

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
June 8, 2020 7:00 p.m.

Council Members

Tom Blackburn, president*	Michelle Knight, vice-president*	Patty Rohde, secretary*
Susan Dickinson, treasurer*	Pastor Cover*	
Tracey Alfano-Douty	Marti Bert*	Cody Fickes
John Gabler*	Sue Gasswint *	Rick Keen*
Nevin Shenck	Nancy Whitcomb*	Tom Zimmerman*

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM

Approval of Agenda – John Gabler moves to adopt the agenda with the revision of having discussion over switching to one Congregational meeting per year. 2nd by Marti Bert. Motion carried and the agenda is approved as revised.

Devotions – An opening prayer was led by Pastor Cover

Mission Moment - Susan Dickinson as Director of the Unemployment Compensation Policy presented an overview of the Unemployment Compensation agency and how it works. Unemployment is currently about 13% and higher than it has ever been since WWII but still less than the Great Depression. The challenge is that the unemployment rate went up to these levels almost in a weekend. There is some trouble with fraud, and it is a complicated process to understand who qualifies. The agency is using volunteers that are already familiar with the state system works. There is not much opportunity for outside volunteers to assist them.

Action Items:

- June Congregation meeting – Patty Rohde will distribute the minutes from the meeting opened yesterday and was recessed until a later date. There is discussion about how many people can fit in the Sanctuary in order to hold the meeting as we need to be able to seat a quorum.
- New Council members – Rick Keen, Susan Ryder, Barb, Schell, and Karen Hubbard are all willing to serve with Randy Hamme serving the rest of the open term that is currently being filled by John Gabler.
- Property Board chair – Cody Puhack-Fickes is not present to provide an update.
- Planning for re-opening the church – See attached report from Pastor. She provided a further update on the changes to be made in the music program, social distancing, the need to wear masks and wash hands and the need to be socially distant to enter the office. High touch items will be removed from the pews. The library will be closed. The survey will close just before the next task force committee. A cleaning protocol will be established. There will likely be only one entrance and, everyone who enters the church will sign a logbook that can be used for contact tracing. There is a waiver that groups

that come in closer contact must sign (Giving Pantry is an example). Once these pieces are in place, we will reopen for Services and perhaps that could be sooner than many months.

- Changing to 1 annual Congregational meeting - It may take 1-2 Congregational meetings to make that change. We need to look at the Constitution for how to do that and have some discussion to make a thoughtful decision. There is question as to moving the meeting to another month. Currently we have the January meeting after the year has started and we have no budget for several weeks, which poses a problem. A summer meeting to vote on new Council members gives the new members time to learn Council procedures before the church year becomes active in September, which is a positive. Having 2 meetings keeps the length of the meeting down, which is a positive. There was a suggestion that the meeting could be held one month with the fiscal year starting in the next month.
- Refinancing options for the Capital Campaign loan – Mid Penn Bank is offering loan options that would save money, reduce the interest rate, and would not be costly in terms of converting the loan. Susan Dickinson will send the info to the Council so that we can consider the options and Evote for a plan soon since the bank is waiting for a reply.

Reports

A. President's Report

B. Secretary's Report

- a. Evote: minutes May 11, 2020 Council meeting. Motion by John Gabler and 2nd by Rick Keen. Motion carried.
- b. Notes June 1, 2020 executive committee meeting were circulated

C. Vice-president's Report

D. Treasurer's Report

E. Pastor's Report – Diane Deppen is working from home, which is working well other than the need for her to have technology support to make her job more effective.

F. Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministry Report -There have been Zoom meetings on Tuesdays for young adults and younger youth. The attendance for the young adult group has been falling off. This year's mission trip is canceled but there are opportunities for local service. If anyone knows of someone that needs some help, please reach out to the Youth leaders. There will be a virtual Confirmation Camp that anyone is invited to join. The silent auction is still in process. They are still getting in touch with anyone who bid to confirm their bid. The spaghetti dinner has been postponed and may be held in a different format over the summer.

G. Director of Music Report

H. Committee/Task Force Reports

- a. Kitchen (Audrey Egley/ Marti Bert)
- b. Children, Youth & Family Ministry (Melinda Bechtel/ Sue Gasswint)

- c. Endowment (Linda Lippert/ Tracey Alfano-Douty)
- d. Faith Connection (Julie Flook/ John Gabler)
- e. Fellowship and Arts (Hope Pankake/ Tom Zimmerman)
- f. Finance & Budget (Susan Dickinson)
- g. Personnel (John Gabler/ Nevin Shenck)
- h. Property (??/ Cody Fickes)
- i. Social Ministry (Brigitte Storey/ Michelle Knight)
- j. Stewardship (Brigitte Storey/ Rick Keen)
- k. Worship & Music (Beth Jury/ Nancy Whitcomb)
- l. 1604 Task Force (Terry Snyder)
- m. Advice on financial matters (Tracey Alfano-Douty)

Other Business

Adjournment – Motion by John Gabler, 2nd by Marti Bert to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting is adjourned at 8:52 PM.