**CUMC/WESLEY FOUNDATION**

**CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES**

**October 26, 2020**

**Minutes of Meeting**

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

**Members Absent:**

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

**Call to Order**

Chair Orth called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Allen provided an opening prayer and the council took turns sharing answers to the question, “How is it with your soul?”

**A motion was made (Hoyer) and seconded (Jacobson) to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2020 meeting. Motion passed.**

**Strategic Plan Development**

Chair Orth said that since the last meeting, there was a generous lead gift to the church for the purpose of helping develop a strategic plan. Pastor Lautzenhiser Bellon said she had started to look for a consultant to help in developing a strategic plan and would like to bring a recommendation to a future Church Council meeting.

**COVID-19 Response Team Subcommittee Report**

Jacobson said some small groups started meeting at the church. She said that there are also two community groups that resumed meetings. Jacobson said that Collegiate Wesley will serve as a polling place in the November election as it has in the past. She said that Warren worked with county election officials to work out health safety measures. Hoyer asked if there were inquiries from other groups that wanted to meet. Jacobson said that she was not aware of any other groups that asked to meet. She knew of a few groups that decided to meet outside. Pastor Hibben said that eight groups have made requests. Jacobson said the team will be meeting tomorrow and would review new requests then.

**Property Needs Assessment Subcommittee Update**

Plagman-Galvin said that it would be nice to work in tandem with whomever facilitated the strategic planning to collect information from the congregation.

**Nominations Team Update**

Drake said that Administrative Council has been working very hard to fill the openings before the Charge Conference. Lautzenhiser Bellon said she felt happy with the process. Hoyer asked if there were any particular openings for which the team needed suggestions. Drake said that the most challenging team this year was Staff-Parish Relations Committee. She said that Johnson has a list of names queued up to ask.

**Leadership Development**

Allen said that she and Drake met a few weeks ago to start discussing job descriptions and covenants. Drake said she and Pastor Lautzenhiser Bellon had a great conversation about what the leadership training might look like in 2021. She said it might take the form of recordings that would be available in mid-December.

Hoyer asked where the Charge Conference will be held this year. Pastor Lautzenhiser Bellon said she thought the link to a virtual meeting would come from the Iowa Conference. She asked Drake if the church could post the meeting invitation on the website. Drake said she thought we could. Pastor Lautzenhiser Bellon said she was writing up something to put in the communicator. Wickham said that if the church would like people to attend, we can never over-communicate. She said it would be a good idea to put the information in several weekly emails if the church has the information from the Iowa Annual Conference in time.

**Future Worship**

Chair Orth read an email from Mike King and the Worship Team after their meeting on September 27, 2020, about the process for planning what in-person worship might look like in the future. Chair Orth then read his response back to King. Jacobson asked if the Worship Team looking at a future return to in-person worship had representation from youth, college students, and music. Pastor Lautzenhiser Bellon said that she was at the meeting Mike King referenced and said that they were looking for suggestions of people to include in these discussions. Hoyer said that as the future worship team had questions, they could also go to representatives of those groups to get feedback or ideas. Hoyer said that what he heard from the letter was that the group was focused on going to one worship service with an online component. He said that he has also heard a lot of conversations recently about creating more opportunities for smaller worship groups too.

Jacobson asked if we design a worship service for people who are active in the church, will we miss an opportunity to invite others who are not attending to join us in worship? Allen asked if we have any leads of new people that attended the digital worship or small groups. Drake said that she does know of a few people who went to other churches, but it was hard to get a feel for new people who were attending digital worship. Allen said that there were a few people from her book group that she did not recognize from the church.

Pastor Lautzenhiser Bellon added there may be a few groups that are working on things as we get into the Spring and look at reopening.

**Church Directory**

Chair Orth read another email from Mike King about forming an electronic membership directory. Chair Orth said that Collegiate Wesley did put out a directory recently, but there were some delays since it was put together by volunteers. He said that the staff regularly fields requests for other member’s contact information. He asked for the council’s thoughts on publishing personal information in the directory. Allen said that she used to use the addresses in the directory for sending cards for sympathy or condolences. She suggested that publishing the addresses could be an opt-in choice.

Jacobson said she was hearing a question about whether we should share our member’s contact information, and not just in a directory. Wickham said it was important to be conservative about sharing information and only share if they gave us permission. Pastor Hibben said that the church has 2,100 people in our system that we would need to collect this permission from. Drake said that when the church moved to Planning Center, we dumped all of our existing information into it. She said the church never went back to clean up duplicates, nor removed incorrect information. Drake said that Planning Center started offering a new directory service. It allows each person to pick the contact information that goes into the virtual directory and it would be shared with other members that opt-in to the directory. Hoyer encouraged Drake to continue exploring the tools in Planning Center.

Pastor Lautzenhiser Bellon said that our office staff does not give out any personal information unless they know both people involved. Pastor Lautzenhiser Bellon said she does not think the church should give out any personal information.

Jacobson said she thought it was the role of Church Council to come up with a policy on sharing contact information. Allen suggested that we might tell the congregation why we are thinking about coming up with this policy. Chair Orth suggested creating a subcommittee to come back with a recommendation for a virtual directory and what kind of policy we put together for sharing members contact information. Jacobson and Hoyer volunteered.

Pastor Lautzenhiser Bellon said she wanted to protect Keltgen’s time in the office. She did not want to put her in a position where she has to call and ask each person if it is OK to share their personal information. Jacobson said that she thought it sounded like there was a working policy now.

Chair Orth asked if the council reached a consensus that the current operating procedure was that we are not sharing our members addresses and phone numbers. Drake suggested that until there is a policy in place, people might be able to drop off cards at the church and have the staff fill out address. Pastor Lautzenhiser Bellon said that maybe in the case of life events, maybe members of Reaching and Receiving can collect cards from the church and drop them off.

Chair Orth said that he or Pastor Lautzenhiser Bellon would have a conversation with Keltgen and give her a five-minute summary of the council’s thoughts.

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m. Pastor Hibben provided the closing prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Adam Faeth, Secretary

Next meeting: November 23, 2020