**CUMC/WESLEY FOUNDATION**

**CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES**

**May 28, 2020**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**Members Present:** Brenda Allen, Denny Coon, Adam Faeth, Jennifer Plagman-Galvin, Jen Hibben, Jane Jacobson, Jason Janssen, Gerry Kennedy, David Orth, Mary Wickham, Steve Williams

**Members Absent:** Jodi Risdal

**Staff Present:** Lindsay Drake, Lauren Loonsfoot

**Call to Order**

Chair Orth called the meeting together at 7:15 p.m.. The meeting attendees took turns sharing answers to the question, “How is it with your soul?”

Chair Orth asked the council to review the minutes of the April 23, 2020 meeting.

Wickham said her name should be added to the volunteers for the COVID-19 response subcommittee.

**A motion was made (Janssen) and seconded (Kennedy) to approve the April 23, 2020 minutes with the correction above. Motion passed.**

**COVID-19 Update and Continuing Work**

Pastor Coon said the subcommittee met several times, listened to presentations by the bishop, looked at other webinars, and looked at what other churches are doing. Pastor Coon put together a team of eight volunteers from clusters and committees within the church to assess what re-opening the church might look like and whether the church was ready. He said this team consists of Lauren Loonsfoot (Wesley Foundation), Jane Kennedy (Choir, Finance Committee), Jane Jacobson (Church Council), Donna Vandehaar (nursing and public health experience), Michael King (Worship Committee), Chris Anderson (Board of Trustees), Dr. Greg Halverson (medical background).

Pastor Coon asked for feedback on a draft of a letter he prepared to send the congregation about Collegiate Wesley’s plans regarding COVID-19. Chair Orth suggested that the letter could include someone to contact if people have questions. Allen said that the only contact included currently was the office manager’s email address. Pastor Hibben suggested that there should be a lay person who would be a contact person if members have questions about re-opening or the church’s COVID-19 plans because she will not be working during the Summer, and we will be transitioning to a new senior pastor. Jacobson suggested that since Pastor Coon wanted to send the letter out tomorrow, that maybe it should include his contact information for now. She suggested that the next time the new team meets, maybe they should discuss finding a lay leader that could serve as a point of contact for the congregation.

Kennedy said that the sooner we could get some information out to the congregation, the better. He suggested putting together a Q&A or some highlights of the webinars that start to give people an idea of what church might look like once we reopen. Drake said that there was a new guidance from the bishop yesterday, but it seemed to turn things over to the churches to decide. She said the earlier guidance from the bishop was more helpful.

The council affirmed Pastor Coon’s letter to the congregation.

**Property Assessment Subcommittee**

Kennedy said the subcommittee continues to meet, and fortunately, the members on the subcommittee bring a lot of experience from their work world. Kennedy said the first communication went out to tell the congregation about the effort. He said they received their first response already, which was a request to have electric vehicle chargers. Plagman-Galvin said that if the effort is inclusive, the church will get really good ideas about how to best use the property to live in our purpose. She said that this subcommittee is not making any decisions but gathering information to help inform future decisions.

**Apportionments Subcommittee**

Jacobson said that she and Pastor Coon have started putting nuggets of information about apportionments in the church’s weekly emails. Jacobson asked for any ideas for future articles about apportionments to be sent to her and Pastor Coon. Drake asked what the church is currently doing about apportionment payments. Janssen said that the church was not currently making automatic monthly payments towards apportionments and that Finance Committee was waiting to get more feedback about how the congregation was feeling about apportionments. Chair Orth said that the 2020 budget includes money towards apportionments, and the church is not required to make the payments on any schedule. Jacobson asked whether Finance Committee expected this subcommittee to come up with feedback about apportionments. Janssen said that he thought that was what this subcommittee was formed to do. Pastor Coon said he thought the subcommittee was formed to provide information about apportionments and he did not think the expectation was to gather feedback. Kennedy said he thought the ultimate goal was to find out where the congregation was a whole.

Pastor Hibben said she was glad that the topic of sending out surveys for different topics came up in this meeting. She said it may be better to try to coordinate the surveys so as not to overwhelm the congregation with three different surveys in a month. Pastor Williams said that he was opposed to a survey about apportionments. He said that apportionments are part of who we are as United Methodists. He said there have been people that were opposed to paying apportionments in his previous congregations too, but that should not stop the church from paying them.

Chair Orth asked for feedback from the council. Wickham said that successful surveys were often short with three or four focused questions with short answers. She said that people want to feel like they are being heard. She said that sending out a summary of the survey was important too. Wickham said that when she served on the 2020 budget subcommittee, she heard that were strong feelings about apportionments and the annual conference. Kennedy said that apportionments had been a cloud hanging over our head for some time now. He said that if the surveys were short, it might not be overwhelming to send out three in a month. Janssen said he felt like he was between a rock and a hard place on Finance Committee trying to find the best path forward for the congregation.

