

## **New Song Council Meeting**

**June 23, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Holli Spangler. Present were Pastor Paul, Art Clayton, Doug Gab, Neal Husak, Holli Spangler, Lauren Thomas, Stephanie Wasano, and Melissa Williams. Larry Edsall, and Jessica Simo were absent. Hope Manley was present for two project requests.

Stephanie Wasano opened with a devotional reading and prayer. Pastor Paul will lead the devotional for the August meeting.

### **Hope Manley – Academy Director**

The Academy is looking forward to the new school year. Due to the increased enrollment in our preschool program, we are opening another 3/4-year-old classroom. We are looking to hire another PRE-K teacher. If anyone in our community would like to refer someone looking to teach, please contact Hope.

Current Enrollment numbers:

3-year-old program - 21 students

4-year-old program - 22 students

Junior Kindergarten - 13 students

Kindergarten - 7 students

This brings our current enrollment total to 63 students! The teachers return on July 26. Hope is working with Gershon on an open house on July 28 to tie the Academy to New Songs children's ministry.

Due to the increased enrollment the Academy is requesting a better solution for the wall dividing the POGO room into two sections. The temporary wall needs to be replaced. The council discussed either a permanent wall or a floating divider that is similar to the one in the Community room. A decision will be made at the August meeting after RFPs for the two solutions are received.

The second request was the need for the Academy floors to be resurfaced. Three bids were discussed. Neal moved and Doug seconded awarding the job to Briget for \$3.5K.

### **Pastor Paul's Report:**

Before going through his report, Pastor Paul discussed a non-denominational worship service that he attended in Wisconsin. He was greeted in the parking lot while finding a parking spot, when he entered the church, and was guided to the first time guest sections. There were about 150 in attendance. Some of the presentations and formats were well orchestrated, however there was no interaction among those attending the service. This might indicate that the connective part of the church is in small groups.

Pastor Paul could see ways to incorporate some of what he saw into our simple church process (worship, grow, serve, invite). He developed a packet for new members that he used for the group joining the church this weekend. There is a questionnaire, "Connect at New Song", that was discussed and might be used for the entire congregation at a later date. Pastor Paul reviewed this packet with the council and received positive feedback.

### **Worship (Connecting to Christ):**

Pastoral Acts:

Deaths: Ron Moore, passed May 5, memorial service June 19; Lillian Anderson, passed June 9, memorial service June 24. Alandus Wright passed June 8.

New members: Linda and Gary Mardorf joining June 26 at 5:00pm. Craig and Peggy Bupp; Georgana LeVene; Jon and Susan Paul (seasonal) joining June 27 at 10am.

Baptisms: Elizabeth Ann Wieser, June 13 at 10:00am, Brooklyn Green July 4 at 8:30am

Births: None

Weddings: None

Confirmation: Olivia Forstrom, Logan Witt-Bahls, Chase Solari, May 23.

Summer Worship Series is: Splish! Splash! The Wonder of Water in the Bible. Seven weeks, seven water stories in OT and NT:

6/27: Creation

7/4: Noah's Ark

7/11: River Moses

7/18: Elijah and Rain

7/25: Jesus Calms the Storm

8/1: Peter Walks on Water

8/8: Jesus the Living Water

In addition, this summer there will be children's sermons during the 10:00am service. This was an outgrowth of the contemporary worship team meeting.

**Staffing:** Pastor Paul took a moment to commend the staff, in different ways, for innovation and creativity. Gershon has managed the summer camps smoothly, welcoming many kids and training middle school and high schoolers for leadership. He's had to wait two years to start this engine for children's ministry.

Josh has developed something new with these monthly concerts and helped bring people onto our campus. Our June concert had over 125 people in attendance. I know of at least one person who has attended church regularly whom I first met at a concert.

Shani has managed to turn bookkeeping into a creative enterprise. She has found PPP loans and grants and managed them amazingly well.

Jackie always has done what is needed and helped to transition our Academy to a new director, minimizing the fallout of transition in leadership. She's a steady presence amid the continuing change of church life.

Hope Manley is just getting started, but asking the right questions, exploring possibilities, and it is clear she cares deeply about the school and connecting it to the church.

I met with Mathew and he is begun rebuilding an AV Team with new participants.

Jeremy's leadership of the band has seen a blend of consistent voices with occasional offerings from within the congregation; in addition, he is leading the contemporary worship team with great success.

Much of the staff will be taking various weeks off this summer, so be prepared for that.

### **Grow (Connecting to One Another)**

There is group of women, organized by Betty Thornton and Jeannie Stevens heading to KY to visit Creation Museum and the Ark Experience. They will depart in the fall.

I am doing continuing education with the Rocky Mtn. Synod, called Excellence in Leadership. We are to have a summer project; I have chosen to redevelop the Evangelism strategy as my project. We are thankful for the numerous leaders, especially new members, who have stepped up to participate in the strategy.

Our Academy graduation was joyful. We have much to be thankful for at New Song!

### **Serve (Connecting to Community)**

We will be a sponsoring church at the LSS gala, and some of the disciples dedicated to food ministries will attend.

I plan to meet with Margo of the Military Ministry to discern future projects with the team.

I have been asked by the Bishop to serve as CO-Dean of the Colorado River Conference along with the Rev. Jason Adams. We will share the responsibilities to lighten the load. Our duties include monthly zoom meetings with the other deans and coordinating activities on the territory of the greater Las Vegas area. In addition, I was elected to serve on the Consultation Committee of the Grand Canyon Synod, which is a team that serves on an as needed basis. We had four voting members at the Synod Assembly June 12.

