

Holy Trinity Core Team via Zoom

Minutes: July 13, 2020

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

Opening Prayer: Remembered the families of Kent Landor and Pete Antonsen in prayer, the people of Haiti who are suffering skyrocketing food prices in the COVID crisis, all people who are struggling with employment, mental health and substance abuse issues in this current time, educators dealing with uncertainty about work and protecting their health and health of families, all those living in fear and isolation.

Agenda Items

- Finance: Upon looking at the current reports, Jeff notes that there was a bit of downturn in pledged collection in June as well as less in unpledged giving. At the same time there was an unusual upturn in grounds keeping and cleaning expenses. Per Chad, this may be a late billing for a deep cleaning done this spring. Our expenses in most other areas are down. We are pretty on track YTD with pledged giving compared to last year. Have not received a packet or form yet for applying for the PPP loan forgiveness.
- Current status—COVID 19: The task force working on guidelines for regathering continue to affirm that we will continue through summer without gathering indoors. Outside groups are also not invited to use the indoor spaces during this time. The task force will re-evaluate in August for next steps. We had 70 responses to the survey, and about 60% responded they would feel comfortable meeting inside, and about 30% said they would not. Approximately 70% would be comfortable meeting in an outside setting. It was expected the congregation would be split on this. Our first outdoor service has been planned for this Wednesday, and another will be planned for August. In August we will also plan for an outdoor fellowship and an outdoor study group, as well as online fellowship and study. Q: Why not an outdoor service on Sunday? A: several people had been asking for a Non-Sunday worship option, and Wed evening gives us a little more time to set up and get ready as we are unpracticed. Also, a lower attendance is expected for Wednesday which gives us a better chance to keep things safely distanced as we try this out. A full report from the task force is expected at the next meeting, plus additional communication with the congregation.
- Future Worship: expect that when we are able to regroup, we will probably be limiting congregational size (people could consider attending every other week), reducing or eliminating singing and call and response, even if wearing masks. Offering would be dropped off in baskets rather than passed, no hymnals, bulletins, pencils or pew pads. Communion would have to look very different. Other MN UMC churches reopening are very limited. Crossroads in Lakeville has recently reopened, and some smaller rural churches have reopened. Waivers are becoming common at dental offices and rallies for people to declare they are aware of a risk of contracting Covid to avoid liability. More communication to the congregation is being planned.

- Live Streaming Update: equipment has been ordered (camera and audio capture device) but we are about 3 weeks out still for expected delivery. Will need a dedicated computer and an Ethernet hub, maybe a patch cable from the modem to the sound board which Collan can install.
- Annual/General Conference: SuperZoom in August 2020 for annual conference, and General Conference in May 2021. Bishop Ough will see out 2020 and David Bard will take over as interim Bishop until permanent placement is made at General Conference.
- Garden Update: There are lots of weeds and it looks thirsty so there is some fine tuning to do. Received a donation of pole beans from Queen Beez. Radishes have begun to be harvested. Deanna will be providing some produce boxes. Peace Pole will arrive in August.
- VBS: Nine families with 32 children altogether signed up for the online VBS alternative offered. The VBS will be available for people to do (even if they haven't signed up) through the end of summer. People who registered received a kit full of supplies for three days activities and received links by email to online videos containing Bible stories, games, origami activities, and music and testimony from Ben Calhoun (Citizen Way). The links to the videos are available on our private Children Youth and Families Group on Facebook, and are available for anyone there to use. Some families are doing one session a week, others did one session a day for three days, and one family did all the sessions in one day "because they were so fun!" All the families who registered were connected with past VBS programs hosted at HT.
- Ministry leaders or their representatives will be invited to the next Core Zoom, including the Re-opening Task Force. Need to also consider Finance and budgeting for 2021.

The next meeting will be August 10 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom (unless otherwise indicated.)