

New Song Council Meeting

October 27, 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. Shani Fjelsted was present to review the draft of the 2021 budget.

Pastor Paul opened with a devotional reading and a prayer.

Pastor Paul's Report:

Deaths: None

Memorial service: None

New members: Eileen Ruban joined the church on 10/26/2020 during the Reformation celebration service

Birth: None

Baptism: None

Worship (Connecting to Christ)

We have transitioned to three services per weekend; the attendance at the 5:00pm and 8:30am service are stable. The 10:00am service has been significantly lower, although its attendance has increased from when we initially re-opened.

Pastor David and I met with Holly Swanson and Liz Baldizan to encourage and equip them to begin preaching approximately three times a year to broaden the voices from the pulpit. In addition, Holly has organized the prayer leaders to serve monthly leading prayers during the weekend services.

Our Reformation Celebration was well-attended and appreciated by the old-schoolers.

Grow (Connecting to One Another)

I have begun our confirmation class with middle school students. There are five students participating, and we meet every other week. I am planning as well for a couple students who have moved onto high school without getting confirmed.

Bishop Hutterer hosted the annual Bishop's gathering via Zoom this year and invited diakonia graduates to participate, which allowed our graduates (Holly, Nan, Janet) to attend.

The Lutheran clergy of the Colorado Conference (greater LV) continue to meet via Zoom. I hosted a lunch at New Song for them on Wednesday, October 28th, as I sensed some struggle and need for community among the group

Bishop Hutterer invited me to a leadership training hosted by the Rocky Mountain Synod which requires some reading and monthly Zoom meetings.

I am currently developing with my Tuesday morning Bible study a Hiking through the Bible series that would tell the story of the Bible by exploring the trails of greater Las Vegas.

Serve (Connecting to Community)

I visited the animal shelter in Henderson this month to bless the animals, and it was almost empty! Last year, it was filled with cats and dogs and others seeking homes.

Financial Report:

Neal presented the end-of month financial report for September 2020. With a mixture of on-line and in-person services, our average attendance was still down when compared to last year due to continued concerns regarding the Covid-19 virus. Our monthly revenue from offerings was down 2% from last year, while our year-to-date revenue is down 5% 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. Neal and Shani presented the draft of the New Song 2021 budget for review. The various ministry teams have submitted their budget estimates for 2021 and those numbers as well as monthly expenses and proposed salaries were discussed. The line-by-line review resulted in some changes. The council will review the updated budget at the November meeting when we will have the results of our 2021 Stewardship campaign. Pastor Paul will provide the compensation calculation from the Grand Canyon Synod. Shani reported that we paid approximately \$13K toward the mortgage principle from the remainder of the Playground Pay-off funds. Another \$1,700 was paid from donations collected at the Reformation Celebration service.
2. We currently have fourteen Small Groups with 132 participants. This is about 25% of the congregation. Nine of the groups have begun to have meetings. A leaders meeting will be held on November 2nd. Pastor Paul encouraged all council members to participate in a group. He would like to incorporate group metrics into the financial dashboard.
3. Neal, Doug, Shani and Holli met with various solar power vendors to see if this would be a good investment for New Song church. It was decided that at this time the expense and the return on investment were not favorable. It was recommended that any discussion on solar power be tabled for at least 2 years.
4. The tentative information on the Christmas concert is that there would be a sing-along on December 5th and the concert will be on December 13th. Doug will reach out to the Music Ministry for any updated information.

5. Melissa reported that the Stewardship team has had numerous meetings and is making excellent progress. Consecration weekend is November 14 and 15. Flyers have been posted around the church, sent out in the Half Note, and included in our social media outlets and web-site. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Cabaret event will be held outside starting at 1pm on Sunday, November 15th. Reservations can be made by calling the church office or emailing Jackie. Gershon and Shani are working on allowing members of the congregation to fill out their "Estimate of Giving" cards on-line through our web-site. An email will be sent out with the steps to follow. Continue praying about how you are called to give for 2021.

New Business:

1. Holli requested that the council recommend some "wish list" items if we have some money that we can allocate at the end of 2020. Some suggestions were three TVs to replace the projectors in the sanctuary (@ \$4,600 total), replacement of the current sprinkler lines and removal of some of the landscaping in the parking area, a monitor for the sprinkler system, and bonuses for the staff. The liaisons will reach out to their areas to see if there are other items. This does not mean we will be spending any money, just that we would like to see what is needed above budgeted items.
2. The council discussed a request to use the community room on Saturday for an outside business. The council denied the request.
3. Pastor Paul proposed that we have 3 Christmas services on December 23rd and three on December 24th. The council agreed with this proposal. All the services will be the same. There may be a sign-up that is needed to allow for members to come and still have room for visitors.

Liaison Reports:

1. Music/AV:

No report for October.

2. Facilities:

Doug reported that the Request for Proposal (RFP) process for a new landscape team is underway. He expects proposals from 3 vendors.

The freezer has been replaced.

3. Academy:

Larry shared Rachele's report that the school has been doing well on enrollment. The distance learning lab has been fluctuating on enrollment lately, probably due to schools going back part-time and hybrid. Once the schools resume in-person learning the distance learning services will be discontinued. Students are flourishing. Our 3's class is at capacity and our Pre-K program is 1 enrollment away from being at capacity. We have 27 students enrolled in our Kindergarten program. We are starting a gardening enrichment program and using the patio

to place planter boxes for each class. The parents are donating for the purchase and also time to put the boxes together. Even though we are still in the Covid pandemic we visited Gilcrease Orchard for our annual pumpkin patch field trip. The students and parents enjoyed the event. Trick or treat parades were held for all classes the week of October 26th. Pastor Paul and Gershon helped pass out candy. The academy will be holding a fundraiser day at Chick-fil-a on Nov. 4th, they will give 20% of sales back to our school from sales made that day. You need to present a flyer to participate. This establishment is also one of our academy families' business so we are supporting our family and the academy. We are proud to be able to do this. October has been a fun month and we are looking forward to the Thanksgiving holiday.

4. Nominating Committee:

Stephanie reported that the nominating committee (Sheila Siino, Sue Clark, Michelle Gab, and Holly Swanson) has begun the process of recruiting members for church council. Three positions will need to be filled. The slate should be complete in December and the vote will be held at the annual meeting scheduled for January 24th, 2021. Holli Spangler and Melissa Williams have volunteered to continue to serve on the council.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm, followed by reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, November 24th, at 6pm. Our December meeting will on Friday, December 18th at 6pm and will be a review of the budget and a celebration of the year.

Respectfully submitted, Melissa Williams – Recording Secretary