Plagman-Galvin said she wished there was more of an opportunity to have a conversation with people. She suggested that instead of calling it a survey, the communication could say we want to connect with you. She suggested that maybe there could be a regular communication every week to ask a question or take a pulse about various topics. Allen said she liked that idea. She also asked whether the church could host a town hall through Zoom or something similar to share questions about apportionments. She said that another opportunity might be to have a weekly office hour virtually.

Pastor Hibben said that Property Needs Assessment subcommittee is also working on more than just a survey, they are working on other creative ways to get feedback from the congregation. She said she hoped the leaders might be able to coordinate through this council if there were multiple surveys that might go out so each one has a chance to receive feedback. She said that there can be a misconception that a survey is a vote, and we should be careful in the communication to say that it is to gather information.

Drake said she is not a member of this church, but she believes very strongly in the purpose and mission of Collegiate Wesley. She said that as she served on conference committees, she saw apportionments being used for valuable missions and ministries throughout the conference. She said that she understands the protest from people upset about Wesley Foundation funding, and the harm brought to LGBTQIA+ clergy like Anna Blaedel. Pastor Coon said he also saw the impact of all the ministries funded by apportionments.

Jacobson said she liked Allen’s suggestion to have a town hall about apportionments because as she listened to each of the council members talk about the topic tonight, she felt like she gained a better understanding of the facets around the topic. Loonsfoot said she thought the re-opening survey called to her because it really represented how do we live together in this new season.

Chair Orth said that based on these comments, the council might recommend to Finance Committee that the church pay apportionments for the first half of the year.

**A motion was made (Kennedy) and seconded (Plagman-Galvin) to suggest Finance Committee pay the first six months of apportionments and continue to collect feedback for the Fall. Motion passed.**

Chair Orth recommended that the COVID-19 survey go out in June since it was important to get that feedback. He said he was not sure that the property needs assessment survey was ready to go out yet anyway. Plagman-Galvin agreed that survey would likely not be ready until July.

**Church Structure Document Subcommittee**

Jacobson said that after hearing the feedback at the last meeting, what she heard was that the graphic was supposed to represent the membership of church council. She presented a new version of the graphic to communicate that representation rather than a hierarchy. Kennedy said he liked the new graphic in the way it expressed the overlapping responsibilities, and he thought it was a good addition to the overall new structure document. Wickham said she would recommend dropping the diagram because it might misrepresent the relationship between the Endowment Board and the church. She said the Endowment Board is a separate legal entity, and it was important to maintain that separation so that the church did not look at the endowment fund as a source of funding for operating expenses. Kennedy said that the Endowment Board was set up to be connected to the church with the corporation members being the charge conference. Chair Orth asked Pastor Williams if the Endowment Board was on the Administrative Council. Pastor Williams said that no, in previous churches he had been a part of, an endowment board’s members did not serve on the Administrative Council, but they might be invited to participate in conversations at meetings. Allen said she would suggest taking Wickham’s suggestion to drop the diagram if it was causing confusion.

**Nominations Subcommittee**

Allen said that the nominations subcommittee talked about having a chair and chair elect positions on the Administrative Council and Ministries Council. Drake said the subcommittee recommended separating the Lay Leader positions from the vice-chair positions. The two lay leader positions were proposed to be four-year terms. She said that these lay leaders would also serve as Lay Members to Annual Conference to help expand their representation of the church. The third Lay Member to Annual Conference would be a one-year term that might help to develop leaders within the church. Allen said that the nominations committee also suggested creating three reserve Lay Members to Annual Conference.

Drake said that one of the advantages of having the lay leaders on the ministries and administrative councils would be that they could get the information from the respective groups at this meeting, without making the Lay Leaders attend all of the individual clusters and committee meetings (they would still be welcome to if they would like). Wickham asked if there would be any expectations outlined for these positions. Drake said that she thought the next steps would be to write job descriptions for every one of these roles. Drake said the Lay Leaders were four-year terms because the Annual Conference runs in quadrennium. Drake said these positions could renew for one term. Drake said that one change made since the last meeting was that the nominations subcommittee also added the Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries to the nominations committee.

**A motion was made (Kennedy) and seconded (Janssen) to approve the revised structure document from the Nominations subcommittee. Motion passed.**

**Leadership Development**

Drake said they were still working to find a Chair Elect to finish out the 6-month term for 2020 on Church Council.

**Adjourn**

Drake provided the closing prayer. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Adam Faeth, Secretary