

Epworth United Methodist Church Administrative Council

Meeting Minutes

06/24/2020

Opening

The meeting was called to order at 18:05 on 06/24/2020 in ZOOM format by Eric Turner.

Opening Prayer: Mark Coursey

Present

Eric Turner
Mike Lillard
Vicki Campbell
Jaime Rochester
Doug Crothers
Jeanie Barton

Sarah Lillard
Penny Vaughan
Angela Harris
Judy Coursey
Ricardo King
Laurie Evans-Ross
Richard Jefferson

Kathy Heard
John Meade
Alicia Marshall
Mark Coursey
Randy Crowell

Approval of Agenda

An agenda was not prepared. Eric announced the purpose of the meeting would be to :

1. Review the 1st in-person worship service in the pavilion 6/21/2020.
2. Review activities of the staff and committees since suspension of church services in March 2020.
3. Review church financials.
4. Look at next 12-18 month forecast for worship

Discussions

1. In-person worship service was held in the Pavilion Sunday May 21, 2020 at 6PM with approximately 45 people present. The service was live streamed on Facebook and again online Monday.
A survey of the congregation was done at the end of May to guide a re-opening committee on best practices and congregation preferences. Also considered guidance from the Bishop, Dr. Shelly Fiscus, local/state leaders and other experts. Enhanced cleaning, social distancing and mask rules were followed.
The Audio system was reported as acceptable

People who preferred to sit in cars also stated they could hear.

2. Staff and Committee Reports

Angela Harris:

- 125 Videos recorded and posted online. Consists of Scripture lessons, Children's Stories and Sunday Worship.
- Congregation communication method has consisted of Facebook, Zoom, Church website, Email, Texts and occasional mailings.
- Work to identify people with special needs, (ex: not connected to technology) to set up phone calls and how best to maintain communication of church news with everyone. An idea was presented for a "Geek Squad" group to help people having trouble connecting/using the technology they may own.
- Mark has published a weekly Reflection series of lessons.
- John and Nancy Meade- Advent and weekly Monday Prayer Series.
- Mark and Angela will begin Front Porch and Driveway meet & greets.
- Phone calls and texts to members – 8-10 per week.

Jaimie Rochester-Director of Children and Youth

- Focus on Youth: Bi-weekly until school "out". Planning for summer program to try and meet in the Pavilion.
- 7 High School Senior Graduates received Masters' Scholarships which have been delivered to them. Each received a gift bag that included Senior Bibles, a Planner and a Yard Sign.
- Focus on Children: Surprised kids with Easter Egg Hunt and Easter baskets delivered to their homes. Began new Facebook page just for Epworth children- Each week-3 bible stories, crafts, and activity. Zoom meetings every Sunday at 1:00p that sees 6-12 kids per week participating. Drive-thru VBS pickup of supplies/literature-13 bags handed out. *Planning* activities for kids who attend worship time in the Pavilion so they feel welcome.

Kathy Heard - Mission Outreach

- Budget year ended in May. Currently budget is frozen because Mission Sunday was cancelled, and no pledges have been collected for new year. Some money is still coming in.
- Project Transformation- Summer Camp in a Bag. Congregation donated snacks and books. Funds used to buy enough supplies for 70 campers. Volunteers donated time at the distribution site at Antioch UMC.
- 4:13 Strong- Donation of Goody Bags to Men in the program.
- Franktown Open Hearts- Monetary Donation for Meal Delivery
- Missions needs to determine what options may be in the future for an outreach activity/Sunday.

Laurie Evans-Ross- SPRC

- Planning to meet in a couple of weeks and discussing with staff about needs and ideas, and our expectations.

Randy Crowell- Trustees

- Trustees are continuing ongoing discussions/searching for improving the sound and video capabilities. On hold presently.

Penny Vaughan- Sunday School and Women's Bible Study

- Utilizing Zoom Meeting Program (church account)
- Sunday School (12-16 participants) Sundays 9:30am
- Women's Bible Study Group (10-15 participants) Wednesdays 10:00am

3. Church Financial

John Meade – Financial Report

- Review of collections since from March, April, May. March was below normal. April and May rebounded and currently on track for break even on giving budget. This is attributed to outreach and additional reminders of methods for ease of contributions (Online, Mail, Auto-draft).
- Emphasized the need to be very mindful of expenses and every penny spent to control costs. Goal to save 4K /month for the remainder of the year.
- Cash reserves are adequate at this time.

4. Next 12-18 Months Forecast

- Angela discussed what she has been reading and hearing from the Bishop and other leaders. We are receiving guidance, rules, regulations and directions on a daily basis. Probably should plan on the need for DUAL (online and Pavilion) Worship experience for an indefinite period of time.
- Discussion on the need to have equipment purchased for this process (currently using loan/rented equipment). Doug volunteered to help Judy with researching our needs and best available options. Funding for equipment discussed as possible donation/memorial funds.
- Discussion of purchasing Keyboard for Susan to use in the Pavilion that would be compatible with sound and video equipment. Funding is also a consideration.
- Discussion on the continued use of the Pavilion as the worship site as long as the weather is nice- due to difficulty with cleaning and ability to follow social distancing rules of using our building. Ideas floated to the group included : Drive-in church service with in car audio, podcasting, Zoom can have up to 200 people, improving audio system.
- Some suggestions regarding Sunday Service times brought forth. At this time, worship time will remain at 6pm in the Pavilion through July. Another similar survey will be conducted near the end of July to determine interest in changing times, locations, etc going forward.

- Consideration about bathroom facilities were also discussed as rental Port-a-potties were not available for the first in-person worship. Port-a-potties were supposed to be brought to the Pavilion area, but other ideas were discussed. Angela would like to consider building bathroom facilities at the Pavilion (long and tedious process with WMs Co codes, permits and funding). Discussion also evolved toward opening the side door to allow access to the Narthex facilities. Buying a golf cart for transport “up the hill”. Randy mentioned use of a grinder type system- he will continue to research that idea.
 - Sarah Lillard announced the Summer Festival is cancelled for 2020. She is having discussions about possibly having a live or online auction.
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- A discussion began about the use of funds donated “In Memory” of someone and how those funds can be used. John stated the Memorial Fund contains approx. \$13,000. Several people knew the process for use of any money must be approved by the Trustees and Administrative Committee. Sarah Lillard stated it is customary to allow the Family to determine and approve the allocation of any funds collected in that manner.

No further business was offered

Closing Prayer by Angela Harris.

Meeting was adjourned at 19:55 by Eric Turner.

The next meeting will be announced at a later time.

Minutes submitted by: Vicki Campbell

Approved by: Eric Turner