

St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Board of Directors Meeting Minutes September 1, 2020 (via conference call)

2020 St. Paul's Board of Directors present:

Zac Huffman, Tom Cook, Bernice Prescott, Cyndie Dixon, Rick Wood, Jen Houck, Diane Segelhorst, Pastor Teklu

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m.

The opening prayer was offered by Pastor Teklu, thanking the Lord for our health, for the new day and new month and for the opportunity to serve, and seeking blessings on our discussions for our church.

The minutes of the BoD meeting of August 20, 2020 were approved as presented.

Pastor's Report

1. Pastor Teklu provided an update on his member/family visits. Families continue to schedule the meetings, and he hopes to complete all during September and October. He finds it helpful to know the individual families as he plans for ministry.
2. Pastor Teklu reported he is continuing to visit with homebound members and is following up with some visitors to the church as well.
3. Daily Scriptures are currently being provided from Galatians, and Pastor Teklu would welcome feedback. The Bible class on Galatians continues, but attendance is not excellent. Pastor Teklu requests any ideas for growing the attendance, as he believes all adults should attend Bible class, either in person or via Zoom. It was noted that recent surveys have indicated that members want adult education and perhaps the low attendance at this time was due to the pandemic and resulting weariness with remote meetings, as well as to the fact that it is summer; additionally, the subject matter may not appeal to all members.
4. Ministry team and staff meetings continue for resource sharing, Pastor Teklu reported that good progress is being made. He continues meeting weekly with Zac Huffman and attends the bi-weekly circuit meetings when possible, which he finds very productive.
5. In preparation for development of the strategic plan, the circuit or the SED will provide sample documents. Ministry teams are already identifying goals to be considered. It was suggested that we may want to consider goals for racial reconciliation, based on seeking what God would have us do in our community.
6. The next ministry planning meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, September 9, 2020.

Open Items from Last Meeting

1. Outside groups' use of the St. Paul's facilities continues on hold.

2. The policies review session was held with Pastor Teklu on August 12. As a result of that session, development of a five-year strategic plan is pending.
3. Training on the operation of the electronic sign is pending. The second light box has been installed and the lighting is to be connected, possibly this weekend. Once that is completed, the training can be held.

Current Agenda Items

1. Diane Segelhorst reported for the reopening ad-hoc planning committee. Dorothy Clark has requested approval to hold the annual quilt sale in early November and has submitted a plan for a safe and healthy event, which was reviewed by the BoD. If approved, she would like to announce the November sale on October 1. The quilters have been meeting at Dorothy's home and some, but not all, are ready to return to the church facilities for their weekly sessions. She has been asked to provide a plan for that activity as well, with a projected start date no earlier than October 1. In discussion, it was noted that the state may be moving toward more relaxed requirements on gatherings, which may or may not be followed by Anne Arundel County, but all restrictions then in place would be observed. It was suggested that the quilt sale may provide an excellent opportunity for the church to determine if it is feasible to allow more of the regular uses of the facilities to resume. It was noted that the quilters are an activity of St. Paul's and allowing them to use the building for quilting sessions and the sale does not require that we also allow outside groups to return. It was also noted that Dorothy Clark is extremely responsible and would ensure that all health requirements were met. After discussion, the BoD voted to approve the quilt sale for early November, with the caveat that approval could be withdrawn if the coronavirus metrics worsen. Diane Segelhorst will draft a response to Dorothy Clark, including the items identified by the BoD to be added to the plan: gloves and masks for all staff and guests, posting of coronavirus health advisories, limit on the number of persons in each room at one time, and suggesting that in the event of inclement weather, the outdoor registration be moved to the front entry. BoD members are asked to review her draft as soon as they receive it.
2. Next BoD meeting: Wednesday, September 16, 2020
3. Service Views:
 - August 2: 64 total (26 in person, 34 live streaming, 4 audio)
 - August 9: 46 total (25 in person, 18 live streaming, 3 audio)
 - August 16: 51 total (25 in person, 14 live stream/9 later, 3 audio)
 - August 23: 61 total (35 in person, 18 live stream/5 later, 3 audio)
 - August 30: 53 total (30 in person, 14 live stream/6 later, 3 audio)

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bernice Prescott, Secretary