

Church Council Notes Union Church, July 19, 2021

Present: Joan English (Recorder), Dave Kobersmith (Staff), Marty Hensley (Finance), Jennifer Melton (Worship), Carla Gilbert (Mission and N&C), Kent Gilbert (Pastor), Kim KoberSmith (Nominating), Amy Schill (CL&G), Jeff Hutton (Properties), Lisa Vaughn (Admin), Linda Parsons (clerk), Shirley Carlberg (Bookkeeper), Marty, Jennifer, Paul Smithson, Chris Green,

A quorum was present. Our devotional was read by Kim from Romans Chapter 12. What speaks to each of us in the following -- *"For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness."*

Question of the Day – how long have you lived in Berea?

Action Item

Approval of June Minutes – done by acclamation. Dave suggested we revisit the conversation about Focus Groups from June meeting.

For Discussion

Finance Report. Shirley. Lambert funds came in and was dispersed per our Policy to the 5 standing funds and to Endowment Sleeve at Thrivent. We are currently \$22,000 to the good. Income great, expenses are under control. Question if the Stewart-Hindman bequest is in the church's account? Not yet.

Review Revised Budget. Congregational meeting July 25, 3 pm via Zoom. The revision includes increased hours for the part positions as recommended last month (Program Support and Pastoral Support). Question regarding credit card fees – what are they? Those are transaction fees for online giving, not what we pay on the church's credit cards.

Congregational meeting overview. Meeting will be Zoom only. Items we'll cover:

- ❖ Revised 2021 Budget
- ❖ Updates on Covid. Delta variant will cause changes, especially to childrens ministry. Faith Development meets tomorrow (July 21). Kent will share what he knows from governor's task force
- ❖ Good news – parking lot and sidewalk projects will be finished (or nearly so)
- ❖ Musical piece we commissioned by Mark Hayes has been completed
- ❖ Constitutional change discussion
- ❖ Endowment report
- ❖ Transformation Fund report and its planned use for Communication Position

Paving Project. Moving along nicely. Sidewalk was installed today., parking lot Thursday & Friday. Dave shared a photo of the progress.

Transition and New Staffing Discussion: Video position: Rina Tanaka was our only applicant and was hired. She has taken on the task of organizing & inventorying equipment. She will move on to helping train others for Sunday mornings.

Nursery positions. We've had a couple of applicants and a volunteer offer to work. Still need a couple of paid people. There were a LOT of kids in church – a dozen, 10 at Childrens Moment.

Program Position. Working on a final Job Description. We know of 2 interested people. Kent will talk with Faith Development and Community Life & Growth and be sure the description suits them. FD needs Nursery workers coordinated; CL&G needs help tracking visitors. Those are at least two functions we're sure of. Ellen Mink wants to be the Admin representative on that hiring committee, along with a CL&G rep and FD rep. Kent is hopeful to get a person onboard quickly.

Constitutional Changes. Clarification that the group comprised of Jean Boyce, Marty Hensley & Lisa Vaughn (to consider virtual membership) recommended a single Focus Group, not several. Discussion of how to form/what to call it; will this warrant the time and energy spent if those changes are not needed in 6 months; how do we assure access to every meeting/event virtually; how do we track online membership; how do we handle secret ballots. The perception may be that it's an easy topic, but once you start talking it gets more & more complex.

Dave stressed that the time to be ready for this opportunity to extend radical hospitality is now – we don't want to be scrambling if we need these plans - even if we don't have plans set in stone by January 1. Both of the consultants we hired recently feel online viewership & membership can be a great growth tool for us.

After discussion it was determined that we will call this process Congregational Conversations. Kent will announce the intent to hold them at the meeting of the 25th, and the conversations can happen after church, at Kent's Zoom Coffee Hours, at times specifically so designated. About 4 between now & mid-October. Lisa, Jean or Marty would like to attend as reps of the original group.

Kent reported that we have faithful & regular virtual participants at Sunday worship, book study, Bible Study, coffee hour in several time zones.

For Coordination

Boards – any coordination needed among Boards as fall and a more active season are coming up? Nurture & Care wants to do something special for our shut-ins, like the May baskets. They're considering a “fall harvest” mailing. Worship Planning Team is thinking about a fall series using the book No Strangers, which focuses on caring for world, self, others. It might be a good Book Study choice, and an opportunity to integrate Stephen Ministry. Kent will share a passage as our devotion at next Church Council meeting. Community Life & Growth is talking about an early-fall picnic. Mission solar project is ongoing.

Board Updates or Highlights

- M&S – looking for projects people would like to donate to. Share ideas. Would like the Justice Candle to associate those projects.
- N&C – the Board, especially Hazel Morris, has been sending cards to people for various (and no) occasions. Please be intentional about telling Carla about needs; especially in-person visits

Pastor's Report Bob Boyce is in St. Joseph East with pneumonia. Patty Boyce had heart valve replacement surgery. Kent will try to see them both tomorrow. There's a Caring Bridge for Patty. Several deaths of family members of friends and family; including Jess Burton's grandfather; Judith Singelton's nephew – which is the fourth death from pancreatitis in the extended church family. Memorials coming up – for Glenna Rice July 31 and for Carol Lamm Oct. 23.

Commissioned piece of music called “Love Demands,” also choir parts, congregational pieces, orchestra, handbell is ready & will be presented on a date depending on FD's plans for young people – kind of a “reason to come back” or Founder's day special Sunday around late September, early October. We'll reveal the website, sing the song, maybe begin a Stewardship season.

Kent's health varies tremendously, he felt great today. He's working with the Integrative Medicine Department at UK. He will be gone for vacation during a span that will include Sundays August 8th and 15th.

Madison County is nearly back in orange regarding Covid-19 cases. Kentucky ministers will meet with Governor again in the next 2 weeks. Not planning to change worship yet but if the numbers look bad, it remains a possibility. 97% of Union self-reported they'd be vaccinated by now. Small groups are abiding by our rules. It still remains safe for fully-vaccinated people to gather with one another.

Announcements

- News items
- Next scheduled consideration of special Funding Requests – August, 2021
- Next Meeting August 16, Devotion: Kent or his designee

Rev. Kent offered prayer to end the meeting. Meeting ended at 8:30

Joan English