

## Holy Trinity Core Team via Zoom

### Minutes: September 14, 2020

Mike Huss, Rev. Chad Gilbertson, Carol Ottoson, Darla Bauchle, Jeff Erlandson, Deanna Hawkins, Lynnette Dobberpuhl

Begun in prayer.

**Finance:** (Jeff) No monthly reports are available for August. The US Bank accounts are closed and transferred as discussed last month. Next month the financials for the quarter will be available as we enter the planning phase for 2021. Need to consider what type of cutbacks may be necessary to build a sustainable budget, particularly when considering staffing (SPRT), which is the greatest expense to the church. Must consider that there is a limit on how long we can deficit spend. Need to also consider the degree to which we feel secure in tapping into reserves (e.g. some churches try to maintain at least a few months reserve for expenses.) Building Fund and designated memorials are not considered reserve funds. Undesignated memorials and gifts might be. These need to be identified and added up to know what is available to work with. The Annual Conference has short term assistance available to meet payroll in some specific situations which may be an option if ultimately needed. Right-sizing the staff for the situation (worship, attendance and giving) at hand is a concept to consider, but also need to be aware that the situation will continue to be fluid due to pandemic, and the General Conference next year.

There is no guidance from Annual Conference on how to creatively do a Stewardship campaign during a pandemic. Stewardship is a response to the good things God is doing in us and in our lives, which will likely remain the focus, hopefully utilizing more lay people in telling their stewardship stories. The challenge is in how you ask, and to what kind of vision you are asking them to commit.

**Update on COVID 19:** (Chad) Last meeting we discussed concerns raised by church members around the use of the church building for personal prayer. Pastor Chad and Larry Nace are still in process on the procedure development. Latest information from our financial institution and Annual Conference on the PPP loan indicates there is legislation underway to allow automatic forgiveness for loans under \$100,000, which is likely to pass. Pastor Chad has scheduled a wedding in October for a small family group (Chelsea Loose and Trevor Anderson) with fewer than fifteen people expected to attend.

**Outdoor Worship:** (Chad) Communion was distributed via individual cup and wafer packets to people who attended worship Sunday. It worked pretty well, although the cellophane seals over the wafer were a little tricky. Multiple people expressed appreciation, and it was as touch-free as anyone could expect to have. Overall Pastor Chad is pleased with outdoor worship, with 88 people in attendance Sunday (+ 39 online). We have been blessed with really nice weather.

**Youth Education Update:** (Lynnette) There have been two social youth gatherings in the past two weeks, with conversation and connection building opportunities. We are working toward growing a core group of youth (supported by awesome adults) that will help direct what we do in the future, and grow in Spirit. The youth and adults who have shown up so far have been wonderful! It is a small but viable beginning. Sunday school began on Sept 13, with seven kids in 1<sup>st</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> grades attending. Doing a short session during worship worked well; although it is hard to dig deep into a concept with limited time, it did help keep kids from getting restless and losing focus. 3rd Grade Bible Gift is tentatively scheduled for Oct 4, with a potential of six kids receiving Bibles. Per Pastor Chad, confirmation for 8<sup>th</sup> grade will go ahead via Zoom to start, but the plan for 7<sup>th</sup> grade is still being developed. The usual fall retreat for middle and high school grades has been changed up and we will be trying out an Event in a Box offered by the Minnesota UMC Youth office as an alternative. The Children's Christmas program will also likely be an alternative type of production, but we are starting to see ads for this kind of material. Maybe a recorded Zoom read through with costumes? So many new things to figure out, while keeping our good traditional stuff alive.

**Church Re-Opening update** (Chad): No new task force meeting has been scheduled, but we are watching what is happening to the schools as they resume hybrid and distance learning.

#### **Other Topics:**

**Leadership Institute** (Online/Virtual) all sessions will be recorded and available for up to a year after the event for people who are registered. Live attendees can participate in Q & A sessions after the workshops they attend. Pastor Chad has heard from a couple of people, but would be glad to register more.

**Succession:** Is it time to be recruiting for new members, or do we want to hold fast to members for another year due to the situation with the pandemic? Pastor Chad encourages people to send him names of people who might be great at serving on Core Team. The model was not to build permanent membership on the Core Team, and he would like to honor the two-year commitment that was requested initially. That being said, if individuals who are about to roll off the Core Team would consider their own situation and willingness to serve and let him know where they stand that would be helpful. Other ministries that will need people include SPRT and Trustees.

The next Core Team meeting will be held on Zoom at 6:30 p.m. October 12, 2020.