

Council Minutes Zoom Meeting September 14, 2021

In attendance:

Holly Jay, Pastor Olive Hinnant, Kay Frunzi, Ashley Fahey, Randy Mann, Jan Narracci and guests, Meredith Bond and Karen Graham from the Strategic Planning Team

Opening: Inspirational quote provided by Holly Jay

Prayer: Pastor Olive

Agenda:

1. Karen and Meredith to provide update of HVAC and status of the SPT

HVAC update- Meredith reviewed some facts about the HVAC installation:

- Need ⅓ of the overall cost upfront to schedule the installation
- Once it is scheduled, it would most likely be 6 weeks out before Mountain Air Comfort System could begin
- The installation would take about 2 weeks with possible clean-up time needed after that (repair of dry wall etc.)
- Some fact checking will be done to determine if the electrician costs would be included with the upstairs-only part of the proposal
- If the church is meeting indoors in person and the installation has begun, this should not affect worship- the area under construction would just be roped off
- Reported that the HVAC system would be needed to provide a healthy indoor environment

Karen reviewed the purpose of the SPT for Pastor Olive. The SPT was to do research regarding COVID-19 and provide information to the Council, not to make decisions. The team looked at data, CDC guidelines, the evolving understanding of the virus and organized the information. This was then presented to Council. Out of this came some recommendations regarding the airflow within the church which a new HVAC system would certainly improve.

There was some discussion at this time about in-person worship being possible with windows open and fans on and with all persons wearing masks prior to an HVAC system being installed. Karen reported that some of the SPT members think this would work.

Karen reported that signs had been purchased and mostly put up regarding mask usage guidelines. These signs can be reprinted on card stock when extras are needed.

Meredith said she would make sure the Boy Scout Troop that meets at the church are all wearing masks. She also reported that the ¼ of the chairs that were moved into storage by the scouts have been moved back out again. She asked that the scouts be given a month in advance notice when more chairs need to be moved.

Meredith and Karen were thanked for their time and efforts with the SPT and they signed off of Zoom.

There was some continuing discussion about the blue chairs and about the metal folding chairs that are not padded. It was suggested that a couple of rows of pews be removed and substituted with the blue chairs to see how the congregation responds.

The Council talked about the metal folding chairs being given away through the use of the local community on-line service called "Next Door". It was suggested that the chairs be offered to church members first through the newsletter. This was agreed to and an ad will be put in the newsletter.

2. Re-entry of Congregation to Sanctuary including our 50 People rule

After much discussion regarding number of people in church, how difficult it would be to do registration, the importance of mask usage, etc., a motion was made with a 2nd:

When UCCPH begins in-person worship in the Sanctuary, there will not be a limit on the number of people; masks will be required by all in attendance at all times; there will be no social distancing; windows and doors will be open and upper fans will be on; there may be fellowship time in Callahan Hall with masks on and without food or drink provided.

In favor: All

In addition to the above, Time with the Children will be done from the front with the children remaining in their seats and there will not be classes for youth initially. All children will be required to wear masks as well.

3. Fellowship following Church services - See number 2.

4. Digital Director Job Description

Pastor Olive brought up the need to have a position to cover what Shellie provides each Sunday in sound coordination and other technical assistance. Shellie is willing to train someone and would be willing to continue assistance as a volunteer however she cannot always be at the church every Sunday. There needs to be someone with the technical expertise to do what Shellie has been doing and that person needs to be there every week. Julie had introduced a friend a couple of weeks ago who might be able to fill in. Although this person may be qualified, Council discussed the need for a job description and that there should be an application process in place as this would be a paid position. There also needs to be a salary range determined to see what is possible within the annual Church budget.

Shellie will be asked to write a job description of what she has been doing for the hybrid services.

5. Interim Pastor's report

Pastor Olive reported that on September 26, key people required for a hybrid service will not be available. Therefore, that service will be Zoom only unless something else can be worked out. She asked Council if she and Julie can make the decision week to week based on who's available to run the sound and other technical tasks, whether or not there will be a hybrid

service or Zoom only. Council stressed the importance of good communication to the Congregation when the worship location has to be changed. Council understands that decisions have to be made at the last minute if for some reason the production of a hybrid service cannot be accomplished.

Pastor Olive reported that Julie's job description needs to be updated. The job description on file does not reflect how her job has changed during the pandemic and with the production of hybrid services.

Pastor Olive received a call from Castle Rock Pride asking if this group could sponsor a vaccination event and use the UCCPH parking lot to hold the event. Council is in support of this as long as the group has a plan for a "safe" event and is aware that the church would not be open for use for this event and that the event is not held on a Sunday morning.

Pastor Olive also received a call from an LGBTQ group asking if they could occasionally use the church for family support group meetings. The Council is also in support of this however more information is needed as to how often, how many people, would the group be willing to sign a "building use contract" etc. Pastor will keep the Council updated on this proposal.

Pastor Olive said she would like to begin small group conversations with church members in person and on Zoom regarding this transition time.

She also mentioned that there will need to be a Transition Team formed at some time in the future.

6. Council Update by Holly

Holly told Council she will be resigning as Moderator after the Council meeting in December because of health issues. She also emphasized the need for more Council members as Randy Mann's and Don Wick's terms are up at the end of this year. Ashley Fahey is Vice-Moderator but is not able to take on the role of Moderator at this time.

Denise Mann's role as Treasurer will also need to be filled as she will be ending her term at the end of the year. Holly will talk with the nominating committee to start looking for Council members and the current Council is encouraged to find people to refer to the nominating committee.

The Council meeting ended at 8:20 p.m.