

Hopkins Community Church

Consistory Meeting Minutes

August 16, 2021 at 6:30 PM

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

Members Absent: Pastor Jim, Sally Burgess

Opening Prayer: Pastor Jon

Devotions/ Meditation: Matthew 9:38 (devotional reflection on this passage)

Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve **amended** agenda made by Kyle H; supported by Eric P; no discussion, all in favor. Amendment to include discussion presentation regarding modular building potential from Jim Fredricks.

Approval of July 2021 Minutes: Motion to accept minutes made by Kyle H; supported by Curt L; all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

I. Vision Action Team Update (Bob Larr)

Bob gave a short update as to where things stand with our vision efforts. The target was 240 addresses. With the second contact made (4 groups went out) there were 29 contacts to make. We were able to make 20 contacts on Saturday which was a great percentage of them that were reached. There are three more tentative dates set: August 28, September 10, and September 24.

The prayer team (Expectancy group) sent out 72 cards as a response and follow-up to prayer requests.

Troy Clement has received many service/help requests. It is a huge list that he's working on. Offers to help him handle these requests were received and work will be done to pare down the list and see what work we can do and what we'll have to either pass on or refer out. Some requests are beyond what we can assist with.

Bob thanked everyone in Consistory who came out and have offered their help.

II. Alliance of Reformed Churches Meeting Reflection

Reflection was given by Pastor Jon, Kyle H, Dick B, and Curt L following the meeting that was held at Martin Reformed Church to discuss what the ARC offers, pros and cons of the way this will be structured, and benefits to all options. A very positive reflection overall regarding the option of joining ARC should things not go well with the RCA Synod in October and decisions that are yet needing to be made.

III. Fall Worship Plan

Planning to return to indoor worship on September 19, 2021. We'll continue with the same process as before: use of the Multi-purpose Room for more social distancing and mask options, running the livestream, and the use of the FM antenna to broadcast the service to those who wish to stay in their cars in the parking lot. Everyone in agreement that this was still a good choice and offers something for everyone at their comfort levels, and with the current Covid outbreaks again. Rooted small groups to launch. There is a Discipleship Survey on the church app for church members to fill out so that we can gauge their interest and participation levels in various programs we are offering. Leaders working directly with children and youth will undergo background checks again as it's been 3+ years since we did the initial checks. There is a Ministry Agreement leadership form also on the church app that each leader needs to sign prior to the start of the discipleship season. This asks them to read through our Statement of Faith and agree not to teach anything that is contradictory or different from what this says.

IV. Debit Card for Caleb

Discussion as to whether to furnish Caleb with a church debit card as a staff member. Following the selection process for new deacons/elders, Kathy will obtain new signature cards from United Bank and ask that Caleb be added to the account as a debit card holder. The debit card will help him facilitate purchases on behalf of the children and youth ministries leaders and staff, as needed.

Motion made by Rich H to have Kathy request a debit card for Caleb from United Bank; supported by Dick B; all in favor.

V. Modular Space Presentation (Jim Fredricks)

Jim Fredricks presented the Consistory with a potential option for our need for more meeting space at HCC. The Cadets were originally planning to switch their meeting night to Mondays to better accommodate the larger number of boys anticipated, and to alleviate needing to share space with the GEMS on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. The Cadet leaders decided to stay with Wednesdays due to the many conflicts that came up when they presented the change to Mondays to the families, and the fact it might

discourage attendance and participation with Cadets for some of them with sports or other club activities taking place. Jim investigated the portable classroom option, and there is some potential for this to be a temporary solution to our issue. Rich H offered to check with his neighbor who has connections with this type of building option. Also, Jim Fredricks will be transitioning into the Cadet leadership role as Bill Hennip has retired and is stepping back a little bit and planning to be traveling during the winter months. The Consistory agreed that it is worth pursuing the option and getting some pricing and more of an idea of cost than what we have right now.

