

Grace Council Zoom Meeting

May 11, 2020

Present: Pastor Matt, David Hockerman, Alison Oelschlager, Amy Henderson-Hill, Mike Driver, Deena Hart, Cindy Bockelman, Tim Brubaker, Tom Straub

The meeting was called to order by David at 7:04 P.M.

Pastor Matt read from the 13th chapter of Exodus.

PRESCHOOL:

- The cost of health insurance for Kirsten under her husband's insurance is \$5,040 a year. This is very comparable to what it costs under the church's insurance. Information about specific insurance coverage/benefits from both will be given to Kirsten to compare. If she agrees, the church will begin coverage for Kirsten on July 1, 2020.
- Preschool plans for the fall are on hold as the COVID situation changes frequently.
- An assistant has not been hired yet.
- Amy mentioned to consider her availability when deciding what to do about hiring an assistant for the preschool. Amy is willing to help as her schedule allows. It was also mentioned that other volunteers from the church might be able to help fill the assistant position as well given all the unknowns of what the fall might bring.

STEWARDSHIP FOR ALL SEASONS

- The synod is offering this process(not a program) to select congregations. This was also discussed at the April council meeting.

- It is a 2 year commitment. The cost for Grace is \$2,000 per year, for a total of \$4,000. The synod is paying for the other half.
- Stewardship for All Seasons was recommended to the council by the Connect Team which was given a brief training/overview of it at a meeting earlier this year.
- We are asked to give 10% of our increase in giving back to the synod.
- Paul Marken has volunteered to be a part of this process. He and Pastor Matt will attend a Zoom meeting on May 20 to learn more about it. There is no commitment required to attend this meeting.
- David made a motion that Grace should participate in Stewardship for all Seasons, based on the final approval of Paul and Pastor Matt after attending the meeting on the 20th.
- Tim seconded the motion.
- The motion passed unanimously

DISCUSSION ABOUT WHEN TO BEGIN IN PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES

- Based on current recommendations and conditions, Pastor Matt suggested beginning in person worship services on Sunday, June 14.
- After some discussion, David made a motion to begin in person worship services on June 14.
- The motion was seconded by Mike.
- The motion passed unanimously.
- Based on discussions in previous emails, Tim made a motion to have 2 services each Sunday (one at Grace at 10:00 and one at Hope at 8:15), despite the original plan for the summer months.
- The motion was seconded by Alison.
- The motion was passed unanimously.
- There was some discussion about how services will look different once we start in person worship services again. Many changes

were mentioned including the following: no communion, no singing, masks will likely be required, blocking off pews, no offering plate passed around, no passing of the peace, etc.

- The cleaning of the church before and after services was discussed. There is a possibility of hiring someone to come and do proper disinfecting/cleaning each week.
- Pastor Matt, the property committee, and others will come up with a plan for the specifics of our Sunday worship services. The highlights of this plan will be communicated with members before the first service on June 14 so they know what to expect and can make an informed decision on whether they will attend the in person services or not.
- There was discussion about finding a way to video record the services for those that choose to stay home. Possibilities will be looked into so that this can hopefully happen when in person services start back in June.

FINANCIAL UPDATES

- Current financial reports will be scanned and emailed to the council members for review.
- Grace received \$21, 860 from the CARES ACT passed by congress to help cover the cost of payroll and utilities during this time.
- Grace also received \$11,250 from the Lutheran Foundation to help cover costs during this time. There was no specific direction given on how this money is to be used.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer and adjourned at 8:48 P.M..

Respectfully submitted by Alison Oelschlager