situation (Dick B, Troy C, Pastor Jon)

The room that currently houses the Library is ideally the most obvious location for office use. We would move the Library (not eliminate it) as it is still well-used and a needed, valuable resource to our church family. Suggestion to possibly move the Library to the current Cry Room location. Cry Room could stay/exist and still be utilized. Sue Porter has asked to handle the of moving the books and other library materials. Caleb will need a desk as well, and Pastor Jon will consult with him about that and any other office needs that he may have. We need to come up with a final idea, settle on it and then Pastor Jon will contact Kevin about making this happen ASAP.

Request by Pastor Jim

Pastor Jim's current contract does not provide any housing allowance to him. After a review with his tax advisor, it was suggested that Jim consider requesting a portion of his salary be allocated for housing. We will need to seek input from the Classis on amending his contract to include the housing allowance designation and Pastor Jon will check with them on this. The Consistory can offer the amendment and make the housing allowance designation to his contract going forward (not retroactive) according to his tax advisor. This amendment would take effect beginning August 1, 2021 provided we have Classis approval for this process.

Motion made by Joel E to make this adjustment to his contract; supported by Tyler V; all in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Youth & Families Pastor Update and Call Form Signatures

- Paperwork needs to be signed for Caleb so we can submit to Classis

Worship on the Lawn Reflections

- Status quo/ all is going well! Planning to go through the second Sunday in September (Sept 12) which will be our Fall Discipleship kick-off and meal following the service. The following Sunday we will return to indoor worship and our usual fall schedules will begin.

Russo's Alternative Church Option

- We have not pursued this option as of yet; Pastor Jon will seek to have a conversation with them by the end of the summer.

Car Show

- Pastor Jon had texted Eric Bair and received no response.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

Elders' Report - Dick Boverhof

1. Baptism on August 1, 2021 for Chase Laarman.
2. Communion has been moved to Sunday, August 8 due to baptism and the Alaska trip presentation.
3. Bible Curriculum for Fall – approved. Encompasses K-Adult and the option for all year discipleship.
4. Members/ Visitors + Congregational Care are all going well.

Deacon's Report

HCC Talent Pool List is available as a PDF resource in the Consistory Group within the church app. A hard copy has been printed and is in a red binder in the office workroom wall file for anyone to access while at church. Kathy can email a list to anyone who asks as needed.

Finance Report (Financial Planning Proposal by Eric Porter)

Eric Porter proposed creating a budget line (or a designated fund) that could be set aside for the sole purpose of a new building or addition to current building needs. Possibly explore endowment options as well as others but he isn't sure how we would go about this process. It would be separate from the General Fund. Other questions that need addressing: what do we do to retire our building debt? When do we get serious about the need for more space within our existing building? We all concur that space is at a premium and is much needed and the issue is now, not for the future. It was agreed that this is a good idea to begin work on, we need a comprehensive plan going forward and that is something a Financial Team would be very much involved with. Option to rename the Memorial Fund to start up this new "building fund" since this is never used, although when someone in the church passes away this is where the funds are deposited. The Barnabas Foundation was also mentioned as an endowment option to consider. Discussion on the various situations and considerations took place.

Motion by Joel E to repurpose the current Memorial Fund (designated fund) to use for future ministry needs and expansion. Time of discussion followed. Supported by Curt L; all in favor.

Once the Finance Team is formed, this will be tasked to them to recommend a plan for debt reduction rather than having this come from the Consistory. It was suggested that we wait one month on this, allow time for a Finance Team to be formed and give some further purposeful thought to a plan of action.

Search Team Report

The Search Team has been tasked with the process of onboarding Pastor Caleb.

Outreach Team

Security Team

Worship Team

Property Team

Hospitality Team

Youth Ministry

R-GEN (high school youth group) will give a report to the congregation about their Alaska Mission Trip on Sunday, August 1. There will also be baptism that day for Chase Laarman. Communion has been moved to Sunday, August 8.

Motion made to adjourn meeting: Curt L.

Motion supported: Kyle H. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned: 9:10 PM

Next Meeting: August 16, 2021 at 6:30 PM.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Jim

Minutes submitted by Kathy Westendorp