**New Song Council Meeting**

**August 25, 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.

Lauren Thomas opened with a devotional reading and a prayer. Stephanie Wasano will lead the September devotional.

**Pastor Paul’s Report:**

Deaths: None

Memorial service: August 15, 2020 for Hertha Merrifield, mother of Melissa Williams

New members: Robin Palmer on July 12, 2020

Birth: None

Baptism: None

Wedding: 50th anniversary blessing for Danny and Donna Passerelli on June 27, 2020

In-Person worship was suspended at New Song in mid-July based on the increase of Covid-19 cases. Currently all indications are that our cases are lowering. Considering several factors (on-line worship community, numbers of in-person attendance, AV/Tech and music leadership) conversations were held with the Stay Connected team, the music ministry, the AV/Tech team, the Hospitality team and other members of the congregation. These conversations have led to the recommendation that we return to in-person worship beginning the weekend of September 12/13. The Saturday Service will be at 5pm and Sunday will consist of two services; traditional at 8:30am and contemporary at 10:00am. Both services will be live streamed, replacing our current 9:15am live stream.

In honor of Reformation Day in October, Josh and I are preparing a Green Book traditional Lutheran liturgy during an evening the last week of October. Stay tuned!

In coordination with the Simple Church book, I will preach a 3 week September sermon series, “Simplicity”. Pastor David Miller will preach and preside at our on-line service on September 5/6.

Congratulations to all New Song Church members who contributed to help LSS in the Peanut Butter Wars. We contributed 28,978 pounds out of the total contributed of 30,948 pounds!

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. It is estimated that the donation will be $20. More to come.

**Financial Report:**

Neal presented the end-of month financial report for July 2020. With a mixture of in-person then on-line 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 7% from last year, while our year-to-date revenue is down 5% from last year, but up 1% from our 2020 budget. We are blessed with the faithful tithing of our congregation that continues to support our church and its mission.

Neal and Shani met with the financial management team in July to re-look at our 2020 budget and determine if any adjustments are needed based on our projected revenue and spending through the rest of the year. At this point it is projected that we will be able to meet our financial obligations and may even end with a small positive cash flow.

**Old Business:**

1. The establishment of small groups is continuing. We have some small group leaders that have assembled their groups. To educate myself I reached out to Christ Lutheran Church-Greenfield, a Missouri Synod church with two campuses and a vibrant small group ministry. Over the past two years they have shifted towards “Simple Church” and have focused on Worship, small groups and service, which corresponds to our connecting to Christ, one another and the community. Small groups will begin to meet in September and the leaders will be blessed at our services on September 19/20. You only need 2-3 people to get a group going and Gershon will be our librarian collecting resources for the small group leaders to access. We need a person to lead the small group leaders.

2. Pastor Paul updated the council on the revisions to the web-site. The staff will be working with Tithe.ly (the same company that we use for our on-line giving) to maintain the web-site.

3. Due to Covid-19 concerns, VBS was cancelled for 2020.

**New Business:**

1. Due to the resignation of Kathleen Goulding from the council so she can concentrate on helping her husband recover from his medical issues, Pastor Paul nominated Jessika Simo to complete Kathleen’s term. Doug seconded the motion and it was approved by the council. Jessika will join the council for its September meeting.

2. The Stay Connected team proposed a Covid-10 protocol to be implemented if New Song is informed that someone that has attended an event at New Song tests positive for Covid-19. Doug moved and Lauren seconded the recommendation. It was approved by the council.

3. Members of the council have had a preliminary discussion with a company on the feasibility of installing solar panels. Select members of the council will define the requirements and solicit input from different companies. This is just an information gathering exercise at this point.

4. The council discussed re-opening the church to in-service worship services. As reported in Pastor Paul’s report, we would start with three services, Saturday evening at 5pm and Sunday at 8:30am and 10:00am. The Sunday services would be live streamed. There would still be a limit of 50 participants in the sanctuary, with overflow in the community room. Larry motioned to re-open to in-person worship, the motion was seconded by Doug and unanimously approved by the council.

5. Holli initiated a discussion on master planning calendar events.

a. Trunk or Treat. Gershon is working on this activity. The event might conclude at 4:30pm, followed by a 5pm concert and then an outside worship service. This will be on October 31. More information will follow.

b. Fall Festival: will probably be incorporated into Trunk or Treat.

c. Christmas concert: Would like to see if there is a way to continue this tradition, virtually/outside/multiple times. More to come.

d. Cookie sales: how to incorporate it with the concert

6. Shani and Neal will start working on the 2021 budget process. Ministry teams should be receiving requests to estimate their financial needs for 2021 soon.

7. Melissa will work with Art and Larry from the council to start up the stewardship campaign planning. She will set up a meeting with the members of last year’s team to start the process. The tentative date for Consecration weekend is October 31 and November 1. Start praying about you’re giving for 2020.

8. Stephanie agreed to be the council liaison to the Nominating committee. She will reach out to the members to start the nominating process.

9. The 2021 Annual Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, January 24. Based on this date the Town hall meeting would be January 16 and the proposed 2021 budget would be available and meeting announcement would go out on January 7.

10. Pastor Paul requested that we record that we will exercise the budget line item to send money to support a member of the seminary.

**Liaison Reports:**

1. Music/AV:

Doug reported that the music team is still in the planning stage for the proposed New Song Church’s Music Conservatory.

2. Facilities:

Doug reported that we paid $3,000 for labor on warranty work on the air-conditioning in the academy. All parts needed were still covered by the warranty.

3. Academy:

Larry shared Rachele’s report that the school year is in full swing. We have 2 kindergarten classes that are almost to their 15 student limit. A combination of new and old faces are putting us at an enrollment of 60 students. The distance learning program, which is new and was developed to deal with virtual learning for lower elementary students, has a few spaces left. Rachele is thankful for everyone that donated supplies and money for this new program. We have some families that did not enroll for this semester but are hoping to come back in January.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm, followed by reciting the Lord’s Prayer.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, September 22nd, at 6pm

Respectfully submitted, Melissa Williams – Recording Secretary