

Hopkins Community Church
Consistory Meeting Minutes
June 20, 2022 at 6:30 PM

Opening Prayer: Pastor Jon

Roll Call

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

Absent: Dan Laarman

Devotions: Matthew 22: 34-40 (read by Pastor Jon)

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

MINISTRY REPORTS

Vision Update

- Vision progress – Campaign for Christ was launched. About 66 people signed up for the summer and Bob Larr held a meeting on Sunday, May 22 and paired people into groups. We should also remember to keep them in prayer.

Elder's Report (Kyle H)

- The Elders voted to affirm women's ordination, and this is to be included in the revision to the HCC Statement of Faith and Beliefs document.
- Outreach to the apartments next door is being planned for September.
- No outdoor worship this summer due to the logistics involved.
- Working on defining HCC Elder roles as we transition to A.R.C.
- Received and affirmed the baptismal and confessing membership of Jason and Kathy Westendorp, from the East Martin Christian Reformed Church.

Deacon's Report

- No report/ no meeting this month.

Executive Team (Pastor Jon)

- Lisa Harms, HCC's custodian, submitted her two weeks' notice on June 6, 2022. The Executive Team will meet to discuss the open position and review/update the job description. Lisa has offered to have her daughter fill in temporarily. Motion made by Kyle H. to accept Lisa's offer on a temporary basis; supported by Curt L.; no discussion, all in favor.
- Pastor contracts have been dissolved with the RCA and there will be a need to rewrite the contracts under A.R.C. There will be no changes to the pay structure or package. Motion made by Kyle H. to continue all pastoral contracts through 12/31/22 and update them all at that time for the 2023 budget year; supported by Jim F.; no discussion, all in favor.
- The process in the RCA was to issue a call through the Classis to a pastor, and the Classis held the pastor's credentials and membership. With our affiliation through A.R.C., the local church issues the call and not the Classis (more relational).

Finance Report (Kathy): walked through the May 2022 financial report and highlighted the building fund balance that stands at \$171,062.04. Weekly giving average to the General Fund is still falling lower than anticipated. Kathy posted a monthly financial update in the June 19 bulletin and reports are available in the church app for Deacons/Consistory and on the website for church members as well as hard copies by the mailboxes. Short discussion about brainstorming some future fundraising options for the building debt reduction.

Worship Team (update on Faith R): Faith has confirmed she plans to continue leading worship at HCC and may need just a little flexibility with her schedule as she adjusts to college classes in the fall.

Outreach Team: July 4th is our next big outreach event. Planning on the worship service in the park to follow the breakfast. Pastor Jon will reach out for setting up chairs, general set-up etc. The float is undecided and if it does happen, it will be on a bit smaller scale.

Youth Ministry: June 26 will be the commissioning for the high school summer retreat up north and July 17 will be the commissioning for the 8th grade mission trip to Kentucky.

OLD BUSINESS

Kitchen Management

- No update currently.

Denominational Transition

- Need to continue approving transition paperwork, moving forward on the finer details, etc.

RCA Items

- **Notice** of our denominational transfer was posted publicly on June 6, 2022.
- **Application for Dissolution of Pastoral Relationship** approved and signed at tonight's meeting. Motion made by Jim F. to dissolve the pastoral relationship with the RCA; supported by Tyler V.; no discussion, all in favor. Kyle H. to sign and all pastors to sign, then documents will be submitted to the RCA.
- **RCA Dues** are to be paid through the 3rd quarter of 2022 (January-September 2022 in total). Classis will be giving a \$5,000 refund of these dues once they are paid in full. Motion made by Kyle H. to send the remainder of the Classis dues (July, August, and September 2022) to Classis in one check as soon as possible. Supported by Jim F.; no discussion, all in favor. Kathy will prepare the check to be signed and put that in the mail as soon as possible.

Transition Items

- **Articles of Incorporation** – ours are very old. Revisions are needed and are in the process of being written, adding in our new name and our denomination affiliation, along with a statement about dissolving per the RCA requirement which is that all financial holdings and property would revert to the SWMI Classis in the 5-year time frame should anything happen to dissolve HCC as a church during that time. It is a complex document which will need to be brought to the Congregation at our November meeting. Pastor Jon has sent the updated document to A.R.C and Joel Baar to look it over and provide feedback. Motion made by Kyle H to update the Articles of Incorporation to include the new name "Hopkins Community Church" in the language of the document; supported by Curt L.; no discussion, all in favor.
- **ByLaws** - revisions are underway as to how we want to define the role of Elders, Deacons etc. and will be finalized between now and September. Encourage all to read these through and look over the changes, bringing any questions or concerns to our July meeting or email Pastor Jon.
- **Statement of Faith** - revisions are also underway with this document and includes our stance on women's ordination. This will be approved in our July meeting.
- **Church Growth Fund (building loan)** – upon request from the CGF loan fund, we need to recommend three people who will be signers on the loan going forward so that they can prepare loan modification documents to be signed by the church and CGF. Motion to approve signers Kyle Hoffmaster (VP of Consistory), Danny Kisner (Clerk of Consistory), and Dan Laarman (Head of Deacons) was made by Jim F.; supported by Troy C.; no discussion, all in favor.

A.R.C./ Alliance Transition

- **Retirement Agreement Adoption** – this needs to be approved, completed and signed to transfer HCC pastors and staff, if applicable, into Alliance’s 403(b) with Empower Financial. Please note that if any our pastors keep their credentials with the RCA, they may continue with the Fidelity program as they have been. Motion made by Kyle H to support and sign the Retirement Agreement Adoption; support by Curt L.; no discussion, all in favor.
- **Rural Church Network** – a relational network between area churches affiliated with A.R.C. Currently there are six (6) networks in the formation process with one (1) up and running. There are a couple different options for HCC as to the network we decide to join, and Consistory is asked to please read up on all the networks offered. There are two that Pastor Jon would recommend as a good fit for HCC: MI Catalyst or Rural Church Network, and presently Pastor Jon is doing work with the Rural Church Network along with Pastor Jim. Please read up and bring your recommendations back to the July meeting.
- **HUB** – a group of like-minded churches, not necessarily all affiliated with the same denomination. A HUB would comprise a group of local churches that desire to come together and work together for ministry purposes. It is missional and does not need to be denominational. Consistory is asked to pray about and give thought to this, as A.R.C. will be asking us to be involved in a HUB.
- **Leadership Documents** – given out to be read over and signed where applicable.

Pastoral Ordination in A.R.C. takes place within the local church, as opposed to the Classis in the RCA. The intent is to be more relational. Decisions need to be made on our three “orphaned” pastors who are still in the RCA currently but will be making decisions to either join with A.R.C. or stay in the RCA. HCC will need to affirm the ordination process for each one.

Covenant of the Ordained will be elders, deacons or pastors who need to sign this form for A.R.C. All need to read over the covenant document and sign and date the form. HCC will submit these to A.R.C. once all have been received.

- **Healthy Living Learning Covenant** – Alliance is committed to healthy living and continuous learning in its ordained pastors. As part of the 5-year covenant ordination held between a pastor and the Alliance of Reformed Churches, pastors are required to submit a plan for healthy relationships and learning, developing this plan in conversation with Elders and Consistory. The Consistory should affirm and encourage a pastor’s professional growth.

NEW BUSINESS

Rethinking Church

- Reminder to Elders and Deacons to be done and ready with this for the September meeting.

Motion to Adjourn: Kyle H; supported by Rich H; no discussion, all in favor.

Meeting adjourned: 8:41 PM

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

Closing Prayer: Pastor Jim

Minutes submitted by Kathy Westendorp