

## June 2020 All Commission Meeting Minutes

*Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 6:30pm via Zoom*

Present: Pastor David Efflandt, Lindsay Colwell, Sam Marsland, Rayelle Haase, David Bornfleth, Marlo Bungum, Linda Leth, Jodie Tvedt, Ann Trihey, Ann Brenke, Gloria Gilbertson, Daryl Melquist, Ron Albright, Melissa Klein, Jon Klein, Marge Albright, Jackie Logendyke, Clark Johnson, Katie Freerksen, Patty Foster, Tanya Young, Amy Evans, Dennis Foster, Fred Asche, Wayne Hendrickson, Genny Hendrickson, Dallas Martin, Debbie Martin, Joel Mindermann, Jessica Paulsen, and Kelly Utesch

- 1) **Call to Order and Devotion and Opening Prayer:** Sam called meeting to order at 6:31pm, and Pastor Dave led with a devotion and prayer.
- 2) **Session 1: Present the “Re-Engage” Plan** – Sam shared that the church office would open on Monday and have limited hours on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 9am – noon. Outdoor in-person worship begins Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at 9 and 11 am, with a Facebook Live virtual worship option at 9am. A drive through communion service will be available on Wednesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>. Sam walked the commission leadership through the Guidelines for Re-Engaging In-Person Ministry and Worship. The commission leads talked through 1) what is missing?, 2) What needs improving?, and 3) What needs changing. Amy Evans suggested to add an opening statement to the guidelines that explains the guidelines are a working document and is subject to guidelines provided from the Minnesota Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Dennis Foster had recommendations for consistent wording throughout the piece regarding encouraging others to wear masks and to have temperatures scanned. Additional input, questions, and guidance was provided from various members relative to their own understanding and preparedness.
- 3) **Session 2: Breakout Sessions for Commission Work** – The commission leads were offered a series of questions on how the proposed guidelines may affect or alter their respective roles in the church. The Zoom meeting then changed into break-out mini sessions for each commission to work through the details on their own before reporting back to the larger group. The breakout groups were instructed to address the following types of questions: 1) Spend a moment re-connecting with your commission, 2) What are your commission’s first steps for in-person ministry and worship?, 3) Is there anything that leadership needs to be aware of from your commission?, 4) How might your commission assist with the “re-engage” plan?, and 5) How can we, as leadership, keep the congregation informed during these changing times with three or four concrete ideas.
- 4) **Session 3: Regroup and Review** – The following commissions reported back the summaries to the rest of the large group:
  - a) **Lutefisk:** Marge noted that the Lutefisk group will not be able to socially distance themselves given the family-style nature of the dinner, the seating prior to entering the Fellowship hall, the seating within the Fellowship hall, not to mention the close proximity the cooks and preparers have with each other. They are considering asking for donations and selling tickets, hoping that members will continue to give, noting that this is the primary source of the gift from St. John’s to the ELCA.
  - b) **Worship and Music/Altar Guild:** Pastor Dave stated that they are working diligently on the upcoming worship schedule, inviting people to serve and share their gifts in different ways. The final plans for communion distribution are being worked out for June 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - c) **Media:** Sam reported that the group is working on equipment needs and modifications to plan for outdoor worship as well as to livestream worship to those in their homes.
  - d) **Education:** Kelly shared that Vacation Bible School will look differently this year, as the group cannot meet in person in June as usually scheduled. Registration just opened earlier in the day for an online VBS (four weekly lessons running in mid-July through early August), and several

- had already registered. The original theme was to encourage outdoor activity and the wilderness, so several ideas can be done by families through online lessons and to have small totes with snacks and activities available for pick up. Sunday School and OASIS education in the fall will be follow the school district's guidelines. Sunday School and OASIS teachers and leaders will be instructed how to sanitize rooms before and after use if in-person meeting is available.
- e) **Youth & Family:** Lindsay noted that both Good Earth Village and Sugar Creek Camps are closed for the summer. Refunds are being offered. The commission is working on leading small group sessions for families, or groups of families. Lindsay held a Zoom meeting for confirmation students where 38 of the 50 students attended.
  - f) **Properties:** Daryl noted that they are working on a Plexiglass shield for Sheryl, as well as for the other office desk. Hand sanitizer is being placed throughout common areas of the building. The group is willing to assist as needed with directing traffic for parking for outdoor service, for the drive through communion service on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>, and to ensure that the lawn is ready for worship on the East lawn starting on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - g) **CKP/Little Lambs:** Jessica noted that there are 52 registrations for the fall, 28 of them for Little Lambs. There is an open teaching position, and that the council advise them to continue to fill the position, but to make it contingent that the classes meet in person. They would like to hire an administrator for the program that will be a subject matter expert on COVID, and will help to implement and enforce the policies related to daily operations. The board is also looking into succession planning.
  - h) **Mission & Outreach and Growth & Hospitality:** Jackie said that her group is still delivering Meals on Wheels. There haven't been any globe donations since it is not currently set up through tithe.ly. They are looking for guidance from leadership council on how to proceed. Ready, Set, Learn is underway, and all commission leads were encouraged to direct families to applications for backpacks and school supplies. Tanya added that Relay for Life was cancelled, but there will be a drive through for drop off donations, and luminaries will be set up in the church parking lot on Friday, July 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - i) **Stewardship:** John noted that planning for a bean bag tournament or league is in the works for in the parking lot. A reminder to all commission leads that tithe.ly is still the best way to give. There has been some planning for a music festival in the fall to raise money for St. John's, but they are uncertain on how/if to proceed with planning at this time.
  - j) The following groups were not represented or did not report during the all-commission meeting: Food for Friends, Communication, Memorials and Interiors, Finance, and the Foundation.
  - k) Pastor Dave asked the commission leadership members on how to best communicate from leadership. Currently, the church uses email, social media, and the website. Leads are encouraged to share online services and events to help get word out. Hard copies are also mailed out to members who may not be connected online so that they are able to follow with the activities of the church, and to learn about how the church plans to re-engage in person.
- 5) Review of the short-term future plans for ministry and worship on-site: Sunday, June 21 East lawn services with communion at 9:00am and 11:00am. A virtual Zoom service with communion will be available at 10:00am. Drive through communion will be offered on Wednesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am, noon, 6:30pm in the parking lot.
  - 6) Sam closed the meeting by leading the Lord's Prayer.
  - 7) The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kelly Utesch