OLD BUSINESS

I. Finance Team and Personnel Team Formation

Finance: Pastor Jon spoke with Cindy Lowman and she was agreeable and willing to serve. Of the other names suggested, are there any that stand out more than another? How to proceed? After some discussion, Pastor Jon will 1) formally ask each to serve, 2) give them a copy of the formation document, and 3) ask for their response. Names considered: Cindy Lowman, Bob Hennip, Kyle VanderSyde, Jen Kerber, Rich Huizinga, Kyle Hoffmaster.

Personnel: Discussion over the names offered for possible Personnel Team members. Pastor Jon suggested taking two days to pray over these five names and in a week, Pastor Jon will contact them. Names considered: Amanda Reed, Deb Penning, Denise Eding, Stephanie Hoffmaster, Bob Hennip.

II. Preparation Work for 2021 Congregational Meeting

The meeting will be held on Sunday, November 14.

- Elder-Deacon Nomination Packet – approval needed for list of active, confessing members. Elders recommend this list and once the nominations come in, they will take a second look and will oversee any concerns that may arise. Last year we mailed out the packet of information and we will do the same this year since we are still worshipping outdoors. Members will have until September 19 to return ballots either by mail or drop them off at church.
Motion made by Curt L to accept list of names and overall process; supported by Tyler V; discussion took place; all in favor.
- Budget Process – would like to involve the Finance Team to get a vision in place, possibly look at debt reduction options, and feedback from Ministry Team leaders for their budgets at the 8/29 meeting.
- By-Laws' update – reworked wording, grammar, etc. Please look over and review. Motion made by Dick B to approve update to By-Laws; supported by Curt L; all in favor.
- Statement of Faith – each year the Elders look at this and see if anything needs updating. The Elders have added some information and a couple updates including the Great Lakes Catechism on Human Sexuality. Motion made by Curt L to accept the revised Statement of Faith; supported by Troy C; all in favor.
- Denominational Information – it's time to bring this in an organized fashion to the Consistory. General Synod is in October. It's important to involve everyone even if they're on the periphery. Pastor Jon will publish a video series over the next couple of weeks that explains the RCA's situation to give everyone context and information. He plans a sermon over Labor Day weekend regarding Biblical authority. There may be some District meetings or other small scope meeting to present information and answer questions, too. There will be a time to debrief following the Synod meeting in October and then we'll need to address a possible exit strategy from the RCA and discuss at the Consistory meeting in October.
- Staff Reviews – Dick Boverhof will handle the implementation of any reviews that still need to be done.

III. Worship on the Lawn

Brief recap of the summer worship on the lawn; it has been going well, has achieved the goals and mission we set in place.

IV. Homeschool Connection Learning Idea (Jeremy and Allison Halsted)

Brief points and considerations: it's possible a large number of families may opt to leave school if mask mandates arrive. Remote learning was done by Allison last year in their home with 15+ kids as some parents were working, kids would be left home alone, etc. Some want to homeschool but have alternatives and parents need to work. They plan to meet with a lawyer to ensure all legalities are covered and that our non-profit status would not be affected should we agree to allow them use of the facility for this purpose. There are 20 confirmed kids who would participate as of right now, and likely to add more.

Their biggest needs: Wi-Fi, space to meet and study. Parents would be involved and be here. It will be on them to supervise and teach their own children. Possible to offer donations to the church from the parents as a thank you for use of the facility.

Pastor Jon will do some checking regarding our technology and capability with WiFi.

Jeremy and Allison were thanked by the Consistory and there will be a time of discussion and weighing options as we move forward with this potential idea for hosting the homeschool group here at HCC.

V. Russo's Alternative Church Option

Pastor Jon will seek to have a conversation with them soon and have an update for Consistory.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

Elders' Report

Deacon's Report

Finance Report

Search Team Report

Outreach Team

Security Team

Worship Team

Property Team

Hospitality Team

Youth Ministry

Request was made to set a regular meeting time for Consistory to 6:30 PM. There was some confusion between the calendar and app as to the start time for this evening.

Motion made to adjourn meeting: Kyle H.

Motion supported: Tyler V. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned: 9:12 PM

Next Meeting: September 20, 2021 at 6:30 PM

Closing Prayer: Pastor Jon

Minutes submitted by Kathy Westendorp