Ministries Council

**April 13, 2020 Minutes**

*Collegiate United Methodist Church & Wesley Foundation is an inclusive community that invites all people to experience God’s unconditional love, grow in faith and serve others.*

Devotion: Mary Lynn Elver

Check in: How is it with your soul?

**Cluster Updates:**

* Congregational Care: Lori Schippers reported that currently there are 13 volunteers signed up for those who are in need of assistance as a result of COVID-19. At this point, there are more willing to help than are needed. If you know of anyone who could use assistance, let Jen know. Lori also described the current and future challenges for nursing home/assisted living visits. Telephone calls and sending cards is the only present option. Stephen Ministry also faces obstacles due to cancellation of scheduled meetings/training/one on one time with those who need help. Going forward, new and creative ways of ministering are needed.
* Worship: A Zoom meeting is scheduled for April 30. Mike King reported that some of the music committee members will be moving to the staff parish committee. Music is still responsible for the scholarships awarded to students in chancel choir. Worship has the approval to apply for an endowment grant for a labyrinth to be permanently installed on the floor in the annex auditorium. If approved, Doug Ward has experience in staining a labyrinth onto a floor. The decision was made to conduct Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday as the first Sundays after we return to worship at Collegiate.
* Sending to Serve: The poverty simulation, which had been planned for March, will take place later in the year. With the stepping down of the chair for the Byrne Endowment Fund, that team may end up being folded into Sending to Serve. Opportunities to serve are included weekly in the Announcements, including donation to the Emergency Residence Project, donating to the COVID-19 Fund for Immigrants and signing up to serve at Food at First.
* Reaching and Receiving: Will meet on April 15 to explore how the COVID-19 situation will impact plans for meaningful activities this summer. Cluster will look at what can be put together now in anticipation of changing group gatherings and dynamics.
* Education: March meeting was cancelled. Christian education is active online, including Sunday school classes, midweek updates and youth groups meeting via Zoom. Confirmation, which was scheduled for May 3, has been postponed. Zoom format does not work well for this particular class. Confirmation class members are checking in with their mentors and doing sermon notes. The Family Facebook is active. Summer service trips have not yet been cancelled. Adult education classes are individually responsible for how to proceed. Lindsay initiated a Spiritual Disciplines class, which was subsequently dropped due to low participation. Ideas are being generated for adult education going forward.

**Discipleship Pathways**

Clusters and their relationship to Discipleship Pathways:

Invite: Reaching and Receiving

Experience: Worship and Congregational Care

Grow: Education

Serve: Sending to Serve

The meeting concluded with a discussion on preparing church members for the phasing in of a new normal. Where are church members now, eg checked out or involved digitally? Lindsay reported that 464 have logged into the church website. Challenges ahead include participatory grief for our former lifestyle, financial obstacles stemming from our being physically distant, getting all populations comfortable with connecting using technology. There is an opportunity for all to participate in creation of the new normal by participating in a forum of ideas for engagement gathered from friends and family in churches and civic organizations around the country.

**Each cluster** is encouraged to have conversations about how we can best serve our church and the larger community during this time of physical distance and as we consider the transition back to more in-person interaction. How can/should programming, service, worship, etc. change? What have/are we learning from our experiences over the last month?

Closing Prayer

**Future Meeting Date:** Monday, June 8, 2020