

## Holy Trinity Core Team via Zoom

### Minutes: May 11, 2020

Present: Pastor Chad Gilbertson, Darla Bauchle, Lynnette Dobberpuhl, Ashley Elsner, Jeff Erlandson, Mike Huss, Carol Ottoson, Collan Zehnder, Deanna Hawkins

Opening Prayer

Agenda Items

- Finance: We received the PPP loan of \$35,000. We believe this loan will not need to be repaid, if used as designated, but we received a message today that either the guidelines have changed, or misinterpretation of the rules has occurred, but there is a chance it may need to be repaid (at 1% interest) if our degree of solvency does not meet the criteria. April was a pretty good month for getting back on track with giving, possibly even a little bit better than expected. Salaries and utilities remain the same, postage is higher, but program/other ministry expenses are down. We need to continue to monitor this monthly.
- CARE Act—Update: Kelly will track carefully how the money will be used, primarily would be salaries, health insurance, and pension. Up to 25% can be used for utilities.
- Current status—COVID 19: We are asked to refrain from holding public worship services until the end of May at the earliest. However we will need to prepare for how we will open our doors when it is appropriate to do so. We will need to minimize the risk of spreading infection. Pastor Chad sent out a preliminary draft of thoughts and ideas toward a plan for how we do that. What are our questions or thoughts in response to that draft.
  - (CO) Will people come when the church opens up? Our comfort level has changed with being around others.
  - (JE) If we aren't getting specific guidelines from medical personnel for our context how can we describe our plan as "safe"?
  - (CZ) What about the annual conference giving us guidelines?
  - (DH) Not just the aerosolization (singing, praying aloud, responsive reading) but also the amount of time we spend enclosed together that puts us at higher risk. Consider outdoor worship?
  - (CZ) If we are indoors we'd need PPE.
  - (DH) Want to avoid giving people a false sense of security by opening when there is so much changing information still coming in.
  - (PC) Will continue to offer online worship for people, as well as other forms (print, DVD) for people who don't use computers.
  - Conference guidelines for moving forward when things open are probably going to more like a flowchart that allows different communities to make different choices depending on their attendance and their setting, rather than an edict. Any plan will include recommendations from CDC and Dept. of Health. There is a Holy Trinity task force being

formed including staff, Mike Huss, Don Oram, Jim Helgerson, Tina Chant, Lynnette Dobberpuhl and Dot Berggren, and potentially a few others.

- (LD) According to website, there were 74 sessions (one computer accessing our website for 10 minutes or longer) of “online attendance” on Sunday, May 10. This is slightly lower than previous Sundays, but it is pretty consistent. On Easter there were over 190 sessions.
  - (PC) To find out who we are missing, might need to use our shepherds who are in weekly conversation with their people to find out if they are using online worship and what their comfort level might be for restarting public worship.
  - (DH) Would we consider asking if people feel sufficiently engaged that they would be content to remain on online worship through the summer?
  - (JE) Whatever plan we make needs to be flexible enough, perhaps made in stages, because there are bound to be changes in resources, information, and contagion.
  - (PC) All we can do is our best to provide a safe and welcoming environment, following Wesley’s three rules: do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God.
  - (DH) Could shepherds also ask if members would like a handmade cloth face mask, which Deanna and possibly others, would be willing to donate.
  - Will we require people to wear masks? What will happen if people refuse to wear one? Ask them to leave? Be conscious of wording around “requiring” and “recommending”. It is not just about protecting each other, but also protecting staff for whom we are responsible.
- Annual/General Conference: General Conference has been rescheduled for late August early September 2021 and are hopeful to use the Minneapolis area as the location. Annual Conference scheduled for June in Sioux Falls has been postponed to August 2020 and will be done virtually.
  - Garden Update: Garden looks very good, most of the planting is done. Watering and compost is set up. Some of the more delicate plants are waiting until warmer temps. Work on the Peace/Pollinator garden will begin as soon as the project is approved by the Boy Scout organization.
  - Live Streaming Update: Collan has the list of items needed for our next purchase. Hope to have items purchased by next meeting.
  - Carol: SPRT has accepted Kris’s resignation (last Sunday is May 31) with thanks for her leadership. They are also requesting a copy of monthly financial reports.
  - Lynnette: VBS will be virtual, virtual Sunday school is going well.
  - Core Meetings Going Forward: Commit to meet via Zoom monthly at minimum, maintaining responsibility for safety and best practices as things continue to change at such a fast pace.

The next meeting will be June 8 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom (unless otherwise indicated.)