

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 31, 2020

The First United Methodist Church Council met via Zoom on March 31, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Chairman Doug Wendel. Pastor Tish Green opened the meeting with prayer. Those in attendance were Pastor Tish Green, Chairman Doug Wendel, Carol Thoma, Kim Bargman, Tamara Porterfield, Curt Godier, Caryl Harness, Pat Parsons, Mark Landau, Kelly Rodgers and J. T. Mulvaney.

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Mark Landau and seconded by J. T. Mulvaney. Motion carried. Motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Mark Landau and seconded by J. T. Mulvaney. Motion passed. Pastor Tish reviewed the changes in the Building policies that would coincide with the Book of Discipline. She also noted the financial reports showed giving is up by \$20,000 through March compared to the first quarter of 2019, and expenses were about \$1,300 more.

Pastor Tish noted that the roof and solar panel project has been delayed, considering the financial uncertainty created by the COVID-19 crisis and that part of the money to finance the new roof would likely come out of the mutual funds account, which has taken a loss with the present crisis. It will be more financially prudent to wait until the market and economy recovers before beginning a roof campaign or selling our shares to pay for the roof.

Pastor Tish also reported that the 2020 General Conference has been postponed to 2021, but no specific date has been set yet.

**ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS AND GOALS** – Chairman Doug Wendel asked members to e-mail him if there was anything to add to these, and he would see that it was done. Kim Bargman reported that Heather Helms was working on the Calendar Planning project and suggests that someone is needed to be in charge and handle the organization of these items.

Pastor Tish said that because of the current situation we cannot accurately update the budget with clear year end goals, so we're operating on the draft that was presented at the last meeting.

**KEEPING CONNECTIONS** - Pastor Tish discussed making worship accessible during this “time of the coronavirus” and that we are doing that by offering a 10:00 a.m. Sunday service online. This service is being done with nine people at the present, but she's looking at trying to decrease that number. She is working on getting a conference call to work for those without internet capability. As far as when we will return to in-church worship, we are following the Festus schools' schedule which, at present, calls for them to resume on April 27. If that happens, our in-church services will begin on April 26. She said she's been looking into a drive-through service, but that doesn't seem to be feasible. She suggests that we celebrate Palm Sunday the first Sunday regular services resume, and Easter on the second Sunday, but will see what the timing is on that and decide later.

In further ways to connect to people during this time, we can take advantage of Zoom, a great way to stay connected which can be used by small groups. Several members have been making calls to church members and Pastor Tish thanked those who have volunteered to help in this way and others who are

similarly reaching out.

Pastor Tish said that Earl Cook passed away and that there would be a drive-through procession at Mahn's Funeral Home on Saturday from noon to 2:00 p.m.

The church is keeping in connection with the community by keeping the food pantry open, with four people working and food being dispensed in a drive-by manner. Another community connection is the April 16 Blood Drive that was already scheduled prior to the present “quarantines” and “social isolations”. Some blood drives have been canceled, but the one at our church will be held using special protocols. Pastor Tish has been working with a group to figure out how best to serve the homeless at this time. We are reaching out to other churches who don't have online giving to help them through this time. On our Tithely site, there will now be a place to check for Park Hills United Methodist Church and we will forward those funds to them. Festus Intermediate School is having a Virtual Career Day and Pastor Tish has been asked to record a video of her clergy role to help with that.

There are no plans being made yet for the time when we will return to regular worship, but Pastor Tish pointed that we need to be prepared for more people coming to church at that time and for small groups and celebrations being available. It was noted that addresses and phone numbers are in the church directory for anyone who wants to stay connected by phone or by a note in the mail.

Pastor Tish shared about the Cares Act recently passed by Congress. There may be funds available to Churches to help with payroll and utilities costs through the COVID-19 crisis. These funds would either be forgiven or become low interest (4% or less) loans with up to 10 year pay back plans. Motion was made by Mark Landau that we allow Pastor Tish and Becky Richards to pursue the funding according to their best judgment. Motion seconded by J. T. Mulvaney and passed.

Chairman Doug Wendel said that Chad Godier had made a very nice picture for the internet of our church directory and asked Curt to pass along our thanks.

J. T. Mulvaney asked if there were any more building problems; Scott Hammon has found none, per Pastor Tish. There is one security camera at the office entrance and another will be set up this week. Everything seems fine. Mark Landau inquired about supplies for the food pantry and J. T. Mulvaney said it was in good shape and the only thing they could use would be instant mashed potatoes.

The next meeting will be held on June 16, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor.

There being no further business, motion to adjourn was made by J. T. Mulvaney and seconded by Mark Landau. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Caryl Harness  
Recording Secretary