

New Song Council Meeting

February 23, 2021

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

Larry Edsall opened with a devotional. Lauren Thomas will lead the devotional for the March meeting.

Pastor Paul's Report:

Pastoral Acts

Deaths: Sylvia Johnson; memorial service February 9, 2021.

New members: None

Baptism: None

Births: None

Wedding: Edward Bridges and Sook Johnson (Sook Bridges) February 14, 2021

Anniversary: Vern and Anne Danielson celebrated their 50th

With our 2021 vision of Worship, Grow, Serve and Invite, we have initiated some worship planning teams, one for contemporary and one for traditional. The contemporary team met on Sunday, February 21st. We discussed various issues related to renewing worship, including time of service, congregational singing, length of worship service, who is our target for the service, children, and the Easter service. The worship attendance at the February 21 contemporary service was the largest since before the pandemic, as well as the largest of the weekend. This raises new challenges/opportunities with the limitations of our space. We are approaching the need for more seating in the sanctuary. The traditional team will meet in a couple weeks.

We just launched the "Purple Theory" sermon series for the season of Lent. Liz Baldizan will preach March 7 weekend, Pastor David Miller March 14, and Pastor Marta March 21.

During the Easter season, we are exploring a worship theme of "Resurrecting Community." Easter a time of new life, how do we rebuild church community after a pandemic?

Grow (Connecting to One Another)

In the fall, Shani applied for a grant from the Grand Canyon Synod for new ministry ideas, and it was accepted! The grant is for \$2,000 and it is to support our small group ministry. There is an online small group curriculum at Rightnowmedia.com that would provide a full library of studies. Monthly cost is \$140.

I have been teaching middle school confirmation class with six students weekly on Monday afternoons. I plan for the 8th graders to be confirmed on Pentecost, May 23rd.

The adult confirmation class has begun. We have around 8 students, including some new participants in the New Song Church community. Both the middle school and adult classes are planning to serve God's people by volunteering at Friends in the Desert.

Serve (Connecting to Community)

Jackie and Shani organized a meeting of a team focused on coordinating and growing service opportunities internally and externally.

Josh has coordinated with the Symphonietta to perform Saturday evening concerts. Attendance has been 30+ for our 2021 concerts thus far. Proceeds support the musicians and the music ministry.

Invite (Connecting to Community)

I received an email from Pastor Marta who is planning for the Easter mailing. She's planning a mailing that will highlight our Easter service, Academy and summer programs. She and I will speak later this week.

Financial Report:

Neal presented the end-of month financial report for January 2021. 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 21% from last year, as is our year-to-date revenue. Our January revenue was down 20% (\$11K) from our 2021 budget. February of last year was the month before the Covid-19 restrictions began.

Shani was able to secure a second Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan in the amount of \$68,810 for New Song. So far \$22,000 has been used for payroll expenses. The expectation is that this loan will be forgiven and become a grant later this year. This was wonderful news.

New Business:

1. Pastor Paul presided over the elections the 2021 council officers. The following officers were nominated and approved by the council:

President: Holli Spangler

Vice President: Doug Gab

Treasurer: Neal Husak

Secretary: Melissa Williams

2. The next business matter was to determine council liaisons and teams. Some teams will be determined during the coming month. The results were:

Personnel Committee: Doug Gab

Preschool Advisory Team Liaison (SAT): Jessica Simo

Facilities Management Team Liaison: Art Clayton, Lauren Thomas, Doug Gab

Stewardship Team Liaison: Melissa Williams, Larry Edsall, Art Clayton

Financial Management Team: Neal Husak

Nominating Committee: Stephanie Wasano

Children's Ministry: Jessica Simo

Youth Ministry: Stephanie Wasano

Evangelism: Holli Spangler

Optics/Stephens Ministry: Art Clayton

Women's Ministry: Not filled at this time

Men's Ministry: Lauren Thomas

Music Ministry: Doug Gab

Mission endowment Team: Not filled at this time

Worship Team: Pastor Paul

Small Group Leaders Team: Larry Edsall

Serving God and God's People Team: Jessica Simo

3. Pastor Paul voiced a concern that the capacity of our sanctuary will be a challenge for Easter worship. The Worship team discussed the possibility of having outdoor worship for Easter Sunday (either both traditional and contemporary or just contemporary). The council agreed that we should plan to have services outside, with a backup plan if the weather is an issue. A sunrise service will be added on Easter Sunday.

4. Pastor Paul informed the council that Rachele Wright, the Academy Director, has resigned. Hope Manley, one of the Academy's kindergarten teachers, will be the interim director. Hope has expressed an interest in filling the position permanently. The council approved the Personnel committee and Pastor Paul working with Hope to fill the position in accordance with monetary expectation that were moved (Pastor Paul), seconded (Larry Edsall) and approved.

5. Pastor Paul informed the council that Brad Enerson approached him about developing artwork based on Matthew 25 (hungry, thirsty, sick, in prison, etc). The idea would be to have three paintings behind the altar at certain times of the year (perhaps Lent). They would connect with our mission to "Serve." The council agreed that this could move forward as long as there was no expense to the church.

6. Pastor Paul received a proposal by Ginny Hethcote to feature the creativity of our congregation during Easter with displays of artwork in the community room (literature,

quilts, paintings, woodworking). Each week we could have a new display. We could also do a book launch of Patty, Sheila and Liz's book.

7. Liz Baldizan approached Pastor Paul about developing a partnership with Three Square (threesquare.org) which is a vital feeding ministry in Las Vegas. A meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 25, between the church and Three Square. The council felt this would be a good opportunity to continue our emphasis on Serving the Community.

8. The 2021 New Song budget included a 2% salary increase for staff. It was communicated that our independent contractors did not receive this increase. The council agreed that this was an error and the increase will be applied to their salary starting January 2021. A motion was made (Art), seconded (Larry) and approved. Pastor Paul will communicate to Shani.

9. Holli brought up that staff reviews are due. Pastor Paul plans to conduct mid-year reviews before the next council meeting. Yearly reviews are done during the summer.

Old Business:

1. Neal gave an update on the effect of refinancing our mortgage with MFI. Our monthly payment went from \$22,302 (\$10,288 interest and \$12,014 principal) to \$21,068 (\$7,663 interest and \$13,405 principal).

2. Doug discussed our landscaping, including outstanding RFPs. Our new landscaping company was not able to provide any service in January due to covid issues with their workforce. In February they repaired the large water leak in the parking lot area. This has had a positive effect on our water bill. They are also replacing leaking valves as they are identified. They informed us that we will not have to replace our main lines. Cutting back the rosemary bushes in the parking lot islands has begun. The city informed us that we cannot remove the bushes from the islands based on the 2005 landscaping guidelines that we had to follow when the church was built. The Facilities team has RFPs out to see what the cost would be to remove the islands in the parking lot.

Liaison Reports:

1. Music/AV:

Josh has requested that we have an MC when we host Saturday evening concerts to greet those that are attending. He would like a pastor to start the concert with a prayer.

2. Facilities:

The team continues to be pleased with cleaning company's performance.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm, followed by reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 23, at 6pm.

Respectfully submitted, Melissa Williams – Recording Secretary