

New Song Council Meeting

June 23, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm 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.

Larry Edsall opened with a devotional reading and a prayer. Lauren Thomas will lead the August devotional.

Pastor Paul's Report:

Carl Breymann died in the Lord June 21, 2020. Carl attended the Saturday service along with his husband, Michael. We pray for his family, active members of New Song: David and Sandy, Dorothy and George. His memorial will be held at New Song on Saturday, June 27, at 6pm

Eleanor Landing died after 107 years of faithful service to God. She regularly attended our 9:15am service and was our oldest disciple thus far at New Song. She leaves behind New Song members Chris and Roy Schroeder. A memorial service was held in California earlier this month.

In-Person worship has begun at New Song, after some hard work and wrestling with issues by the Stay Connected team. Led by Sue Steaffans, the team developed and executed a plan, which included protocol and training of our hospitality team. Thanks to Patty Duffey and Anne Danielson for organizing the hospitality changes. We have incorporated Holy Communion as well. Attendance is below expectations, especially at 10:30, but little by little it's beginning to feel more like church. The pull between safety and praise is real and challenging.

The Stephen Ministers will be bringing Holy Communion to Homebound members, and we are attempting to reach those who are staying home due to Covid-19 as well.

Women's Bible study has resumed in the sanctuary, as well as AA meetings.

Sunsets @ New Song concluded for the summer with a nice jazz concert with Josh and Jeremy.

Holly Swanson is our third diakonia program graduate, along with Nan Renaud and Janet Rogers. Graduation was held by the Grand Canyon Synod 6/20/2020.

The Military Ministry needs a new leader. This vital ministry is central to our mission. Let us pray and search for a candidate!

Gershon has been helping with our online ministries and has established a working group to incorporate ways to connect our online community better.

Financial Report:

Neal presented the end-of month financial report for May 2020. Even though we were able to resume in-person services, our average attendance was down when compared

to last year due to continued concerns regarding the Covid-19 virus. Our monthly revenue from offerings was up 15% from last year, while our year-to-date revenue is down 9% from last year and down 2% from our 2020 budget. We lost an estimated \$61,000 of revenue in May from the closing of the academy.

Neal and Shani will convene a meeting of the financial management team in July to re-look at our 2020 budget and determine if any adjustments are needed based on the significant decrease in our revenue. The goal is to project future revenue, look at our spending, and submit recommendations to the council.

Shani and others are working on the paperwork that needs to be filed concerning the distribution of the \$87,000 loan we secured from the federal PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) program. We are anticipating that we have fulfilled the requirements for our spending so the grant will not have to be repaid.

Old Business:

1. The Personnel committee hired Rachele Wright as our Academy director. She will begin the first week in July. Jackie and Shani have been in touch with her concerning onboarding.
2. The Vegas Voice has moved into the building and is recording their shows. Pastor Paul was interviewed about New Song Church last week and the interview will air on their website soon.

New Business:

1. Joshua Herrington met with the council to discuss beginning a New Song Church's Music Conservatory. The first phase would begin with the 2020-2021 CCSD school year. There would be six instructors (2 piano, 2 guitar and 2 voice) that would build and establish a solid lesson program. The program would be for ages 5 and up, depending on the instrument. Weekly lessons would be after school and on Saturdays. The council approved a motion to start the School of Music with financial, marketing, and administrative details to be determined. (Motion: Doug Gab; Seconded: Art Clayton)
2. The council discussed the progress of the church re-opening. Currently the Saturday evening and Sunday 8am services are near capacity of the current sanctuary configuration. The 9:15 service is growing, while the 10:30 service is losing participants. Ideas on how to incorporate stewardship awareness each week were considered. The use of our new AM radio band to broadcast services to those that do not feel comfortable with in-person attendance was explored.
3. Holli mentioned that the planning calendar contained a mid-year budget update and financial review. There is a quarterly report that is included in the Half Note communicating the financial information. It was discussed that an in-person meeting might be held when we know the findings of the financial management team.
4. Gerson will be working with Rachele on VBS. The current plan is to conduct VBS the last week of July with two sessions, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon. Current social distancing mandates will be followed

5. Pastor Paul initiated a discussion on how we can keep our congregation connected to God, one another and the world around us when we have to shuffle people in and out of New Song between services during the Covid crisis. Small groups have been vital in the mission of other congregations. These small, home-based groups could provide an opportunity for faith formation and connection that is needed by many today. Members of the council gave examples of small group ministries that had been successful in other churches that they attended. The council felt this would be an excellent opportunity for our church family. It was decided that a visioning team should be established to train leaders and build some pilot to implement a small group model for New Song.

6. Pastor Paul informed the council that there would be some revisions to the web-site. The staff is looking at how to maintain the web-site on their own.

Liaison Reports:

1. Music/AV:

Nothing other than Josh's proposal.

2. Facilities:

During the month of June the team sent information to the council about a product they recommended we purchase to keep surfaces in the academy and our church protected from the virus. This is especially critical as we move to reopening the academy. This product would be used in addition to the regular cleaning of our facility, but would avoid nightly deep cleaning of all surfaces and would greatly reduce labor costs in keeping our church and school protected. The product is Bio-Defenders Inc. It is a concentrated product that is applied using an electrostatic applicator. The efficacy has been tested and lasts for 90+ days. It is colorless, odorless and is safe on cell phones, computers, door handles, toys in the toy boxes, and basically anything. Windows don't even have to be cleaned after application. One person would be able to treat the complete school and church in 2-3 hours. The council approved the purchase of the applicator and product concentrate.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01pm, followed by reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, August 25th, at 6pm as historically there has not been a council meeting held in July.

Respectfully submitted, Melissa Williams – Recording Secretary