

St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Board of Directors Meeting Minutes March 30, 2020 (via audio conference)

DIAL IN: 605-472-5577
ACCESS: 494369#

2020 St. Paul's Board of Directors present:
Zac Huffman, Tom Cook, Bernice Prescott, Cyndie Dixon, Rick Wood, Jen Houck, Pastor Dave

Meeting called to order at 5:32 pm.

Pastor Dave opened with a brief devotional, based on Ephesians 6, verses 10 through 18, concerning the armor of God, and with prayer for faith, trust and peace in the face of the new challenges we face.

Minutes of the March 23, 2020 meeting were approved as presented.
Minutes will be posted to the website.

Open Items from Last Meeting:

1. Daily mail delivery has been stopped except for Friday, when Cindy Drabick will retrieve it. She will notify Linda Craig concerning offering envelopes received. Due to Maryland's new stay-at-home order, Zac will ask Cindy if she is still willing to make the pick-ups.
2. Monday 5:30 PM BoD calls will continue.
3. Lower level flooring replacement is on hold. BoD previously planned to revisit the issue in two weeks; this will be discussed and voted on at next Monday's meeting. Concerns over beginning the work include the restrictions of the new order which may deem this work non-essential and the decreased offerings currently being received.
4. Craig S. has begun painting the lower level, including the Fellowship Hall. The original plan was to exclude the Fellowship Hall until after the flooring was completed, due to the dust that work will generate. Craig advised he needed to do the complete job at one time and that the new paint is washable, should it pick up dust later.
5. Del J. has installed the new sanctuary lamp. It does flicker rather than display a constant light.
6. Foster Electric completed work (\$1,385.00) needed for the installation of outdoor sign panels. Rick Wood has started testing panels and then will schedule the installation if desired. Discussed potentially postponing that task in light of the new executive order this date; Rick will decide if he wants to continue or postpone.
7. Rick Wood is setting up the computer system for eventual live streaming of services. This activity will require the Pastor's presence at church to implement, so will be postponed at this time.
8. Sunday morning services through April 26 and Wednesday Lenten services are being recorded from Pastor Dave's home for posting on YouTube at stpaulscrofton.com. Pastor

Dave reported a learning curve and that he is feeling more comfortable with the technology as he goes along.

9. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will also be recorded and available at stpaulscrofton.com
10. Congregation will continue to receive daily Scriptures and prayers via email.

Current Agenda Items:

1. Highlights of Pres. Denninger's March 30, 10:00 AM SED call:
 - Legislative information for each state is being regularly updated on the SED website
 - Synod and District websites are good sources for information; the SED is trying to figure out how to manage the situation; churches are at various levels of technical readiness for remote services.

Pastor Dave reported that St. Paul's is doing as well as we can under the guidelines. The SED and Synod will provide updates on guidance and potentially into sources of funds that may be available for struggling churches. We will continue to cooperate with government directives.
2. Options for Lay Deacons, if needed in the unforeseen situation of Pastor Dave becoming unable to plan or record services:
 - SED training is available (Pr. Schaefer)
 - Zac requested that BoD members send recommendations as to who would be candidates for this role.
 - Guest (supply) pastors for recorded services: Discussed that Pastors Schaefer, Maack and Braband might be available. Additionally, we could post information to access on-line services from neighboring churches. The District will post a list of churches and their available technology which may provide support; Pastor Dave will follow-up on this.
2. Shut in update - Sally, Adelaide, Brian (Joan), Connie, Harley. Pastor Dave has been conversing with each one via telephone and will continue to do so. All have been pleased with the conversations. Pastor Dave also requested prayers for Mary Kress who is facing a difficult health situation.
3. Based on SED guidance, it was recommended that we suspend the Call Process, with notification to potential pastoral candidates. While the church may issue a call at this time, the SED strongly recommends that the process be suspended, due to current travel restrictions and the needs of the candidates' current congregations. BoD agreed by consensus to this suspension. Zac will notify each candidate in writing that St. Paul's is still interested in pursuing the process, we are postponing at this time and will follow up with them as soon as feasible.
4. Neighbors assisting neighbors update - Pastor Dave has found this process very useful in his neighborhood and encourages it. Neighbors exchange useful information re immediate needs this way and check in on each other.
5. Pictorial Directory is 99% complete, Jen Houck reported. She will prepare the electronic version now and provide 100 hard copies once the congregation is meeting on site. Any

new changes can be incorporated before the actual printing. Thereafter changes can be made as needed to the electronic version on a scheduled basis.

6. Cover All – the cleaning service - has been contacted. Rather than the routine cleaning they provide, for the immediate future they will provide a deep cleaning to a different area of the building each week, such as offices, bathrooms, FH, classrooms, etc.
7. Congregation has previously been requested to come at any time to help with the outside clean-up; today's mandate may make this less feasible now. Individuals can decide.
8. Sunday Bible studies: There will be two groups meeting remotely, one at 9:15 - 10:00 a.m. and one at 12:15 - 1:00 p.m., led by Pastor Dave. Congregation has been notified via email to sign up.
9. Sunday school status update: All persons involved will strive to communicate their ideas to avoid confusion and extra work. Heidi has been sending out Sunday School packets and will continue to do so. BoD still needs to focus on a replacement for Heidi, who will complete her service at the end of the school year. Suggestion made that a summary of the position duties be included in the next announcement to the congregation.
10. Zac and Cindy verified the directory email data base. Confirmed that former members and those we have not seen recently are receiving worship services notification; this may enable some to reconnect with St. Paul's.
11. Member / voting member list update is almost complete. There is an issue that some members have signed the Constitution but are on the periphery in terms of participation. Zac will develop a final list of eligible voting members for any business that requires a congregational vote.
12. By consensus, Lifebridge's rent for use of the church will be suspended for April
13. Congregation will be advised to submit prayer requests for inclusion in the website services.
14. There were 80 views of the March 29 service
15. It appears only 5 or 6 members have signed up for on-line giving; this past Friday approximately 12 offerings were received in the mail.
16. Palms are available for any who wish to stop by. They will be placed at the outside door entrance on Friday, April 3rd.
17. The Easter lily order has been reduced to 8 plants, which will be delivered to our shut-ins.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bernice Prescott, Secretary