

New Song Council Meeting

January 12, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm by President Holli Spangler. Due to the current covid-19 situation the meeting was held via ZOOM. Present were Pastor Paul, Art Clayton, Doug Gab, Neal Husak, Holli Spangler, Lauren Thomas, Stephanie Wasano, Larry Edsall, Jessica Simo, and Melissa Williams. There were no members absent.

Holli opened with a devotional reading and a prayer. Larry volunteered for the February devotion.

We welcomed new council member Jessica Simo to her first meeting. She joined the council to fill the position that was opened when Kathleen Goulding resigned due to her husband's health issues.

Pastor Paul's Report:

Due to preparation for the New Song Annual meeting and his surgery and recovery, Pastor Paul did not prepare a formal report. He discussed incorporating the new categories of discipleship in the annual meeting.

Worship (Connecting to Christ)

Pastor Paul is looking at dedicated teams to work on our worship services. Josh will be part of the Traditional worship team and Jeremy the Contemporary team.

Grow (Connecting to One Another)

Areas discussed here were our Small Group effort. There are members waiting to join groups when safety concerns can be met. Gershon is working on redesigning the website with respect to our four categories.

Serve (Connecting to Community)

Our generosity in both service and stewardship will be highlighted.

Invite (Connecting to Community)

Pastor Marta will discuss the Evangelism effort that will be initiated in 2021.

Financial Report:

Neal referenced the end-of month financial report for December 2020 that Shani sent out. 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 up 5% from last year, while our year-to-date revenue is down approximately \$2,000 (0%) from last year, but up 5% for our 2020 budget. Some of this good news is the result of a member of the congregation that paid all of their 2021 pledge in December 2020. We are blessed with the faithful tithing of our congregation that continues to support our church and its mission.

Old Business:

1. Neal and Holli verified that the proposed New Song 2021 budget was complete and ready for the Town Hall meeting to be held on Saturday, January 16, at 3pm via ZOOM. Minor adjustments were made based on December month end updates. The budget was sent out to all New Song members on January 8.
2. Neal informed the council that the ongoing discussions with MFI, our mortgage lender, on renegotiating terms of the APR portion of our mortgage have been completed. Our current 7 year APR (with approximately 3.5 years left) has a rate of 5.25%. Our newly negotiated mortgage is a 5 year term with a rate of 4.375% and a \$4,500 fee (negotiated down from \$10,000). This has lowered our monthly payment by approximately \$1,100. The council is grateful for all the work that Neal has done to complete this refinancing.

New Business:

1. The council discussed the Town Hall meeting that will be held on Saturday, January 16, at 3pm via ZOOM. Shani, Neal and Holli will facilitate the meeting.
2. The council discussed the Annual meeting to be held on Sunday, January 24, after the 10am service. It was decided that the meeting would be held in-person observing social distancing guidelines. The meeting would also be live-streamed for those that could not attend in-person. Only those attending in-person will be allowed to vote.
3. Shani is working with the group that assisted us in securing our original PPP loan at the beginning of the covid shut-down. We may be eligible for an additional PPP loan. The amount will be smaller than our original \$85K, but will be a blessing if we qualify. Neal motioned, Doug seconded and the council approved moving forward with this effort.

Liaison Reports:

1. Music/AV:

No report for January.

2. Facilities:

Doug reported that due to covid-19 cases within the landscaping crew, removal of bushes in the parking lot has been moved to start later in January. The plan is to remove 40% of the plants to save water and to make it easier to enter and exit vehicles.

Due to the age of the water lines for the sprinkler system, we have experienced major leaks in the main lines. This resulted in a water bill of approximately \$2K. The areas that need replacement have been identified and will be addressed. Currently the water that feeds these lines has been shut off. The original plan was to have the landscape company give us an estimate on how to update our watering system. The council discussed removing all the plants in the parking lot and downsizing the curbs to just protect the light poles. This would greatly

improve the traffic flow in the parking lot. Doug will request that our landscaper give us an estimate for removing all the plants and get with concrete companies on removal to the concrete curbs and downsizing their footprint.

3. Academy:

Larry shared Rachele's report:

I am proud to have become a part of this wonderful school and team of teachers. 2020 has come with many hurdles that the school, families, and staff have had to overcome. Our staff (Hope Manley, Birgit Drowanowski, Tami Comandatore, Jackie Sullivan, Wendy Denter, and Monica Aldana) has consistently stepped up and gone the extra mile to make sure the academy has continued to provide excellent education to the students they serve even with all the limitations that Covid-19 has presented.

We currently serve 61 families and our Kinder program has really expanded due to virtual learning among schools. We currently have two Kinder classrooms close to capacity. Enrollment continues to grow despite Covid-19 and the unknowns it brings.

We are working on creating a garden for our academy classes to learn about healthy eating and gardening techniques, and we completed a very successful fundraiser from "All Fired Up", whose proceeds will help to fund our garden venture. We are very lucky to have such a supportive parent base and dedicated staff.

I would like to give a special thank you to Gershon Gordon for adapting to our Zoom based chapel sessions each week. The children love chapel and look forward to it each week. The start of this school year came with many hurdles and unknowns, but thanks to all the staff, teachers, and families, we are making it happen each and every day.

4. Nominating Committee:

Stephanie reported that the nominating committee (Sheila Siino, Sue Clark, Michelle Gab, and Holly Swanson) have secured nominations for the two positions on their committee that need to be filled. Nominees are Kathleen Goulding and John Robinson.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02pm, followed by a closing prayer by Pastor Paul and the reciting of the Lord's Prayer.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 23rd, at 6pm.

Respectfully submitted, Melissa Williams – Recording Secretary