**New Song Council Meeting**

**September 22, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Holli Spangler. The council met at church observing social distancing protocols. Present were Pastor Paul, Art Clayton, Larry Edsall, Doug Gab, Neal Husak, Holli Spangler, Lauren Thomas, Stephanie Wasano, and Melissa Williams.

Stephanie Wasano opened with a devotional reading and a prayer. Pastor Paul will lead the October devotional.

**Pastor Paul’s Report:**

Deaths: None

Memorial service: None

New members: None

Birth: None

Baptism: None

In-Person worship returned the weekend of September 12 and 13, continuing the social distancing practices that were put into place in June. Participation has been good. The Saturday Service is still meeting at 5pm. Switching to two services on Sunday has improved the energy of the contemporary service. Both Sunday services are live streamed. Our attendance is around 100 people between the three services.

The New Song 5K is going virtual this year under the coordination of Shani and Liz. We will have a chance to run throughout the month of October. Registration is available on our website.

In keeping with our September sermon series on the Simple Church and the goal to grow disciples, Pastor Paul presented a potential process for us at New Song. It consists of a circle containing the actions of WORSHIP => GROW => SERVE => INVITE. Pastor discussed the staff’s vision to encourage people along this journey, most specifically through small groups. These verbs can guide our deliberation process, to make sure our resources and energy are focused where they belong. This corresponds to our mission statement of Connecting to Christ (Worship), to one another (Small Groups) and to Community (Service). The council discussed how some of our current activities fit in the circle and how we look at our programs and if they keep the process of disciple making as their goal.

Middle School confirmation will begin on October 7. Students will come to New Song every other week in the afternoon.

**Financial Report:**

Neal presented the end-of month financial report for August 2020. With on-line services only due to continued concerns regarding the Covid-19 virus, our average attendance was down when compared to last year. Our monthly revenue from offerings was down 11% from last year, while our year-to-date revenue is down 6% from last year, but on track for our 2020 budget. We are blessed with the faithful tithing of our congregation that continues to support our church and its mission.

**Old Business:**

1. We currently have twelve Small Groups with 17 leaders and 112 participants. This is about 20% of the congregation. The council discussed how the congregation can be informed on what groups have openings, when they meet, what they are studying and how to form a group. More to come.

2. Neal and Shani are continuing to work on the New Song 2021 budget. They have reached out to the various ministry teams to submit their budget estimates for 2021 by the end of September.

3. It was confirmed that Trunk or Treat/Fall Festival will be on October 31 from 2:30-4:30pm. There is a plan to have an outdoor concert from 4:40-5pm, followed by the Saturday evening service at 5pm. Gershon is working on this activity.

4. There was no update on the Christmas concert. The Music Ministry is in the planning stages.

5. Melissa reported that the Stewardship team met on September 9. Consecration weekend is November 14 and 15. The team discussed how to conduct activities with the Covid-19 restrictions, including Cabaret. Their next meeting is scheduled for September 23 where they will begin to finalize activities and communication forums. Continue praying about how you are called to give for 2021.

**New Business:**

There was no new business to discuss

**Liaison Reports:**

1. Music/AV:

Doug reported that there is a new TV in the narthex.

2. Facilities:

Doug reported that our landscaping team is retiring. The team will begin the Request for Proposal (RFP) process for a new landscape team.

We continue to have issues with our water lines leaking. Our last water bill was $1300 because we were not aware of a major leak. The water department has agreed to warn us when our water usage is above average. Our old soft black water lines need to be replaced and we need to determine if any of our landscaping should be removed. The facilities team will research options and cost.

We need to move forward with using the money raised to replace the freezer. The footprint of the replacement will either be smaller than our current one, or seven inches larger. There is no significant difference in the cost. Facilities will work with the staff to determine which unit to purchase.

 3. Academy:

Larry shared Rachele’s report that both Kindergarten classes are almost to capacity. Our semi-annual visits from Licensing and the Health Department went well. Word of mouth continues to bring in new families, with 7 new students since the last council meeting. The academy thanked Sheila Siino for volunteering with the Distance Learning Lab on Tuesday, keeping the children entertained with science projects. They also thanked Birgit, who stepped up to take over the second Kindergarten class.

 4. Nominating Committee:

Stephanie has reached out to the nominating committee (Sheila Siino, Sue Clark, Michelle Gab, and Holly Swanson) to begin the process of recruiting members for church council. Three positions will need to be filled.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm, followed by reciting the Lord’s Prayer.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, October 27, at 6pm

Respectfully submitted, Melissa Williams – Recording Secretary