

Hopkins Community Church

Consistory Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2021 - 6:30 PM

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

Members Absent: Dick Boverhof

Opening Prayer: Pastor Jon

Devotions/ Meditation: Matthew 9:35-38 (Dwell exercise; devotional reflection on this passage)

Approval of Amended Agenda: Motion to approve amended agenda made by Curt L; supported by Mike M; no discussion, all in favor. Amended agenda includes presentation by Jim Fredricks regarding building options/potential expansion of space by Jim Fredricks; installation service for Pastor Caleb; Classis meeting here at HCC; Angel Tree proposal by Cherie Larr.

Approval of August 2021 Minutes: Motion to accept minutes made by Joel E; supported by Tyler V; all in favor.

MINISTRY REPORTS

- 1. Vision Update:** see handout for information as to where we're at to date. 80% complete in reaching village households. This is something to celebrate!! Bob Larr, Pastor Jim, Pastor Jon and Pastor Caleb will meet soon to discuss strategy in how to reach the last 20% of households. The question is how much closer will we be able to get to 100%?
- 2. Elders' Report (Dan K):** there should be some denomination updates as things come to a head in the next month or so and the elders discussed how to bring that information to the congregation. Fall Worship plan – everyone is studying and learning the same material each week. Baptism scheduled for Renee Nykamp, daughter of Pastor Caleb and Rita. Care Concerns – continuing care provided for our members who are absent from worship in person on Sundays; care for the Hibma, Kennedy and Swainston families with recent loss of loved ones. Elders approved the list of eligible names with a couple small changes for the Elder/Deacon slate that will soon be mailed to the congregation.
- 3. Deacon's Report:** the deacons were advised that they should have a plan put in place in the next 60 days for how to implement the needs requests coming in because of the vision plan and contacts made in the community. Troy has been overwhelmed trying to handle this on his own and others will need to step in and assist. Working to come up with a plan to facilitate the requests.
- 4. Executive Team:** discussed prep work for the budget, staff final reviews and recommendations, etc.
- 5. Hospitality Team:** Carol Boverhof sent an email providing an update (see handout in packet)
- 6. Financial Report (August 2021):** discussion as to whether to begin passing the plate on Sundays, as we discern a rhythm to indoor worship once again. Elders and deacons will work on this together. The intent is to leave the collection boxes out for people as well, providing different avenues to receive tithes especially if there are some still hesitant to pass the plate.
- 7. Sunday School/Discipleship Launch (Pastor Caleb):** approximately 100 people involved between PreK-Adult classes. Pretty good reports from SS teachers overall, there will be a period for adjustment to the new material for both teachers and students.
- 8. Worship:** Faith has been doing worship planning on her own with Pastor Jon providing guidance. She is continuing to do more and take on more of this herself and is doing very well. Terry Jorden is back worshipping with us and is assisting with sound and tech again. Very thankful for his abilities and desire to use his talents for HCC! He will come alongside Faith and Jason on sound to work on honing the process further. Faith will also be leading worship at GEMS and Rubies for their upcoming campfire nights with the girls. There will be a new keyboard playing onboarding in the next few weeks too.
- 9. Property Team:** a true "property team" is non-existent at the present time. Considering this, the Executive Team will take on the additional role of Property Team and will work with Kevin (Facilities Manager). They envision being helpful in creating timelines for work that needs to be done, be a sounding board for Kevin and provide some back-up for him for various needs that the church has. They will navigate this more fully as things move forward.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Finance Team Formation:** No contacts have been made yet.
- 2. Personnel Team Formation:** No contacts have been made yet.
- 3. Preparation Work for 2021 Congregational Meeting:**
 - Elder-Deacon Nomination Packet – **approved**. We are seeking to fill a triple slate. Process needs to be put in place to ask those nominated if they are willing to serve – deacons will decide how to divide names up and Pastor Jon will talk to Dick B. to check in on the elder process. Ballots to be counted on 9/20/21.

- 2022 Budget – **needs approval**. Pastor Jon handed out budget worksheets to Consistory members; they are responsible to speak with ministry team leaders to see if they have any requests for their budgets for next year, etc. and the goal is to have those turned in to Pastor Jon or Kathy in the next two weeks (by October 3).
 - By-Laws' update – **approved**.
 - Statement of Faith – **approved**.
 - Denominational Information – no real effort by the RCA to make a statement about human sexuality, etc. We will need to present information to the congregation regarding this matter. Pastor Jon will be available the next couple Sundays after church to answer questions from the congregation and will let people know they can seek him out. Synod is being held in Tucson, AZ in October and Jon plans to attend and will provide video updates while he is there to the congregation. At our next Congregational meeting on November 7, we will talk about what the next steps might look like, discuss the info that came from Synod and how we move forward.
 - Staff Reviews – Executive Team to follow up on this.
4. **Space Needs (Jim Fredricks):** information presented regarding mobile space options, youth barn addition (see handout and notes about potential space needs provided by Jim). This issue has existed for awhile (5 years+) and many solutions have been discussed during that period. We're unable to expand the main building due to a need for sprinklers. The most feasible solution is to add on to the youth barn building. Jim had some rough estimates for size and cost to add on and referenced some information he researched through Menard's. He is asking for permission to present this need to the congregation, see how we can fundraise to take in the necessary funding in order to have something ready to go in the spring and then ready to use by fall 2022. Good discussion, good questions asked, and all agree that space is at a premium and we need to do something. **Motion made by Sally B to give Jim Fredricks the go-ahead. Motion supported by Eric Porter; all in favor.**

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Fall Worship Plan:** the goal is to involve more people in worship, moving to indoor worship as planned, and "less of Pastor Jon" when it comes to participation in the worship service. Each pastor will take part in the service.
2. **Continuous Use Policy:** Many of the parents (from the homeschool group) expressed thanks to Pastor Jon for the consideration given to them for meeting space and what those needs look like. At this time, there has been some resolution to their needs, and they will not require use of the church building for now. We did have a secondary request by two families to use space in the church on a much lesser scale and we've been told it will just be those two families. Discussion took place as to what type of policy we may need to have for continual use of HCC's building and facilities and how this is different than a singular, occasional use (rentals we allow for bridal and wedding showers, family gatherings, etc.). It was decided that Pastor Jon and Kathy would create a rough draft for a policy that would cover this type of use and bring that to the next Consistory meeting for discussion and discernment.
3. **Installation Service for Pastor Caleb:** this takes place at 5:00 PM Sunday, September 26. Pastor Jon encouraged the Consistory to be present and refreshments will be served following the service.
4. **Fall Classis Meeting:** this takes place here at HCC at 6:00 PM Tuesday, September 28. Curt Leep is the elder delegate from HCC for the meeting, but all elders and deacons are encouraged and welcome to attend if they would like to. Dinner will begin at 6:00 PM and the meeting starts at 6:30 PM.
5. **Angel Tree (Cherie Larr):** Cherie requested that we have the Angel Tree ministry back again this year, after doing it slightly differently for 2020. Some different options were discussed; the Consistory would like this to involve participation from the congregation and not just directly funded by the church. Pastor Jon will follow up and talk with Cherie.

Around the Table Discussion

- District lists need to be updated.
- Background checks are being done for all volunteers at HCC and should be completed soon.
- Internet/web use and social media interaction policy should be on our agenda to discuss
- Rooted small groups are looking at about 40 people involved and ready to kick off a new season!

Motion made to adjourn meeting: Kyle H.

Motion supported: Mike M. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned: 8:40 PM

Next Meeting: October 25, 2021 at 6:30 PM

Closing Prayer: Pastor Jim

Minutes submitted by Kathy Westendorp