

Hopkins Community Church
Consistory Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2022 at 6:30 PM

Opening Prayer: Pastor Jon

Roll Call

Present: Pastor Jon VanderWall, Pastor Caleb Nykamp, Dick Boverhof, Jim Fredricks, Kyle Hoffmaster, Danny Kisner, Curt Leep, Troy Clement, Dan Laarman, Mike Maule, Jason Reed, Tyler VanderSyde, Kathy Westendorp

Absent: Pastor Jim

Devotions: Deut. 6:4-12 (read by Jim F and Curt L; dwelling exercise followed with district partners)

Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve agenda made by Kyle H; supported by Dan L; no discussion, all in favor.

Approval of February 2022 Minutes: Motion to accept minutes made by Jim F; supported by Dan L; all in favor.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Vision Update

Vision Progress – first 90 Days (see handout in packets)

Review of what we are doing this year: Small groups continue to meet, launch groups in September again (may seek people outside of church partners to invite/include and have some new Rooted groups), book study, profession of faith, Answers in Genesis ongoing.

Profession of Faith (Pastor Caleb) – on April 24, POF students will go before Elders/Consistory and two Elders will lead the POF interviews with the students. Volunteers for this have already stepped up.

Go & Tell Evangelism Workshop

Discussion on the honorarium that HCC would like to give to Pastor Jim Halstead's ministry and what we will cover for expenses for the weekend he is at HCC. We will cover his hotel expense for two nights, reimburse him for mileage to and from Fort Wayne, IN and donate \$1,000 in addition to covering his travel expenses.

Spring Sale

Spring Parking Lot Sale (MP Room is gaining "stuff" and Allison Halsted is our "go to" person heading up this event). Donations continue to be brought in and the sale will be on Saturday, May 7 from 8 AM – 3 PM.

Elder's Report: working on summer worship plans, rethinking church as HCC transitions to ARC (variety of metrics), evangelism workshop on Saturday, review membership, review any needs or concerns of members (by district). Following the Pastries with the Pastor on Sunday, February 27, there were a number of families and individuals desiring to partner with HCC and those partners were confirmed as of a special Elder Meeting held on Sunday, March 13, 2022. HCC's new partners: Patrick and Kelli Johnson (Madelyn, Caden), Mindy Laarman (Tally, Addy), Marc and Julie Wichman (Liam), Ron and Kim Evink (Jamesen), Terry Jorden, Haley Meyering, Seth and Leah Kuipers, Loren Forbes, John and Milly VanDerMeulen (Tyler, Madelyn, Abigail, Clara). Some are coming to HCC by way of membership transfer.

Deacon's Report: deacon meeting held on February 21 prior to Consistory. Discussed the community outreach current system and what is working, what isn't, and how to restructure this to be more effective. Review attendance numbers to see where we are trending and review the HELP Fund policy to possibly rework/ reword and update this for clarity.

Finance Report: update on the Debt Elimination Fund and review of Feb 2022 financial report from Kathy Current loan balance is \$263,869.71 (as of 2/28 and indicated in the Feb financial report). We sent \$40,000 at the beginning of March as an additional principal payment. These funds came from the previous years' remaining budget surplus monies that had been set aside at that time to be used for future needs. **Consistory voted to use these surplus funds to pay down the building loan.** Additional funds have also been brought in through donations and pledges, which should enable us to send another large payment later this month to continue to bring down the principal balance, helping us save on the interest we pay. We have 21 formal pledges for the debt campaign and continue to receive donations in addition to these pledges from a variety of individuals. The **AmazonSmile quarterly donation** to HCC will be applied to the Debt Fund and we will advertise this again to the congregation as another means to help with the debt relief efforts. We are beyond thankful for the way the congregation has responded through prayer, faithful tithing, and the ongoing fundraising efforts to get this debt removed. All thanks and praise to God for His provision!

OLD BUSINESS

Meeting Reflections: We gave good information, had good communication and Rev. Ed Schmidt did an excellent job. Ed expressed gratitude for our congregation's responses, questions, etc. Unity was very apparent looking at the number of ballots that were returned (absentee) as well as those received in person and the turnout for the meeting.

Denominational Transition Process

RCA Process - the RCA will vote on our request to affiliate with ARC on May 24. There is some additional paperwork that we need to complete to make it official and send that information to Classis. Pastor Jon and Kathy are working on this.

ARC Transition

- **ARC Acceptance Letter dated March 8, 2022** has been received by HCC.
- **Leadership Documents** will be forthcoming from ARC with expectations from our leadership, etc.

Kitchen Management

- At present, there is no real "kitchen management role" in place for HCC. Ladies For The Lord are no longer actively working in this role and discernment is ongoing for this at present.
- Potentially looking to work with the Hospitality Team to coordinate several areas such as funeral luncheons, coffee fellowship, etc.
- The kitchen itself is licensed but the question was asked if we also need to have a licensed individual overseeing the church kitchen as well. Kathy will check on the licensing requirements.
- More coming on this as we determine the needs and use of the kitchen for our congregation and outreach or future outreach potential.

NEW BUSINESS

Policy Updates

- **Social Media Policy (see handout)** – basically something that will hold staff and volunteers at HCC to a higher standard when interacting on social media as we do represent HCC and need to keep this in mind. Tabled further discussion on this until the next meeting. Thank you to Pastor Caleb for his work on both this policy and the Child Protection Policy/ Guide.
- **Child Protection Policy (see handout)** – consideration given for this to be more of a "guide" vs. a true policy. Also noted that there should be a couple conversations with scheduling for nursery, Sunday School staff, etc. and that meetings between mentors/mentees to be in open and accessible parts of the church.

Motion to accept the Child Protection Policy/ Guide made by Kyle H; supported by Mike M; all in favor.

Rethinking Church (summarized for reflection and future conversations that are coming soon)

Moving forward, what does it mean to be:

- A Confessing Member (HCC mission partner)
- A Digital Partner
- An Elder/ Deacon
- A Consistory/ Leadership Team/ Executive Board
- A Pastor (Equipping Leader)

Moving forward, what metrics will we use:

- Number of HCC mission partners
- Mission Metrics Assessment?
- Discipleship Reproduction Rate (number of new believers per 100 members on a year over year basis)

Notations on the above:

- Working on this as Elders and Deacons individually, and Consistory as a whole
- Will be "in process" over the next 4-6 months
- Pastor Jon has sent out emails to both groups with Scripture and we will do a review of our bylaws and make contrast/comparison evaluations between what the Bible says and current bylaws. Elders have begun these conversations and Deacons will begin soon. Reminder to keep this in the forefront of your minds for next month's meeting and try to have a conversation in your groups before that meeting, if possible.
- Goal is not just to "rubberstamp" these roles, expectations, how we operate, etc. as we move forward. Pastors will also be discussing this together. We are looking at the qualifications, duties as the Bible defines them, and working to translate that to a more contemporary context for HCC.
- Pastor Jon to also share a post by Tim Vink to each that he felt was insightful.

Motion to Adjourn: Jim F; supported by Kyle H; all in favor.

Meeting adjourned: 8:42 PM

Next Meeting: April 18, 2022 at 6:30 PM

Closing Prayer: Pastor Caleb

Minutes submitted by Kathy Westendorp