

Holy Trinity Core Team via Zoom

Minutes: October 12, 2020

Present: Mike Huss, Rev. Chad Gilbertson, Carol Ottoson, Darla Bauchle, Jeff Erlandson, Lynnette Dobberpuhl
Begun in prayer.

Finance: (Jeff) Reviewing monthly financials: nothing unique this month, the transfer out of the US Bank accounts is completed. Giving is a bit down this month, although pledged giving is holding steady. Planning for 2021 needs to begin, with potential for change from other years due to current challenges (uncertain income and expenses due to pandemic and General Conference playing out in 2021).

If there would be a need to dip into reserves, we need to be cautious about which funds are available, and be cognizant that expenses need to be re-evaluated carefully before that would happen. Next month we will look at the most recent Edward Jones statements and be prepared to discuss a minimum level of the "reserve fund" (e.g. two months expenses.) Stewardship campaign will be starting soon, with an emphasis on giving as a response to God's goodness.

Budgets from the SPRT and Trustees make up the greatest part of the budget. SPRT will be addressing their end of the budget over the next two meetings. The trustees will be asked to take a look at the 2020 expenses and prepare a best estimate for maintenance and any projects that cannot wait in 2021.

Update on COVID 19 and Church Re-Opening: (Chad): The task force for re-opening met and drafted a policy for a staged return to church life indoors. November 8 is the projected first date of indoor worship. The numbers allowed into the sanctuary will be limited to 50. Reservations for up to 40 will be made ahead of time, allowing the remaining 10 to be volunteers and worship leaders. Sharon Dougherty has agreed to manage the reservation process, including assisting people who do not have access to the electronic reservation system. The next phase of re-gathering would be allowing internal small groups to gather (UMW, Sunday school, Bible studies) starting Dec 1. If all goes well, by January 1 we would be looking at allowing outside groups to begin using our spaces (e.g. 12 Step groups.) If Scott County Covid numbers began rising and the schools were forced to move to distance learning, we would also have to decrease our in-person opportunities. The early return of the survey shows that we have at least 65 people who would attend in-person worship when it was offered. The enthusiasm is heartening, but it does reinforce the need to have people reserve seating ahead of time so we are not forced to turn people away at the door. If our weekly attendance turns out to be less than the target number, we could discontinue the reservation system. The type of congregational participation (unison prayer or responsive readings) will depend upon the most current data.

Other considerations discussed: protecting staff in the workplace/worship space. Plexiglass shields are being considered for the church office and near the door by the piano/organ area. Pew cushions are difficult to clean and expensive to reupholster in a wipeable cover. If there is a move to have multiple, consecutive services within a day or two the recommendation is to take them out.

Outdoor Worship: (Chad) We purchased a small portable amplifier/mixer for use in outdoor worship. We had previously been relying on borrowing the equipment (many thanks to Todd Loose for your help with this!) but had scheduling conflicts. Electronic equipment is the major limiter on how long outdoor worship can go. Very cold weather, particularly paired with moisture in the air is extremely damaging.

Youth Education Update: (Lynnette) We are working on how we will be resuming children's education and youth gathering. November will be completely online. There will be a Christmas program, but it will also be recorded on video. We still expect joy and wonder. December Sunday school will be during the worship. Previously it has been hard to find volunteers willing to give up worship in order to lead education, but with worship also being available online, it is hoped that we will find leaders willing to support our kids during that time!

Succession: (repeated from last month) 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. November 16, 2020.