

Minutes of the Woodridge Congregational Church U.C.C.
Executive Board Meeting
June 17, 2020

Present: Courtney Lombardi, Ray Perrotta, Bob Cole, Marsha Southard, Grant Southard,
Rev. Scott Spencer, Debra Moretti, Nancy Quintiliani, Martha Ryan,
Carmen Steinbreicher

The Moderator called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Rev. Scott led the meeting in prayer.

A motion was made by Marsha and seconded by Bob to accept the May, 2020 Executive Board Meeting Minutes as printed. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Ray presented his report and noted that pledges are up but plate offerings are down and there are currently very little rents being collected. However, due to the PPP loan are finances are higher than expected. Relative to the school, Grant had just received an email that they had agreed to \$3,000 per month. With that rent, we should be in good position through the end of the year without having to tap into our other resources. The PPP forgiveness loan has been extended to 24 weeks and we will have no trouble using the full amount in that time. Ray is currently shopping insurance quotes for our commercial, liability and building. Courtney asked if AA and NA are paying any rent. AA is paying rent, but the others are not able to meet at this time.

Worship Report: Rev. Spencer, Nancy and Martha presented the Worship Report. An extensive review of the recent survey results was presented. 62 members responded, 8 of which were hard copy replies and the balance on line. There was a strong response to watching the worship service on line. If the need for two services arises, the preference was 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. with each being 45 minutes long to allow for sanitizing between services.

Discussion was had regarding comfort level of the members regarding returning to live services as well as a look at the ages of the respondents in how they answered the survey questions. Relative to the questions regarding temperature checks when entering the church, 22 out of 60 said they would be okay with that. Some people struggle with the online watching and we will need to find someone to assist them in getting that up and running. Although the respondents indicated they were comfortable in returning to live services in different capacities and timing, 92% indicated they are satisfied with the livestream services.

Discussion then turned to what is our exact capacity in the sanctuary. It was determined that 25% capacity would be approximately 50 people attending.

Nancy indicated the committee will be meeting frequently with Carmen and Rev. Scott. The Ushers will have a list of duties. They are checking with current Usher teams to determine who is willing to serve. There were volunteers in the survey who would be willing to help with ushering. The committee was seeking approval from the Board to send out notices to the Ushers listing the new guidelines and requirements. Ushers will have various duties at each service such as, temperature checking, checking of reservations, assistance with seating to assure social distancing, etc., and sanitizing. Training sessions for the Usher teams is planned. The Board approved contacting the Usher teams.

Plans are underway for a basket or offering places to be placed in the narthex for collection of offering and Deacon's Fund envelopes will still be in the pews.

Plans are to begin offering services at the end of August to be running at full open capacity with restrictions by Rally Sunday, the second Sunday in September.

Rev. Scott indicated that parents are waiting to see what schools are doing for the fall and an additional survey is planned for families with children at a later time.

Nancy indicated that if we go to two services, some tweaking of the Usher instructions may have to be done to accommodate both services. Expectations are to start live streaming by mid-August or the week before Rally Day. Rev. Scott reported that July and August worship will also include zoom fellowship and interaction, and a children's message.

Rev. Scott also mentioned that St. David's on the Hill offered their outside space if we wished to have an outside service. We may in the future take advantage of the offer with a social distancing picnic or some event of fellowship.

Membership and Fellowship: Prayer squares have been completed for the upcoming Food Collection on June 28th. Two Hundred have been placed in plastic bags to which candy will be added as a thank you to people participating. Carmen reported that Dave Jeffries has reserved 9/26 for the annual golf tournament but has not yet reserved the room for lunch after. As not a lot of people stayed for the banquet portion last year, social distancing should not be a problem as the group will be small. Courtney is still working on a fundraising opportunity.

Service: Food donations have been good with the box filling up quickly. Last Saturday 110 people picked up food at the Interfaith Food Pantry, with 450 served. The shelves were empty by the end of the day. The planned June 28th food collection at the church is very important. The committee may need some help with extra cars to deliver the food to the pantry. Plans are also in place to help unpack and empty the boxes onto the shelves when delivered.

The event will take place from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. in the main parking lot of the church where people will pull up and pop their trunks and volunteers will take the food out and leave the thank you bag in the trunk. In addition to making the donations, it will be a good chance for members to see each other. The hope is that members will invite neighbors, etc to participate. If successful, will repeat again at another time. There appears to be an issue with the Food Bank contributions to the Pantry which may be that they have trouble obtaining the food and delivering it.

Stewardship, Buildings and Grounds: Grant reported they are still working on the rental agreement with the school for this and next year. He also measured the distance for the wiring for the needed wi-fi for steaming from the office to the sanctuary and is hooking up a repeater. Plumbing repairs will happen on a Saturday in July as the power will need to be shut off. Will also be replacing the air conditioner in Dan's and Scott's offices. The 93% response of the membership that they would prefer watching the services livestreamed will justify any cost of getting the wi-fi up to speed with an estimate of \$500-\$600.

Staff and Personnel: Marsha stated there was nothing to report.

Old Business: Courtney noted that the website for watching the services has been added to the outside sign.

All reports were accepted. Rev. Scott closed the meeting with prayer. Upon motion made by Courtney and seconded by Ray, Moderator Carmen adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra A Moretti
Clerk