

WHLC Church Council Meeting

July 28, 2020

Your WHLC church council met on July 28th. The meeting was called to order and Mitch Yeager shared devotions with the council.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and agenda for the evening.

Duane Danielson shared a Treasurer's report. June offerings were down and offerings YTD are also below budget. The church is holding some stock for sale which are not yet reflected in the budget. Overall, the financials are holding steady thanks to the generous support of the congregation.

Pastor Robin reported on the overall pledge status, continuing education fund availability, the upcoming SE Iowa Synod meeting, and calls on members during this COVID pandemic.

Pastor Chris as pushed his sabbatical from 2020 to 2021 given the current situation.

In old business, landscaping work will be done once we start to get a little cooler weather. Sod will replace some of the existing plantings in the parking lot. Mitch Yeager was thanked for work he did pulling weeds to improve our current situation. WHLC Foundation money was received for use in improving sound for church services and landscaping. Small group meeting in the church have gone smoothly to date. Participation has been from 2-10 at each service. Members that have attended are very thankful for the opportunity.

Pastor Chris presented the re-gathering plan that had been drafted and reviewed by the Health Committee. Based upon trending analysis in the county there are reports that reflect red/orange/yellow/green for risk related to COVID-19. Action steps have been identified as each level. The guidelines are for the church and any outside groups that might use the church in the future. Council consensus was supportive of the plan. We are planning to share the plan more broadly with the congregation. The Health Committee will be meeting monthly on the third Tuesday to review the status of our virus response and answer any questions that arise.

Heartland Youth Choir had met with the Health Committee to discuss how they could use the church on a limited basis. They would follow professional choral guidelines that have been developed. It was approved by council with the caveat that they work with us and adjust to any needs we might have for meetings and events. Use by any other groups will be very limited, small and controlled by staff.

The fall schedule is being developed. There is a focus on including some outdoor worship to bring people together safely.

Following a reflection by Pastor Robin the meeting was adjourned. The next council meeting is August 25th.

John Ambrosion, President

Additional Comments from the President:

I know that this virus is wearing on all of us in so many different ways. For many, it is a direct financial impact, for others it is a social and emotional loss. Depression, anger, and fear are among the many emotions that we feel. It can be hard. We feel the loss of community within our church. We miss seeing each other.

We will soon have the added challenge of bringing children back to school. Please pray for them, the teachers, support staff, parents, and others involved in this challenge. There are no right answers and understand everyone is trying to do their best.

In Joshua 1:9 it says “be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” I like that verse. Our God is always with us. We need to remember that, for this situation shall pass, but God is always there.

Thank you again for all of your prayers for our church and our members. Thank you for your financial gifts to support our mission. Thank you for reaching out to each other to provide support and encouragement. We are the church, together.

John Ambrosion