## **Invite (Connecting to Community)**

Mike Turnbull is on hospice care. They have published a book that is getting lots of good buzz. New Song is prevalent in the book, and we hope to host a book launch in the near future.

## **Financial Report:**

Neal presented the end-of month financial report for May 2021. We had 205 attend worship in May 2021. Since the church was closed last year in May we cannot compare attendance. Our monthly revenue from offerings was down 13% from last year, our year-to-date revenue was down 3%. Our May revenue was down 7% (\$2.7K) from our 2021 budget.

Shani was successful in securing the approval of the write-off for our second PPP loan. She is working on a \$46K covid grant that was designated for schools.

## **New Business:**

1. Over the past year, the music ministry has organized a new, innovative program, the Saturday night concert series. In partnership with the Sinfonietta, a strong audience base has been established. Recognizing a need to formalize the relationship between the outside performers, the music ministry and the overall ministry of New Song Church, a meeting was held with Pastor Paul, Shani, music ministry and council member. The proposed summary is:

- a. Proceeds from the concert will have 10% taken off the top for the New Song operating budget. The remaining will be shared among the musicians (50%), New Song Music Ministry (40%).
- b. If the proceeds are below \$200, the monies go to the musicians.
- c. The music ministry may offer additional compensation to Josh for arranging the concerts.
- d. Long term, the music ministry would like to upgrade to a Steinway piano.
- e. Council approves all purchases over \$1K.

2. Holli requested that the council pray to see if now is the time to begin the process of hiring an Associate Pastor. A visioning committee will be established to address this topic.

## **Old Business:**

1. The Facilities team has not received any responses to the RFPs out to see what the cost would be to remove the islands in the parking lot. Doug will reach out to the companies and the council will discuss in August.

## **Liaison Reports:**

### **1. Evangelisim:**

Meetings were held May 29, June 8, June 9, and June 22. The plans are moving forward for two immediate projects:

a) Launch the NEW MOVER postcard outreach and follow-up program to reach out to new residents through a monthly postcard program by Outreach Marketing. The group decided on the two postcards that would be ordered: (1) "Starting a new chapter?" and (2) "New Home, New Day, New Church." The NEW MOVER Program will begin in August. Each month, the company will send out the first postcard from their printer in Colorado Springs, Colorado, to the main post office in Las Vegas. The new residents for that month will receive the first postcard sometime during the second week of the month. The second postcard will then be sent to the main post office the third week of the month for distribution to new resident homes the fourth week of the month. Most congregations who do a follow-up "at the door call" to the new residents do so after they know the first postcard has been distributed and received by the new residents. New Song Church will receive a postcard each time it is distributed, so that we know when the local new residents have received it. The New Mover follow-up sub-team decided to work on developing the door hangers to be ready to be delivered by early August. Included in the bag will be some helpful information regarding the Henderson community as well as connecting opportunities at New Song Church. We are exploring options for swag which will be presented at the next meeting. In addition, we are looking to train teams of door hangers to go out to the new movers in August.

b) YOUNG FAMILY postcard to be sent out in August prior to the start of the new school year. Steve Goebel of ToeShark Visual Communication will help with the design and printing. This will be sent out to a yet to be determined number of local families with children in the home under 18 years old under New Song's bulk mail permit. This card will highlight New Song's Christian Academy, children's and youth ministries and New Song's worship schedule.

### **2. Facilities:**

Doug reported that the church continues to have issues with the air-conditioning. Currently six of the 12 old units are in need of upgrade. Of the six, 1 is a 3-ton unit and the rest are 5-ton units. Cost could range from \$3K to \$5K per unit. Doug will verify the cost and send the council an email and a recommended action plan.

There will be a meeting in July to develop a Campus Care team.

### **3. Music/AV:**

A new stage was purchased for the contemporary musicians. The cost was \$2.5K and was approved in the past.

#### 4. Small Group:

Larry and Pastor Paul met regarding small groups, and they recommend developing a small group Sunday in the late summer to build and connect people to groups. We need some collaborative thinking on how best to program that.

#### 5. Serving God and God's People:

We are halfway through our 3 month commitment with Three Square's Golden Groceries program. We are currently collecting feedback from volunteers in order to decide if we would like to continue.

We are also discussing holding a Health and Wellness Fair sometime in the future in lieu of or in conjunction with the 5K.

The next meeting will be 7/14.

#### 6. Children's:

We are in our fourth and final week of camps for the year. As you may remember, we did not have any summer programs last year due to Covid.

This year, with the help of several adult, middle school and high school volunteers, we provided four weeks of programs. Gershon was especially pleased with Mission outreach collection during VBS which collected school supplies, non-perishable food items for LSSN and \$437.97 for Lantern Hill.

The attendance for the camps was as follows:

Camp M.A.D.E. - 24 Campers

Vacation Bible School - 99 Campers

Camp Hope 1 - 27 Campers

Camp Hope 2 - 28 Campers

#### 7. Academy:

Hope presented at the beginning of the meeting.

#### 8. Youth:

The youth that filled leadership positions for Camp Hope received community credit.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm, followed by reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, August 24, at 6pm. There is no meeting in July.

Respectfully submitted, Melissa Williams – Recording Secretary