

Bethany Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting May 10, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President Hughes at 6:34 pm

Members present: Patricia Ernst, Anne Fetzer, Del Hughes, Amber Marsh, Kristin McElhinney, Dave Poppen, Jill Taylor

Members absent: Dave Bahnsen, Curt Casper, Pastor Chad Whaley

Del opened the meeting with a prayer. First in-person meeting in the Great Hall in 14 months.

### **Pastor's Report**

Highlights from Pastor's report:

- Finishing participation in *The Moses Project* this week and unable to attend council meeting.
- Continuing with worship sign-up. Again, a thanks to Jill Taylor for her work with worship attendance. New worship sign-up is now available online.
- Participation in Free Indeed and WBARC committee meetings.
- Upcoming events include graduation recognition and synod assembly.
- Many thanks to those maintaining church property.
- Developing a Sabbatical policy. Pastor is the first to reach a tenured milestone at Bethany. Council will look into creating a policy in future meetings.

### **Secretary's Report**

April's minutes approved as written.

Dave motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Amber. Motion approved.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Anne motioned to accept the treasurer's report, Kristin seconded. Motion approved.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Building & Grounds**

- Repairs to classroom light fixture.
- Appearance of mold that Del/Curt will look at later.

#### **Education & Youth**

- Seven seniors graduating high school will be recognized on Sunday, May 16. The committee providing gift baskets to each graduate.

#### **Evangelism & Outreach**

- Assisting with HACAP food distribution event on May 18.
- Hoover Hometown days float in August.
- God's Work, Our Hands is planned for September 12.
- Continued preparation for 125+1 anniversary celebration on October 24.

### **Fellowship**

- Discussion of providing coffee service for future outdoor services.

### **Stewardship**

- Next church newsletter will include activities made possible by offering.
- It was recommended that the committee encourage the congregation to use *Simply Giving* electronic giving.

### **Worship & Music**

- Jill discussed pros and cons of online worship sign-up.
- Congregation sent bouquet to the family of Jill Barnhart in memory of her father.

### **Old Business**

#### 1. Building Usage Review - COVID Updates

##### a. **Outdoor Worship**

- i. Option 1: No change to policy.
- ii. Option 2: Masks encouraged, but not required.
  - Continue to maintain physical distancing.
  - Those unvaccinated are strongly encouraged to wear a mask.
  - Remember your neighbor. If not wearing a mask is making them uncomfortable, then either wear a mask or move allowing them more space.
- iii. Singing
  - Will be allowed, even if unmasked (continue to sing quietly).
- iv. Communion
  - Continue with prepackaged cups for time being.
  - 1st and 3rd Sunday of month
- v. Time
  - Stay at 9:30 but will continue discussion on returning to 9:00 a.m. in a few months.
- vi. Length
  - Continue abbreviated service to reduce risk and accommodate online services.
- vii. Choir
  - Potential for a small group to rehearse and sing outdoors.

**Motion for outdoor worship:** Kristin motioned to approve outdoor services where masks encouraged, but not required along with bulleted points listed above. Patsy seconded. Motion approved.

**b. Indoor Worship**

- i. Option 1 – leave policy as is.
- ii. Option 2
  - Increase capacity (30)
  - Should be able to keep physical distancing to near 6’.
  - Sit in family units.
  - Congregation song allowed if done softly.
  - 1-3 individuals masked and distanced if special music.
  - Usher at parking lot door to welcome, count, and remind attendees to sit in family units, stay spaced out, masks required and sing softly. If more than 30, direct them to the Great Hall.
  - Worship sign-up no longer required.
- iii. Continue with communion, duration, time, etc. as outlined in outdoor worship section.

**Motion for indoor worship:** Dave motioned to approve option 2, Amber seconded. Motion approved.

**c. Other**

- i. Fellowship
  - Outdoor – Yes, following worship as people have been doing informally now.
  - Indoor – Yes, but masks are required indoors.
  - Kitchen remains closed.
- ii. Building Availability
  - Masks are required indoors.
- iii. Main door to Sanctuary open - 9:00 AM-4:00 PM M-F
- iv. Office
  - Open when Pastor or Paula is present.
- v. Small Groups
  - Indoors
    - a. Maintain our limit of 15 people.
    - b. Masks are required for small group indoors meetings unless physically distanced.

**Motion for fellowship and building availability:** Jill moved to approve policies as listed above, Dave seconded. Motion approved.

These policies will be in place May-July and be revisited as needed.

- d. Timeline to return to worship without precautionary guidelines**
  - i. Targeting Sunday, September 5.

## **New Business**

1. Technology Updates
  - a. Wireless Microphone – estimated \$600
  - b. Outdoor Camera – estimated \$1,000
  - c. Wireless Router to provide stronger signal outdoors. Router purchase to be discussed in June meeting.
    - i. Digital ministry grants available to improve ministry and outreach if the congregation matches funds.

**Motion:** Jill moved to allow up to \$1,600 for microphone and camera upgrades in case grant money is not rewarded, Dave seconded. Motion approved.

2. Reinstatement of CCLI License for choir music
  - a. License discontinued during COVID
  - b. Provides copyright protection for choral songs and some other newer songs in hymnal.
  - c. Cost: License: \$142; Streaming License: \$72; Song Selection totaling \$162-\$204.

**Motion:** Kristin motioned \$418 to be used to pay for licensing, seconded by Amber. Motion approved.

3. Confirmation Sunday
  - a. Council approval of five youth for confirmation: Miley Shields, Layla Samuelson, Cole Crosthwaite, Tate Frantz, and Dylan Schiele so long as each submits faith statement to Pastor Chad.
  - b. Recognition planned for Reformation Sunday on October 31. Congregation will also recognize Auron Marsh and Chloe Klabo.

**Motion:** Dave motioned we approve confirmation candidates; Kristin seconded. Motion approved.

4. West Branch Study Club asked permission to use church facility after returned to normal.

**Motion:** Kristin moved to approve building use; Dave seconded. Motion approved.

Anne moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Amber seconded. Motion approved.

Council closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Regular Meeting – June 14, 2021