Music and Worship Department Meeting Minutes for October 1, 2020.

Present: Michael Match, Donna Hood, Barbara Klingenmaier, Roy Winegar, Elisabeth Major, Nancy Doctor, Pastor Tim VanderHaar, Betsy Peterson, Scott Peterson

Call to order – Donna

Prayer by Pastor Tim – A call to action

Donna asked if there was anything to add to the agenda. Elisabeth asked to add an item under new business.

Approval of minutes from the last meeting was by consensus.

Minister's report –

- There has been a lot of discussion on the criteria and process for reopening for worship. Tim will prepare a detailed plan of action for what that will look like for when we do it. Donna is tracking numbers of COVID cases. There has been word of churches that have reopened and then had to go back online. Our policy needs to be to continue to stay the course. We need to take a careful look at plotting out where people will sit when we come back to church. Right now, it is unknown of how to provide adequate air exchange in the sanctuary. Roy said there is no need to be in a hurry. The conundrum is, what can we do besides the one-sided digital offering? Does anyone have ideas of what else we can be doing? Perhaps do a choir get together once a month?
- Tim would like to see small in-person gatherings, but distancing and precaution goes out the window in every experience he has had so far. How can we be warm and welcoming without breaching precautions?
- Barbara talked about Christian Ed doing things by Zoom that would be beneficial for adults. When planning activities for young people, there is frustration in the low level of participation for the great amount of effort. Those that are technologically disconnected are a concern. The response to letter that was sent out was minimal – maybe 10 people responded. Barbara suggested asking Member Care to call people to invite them to participate. They are sending out cards for all birthdays and anniversaries. The Channel 7 rebroadcast of service worked well. We can remind people they can watch the service that way. Michael suggested he could burn DVDs of the service and people can come pick them up at the church. Muskegon Theater's fireside follies are performing for small groups outside. We could do something like that - singing Christmas Carols as a fundraiser. Barbara wasn't sure there's a need for a fundraiser at this point.
- If we feel a need to push for more to happen, we could ask the congregation to let us know what they want or need and we will try to make it happen. Is there anything we can do differently? Other churches are doing additional prayer meetings or bible studies or multiple services during the week. It is unsure whether our church would generate a lot of enthusiasm for this. Bethany is doing services in church, but people have to make a reservation.

Michael's Report -

- Michael was discouraged by the way things happened at the congregational meeting on the church lawn. Dismissing the group did not go as planned. When time comes to be back in the building, it has to be very firm, no exceptions to following the rules. Will need to be prepared to enforce rules with great rigor, or not do it.
- Plans are being made to connect with choir members again to try to get more people for the virtual performance.
- He is planning for a virtual Candlelight service.
- A list of all those who have passed away is being put together for the annual remembrance.
- There has been a discussion with Holly of a possible virtual Christmas pageant for Sunday, December 20th, but it is not confirmed.

VET report –

- Decorations may be used for the virtual Christmas service, but Nancy's assistant is having knee surgery in two weeks. Someone else may need to be trained to know what to do with decorations. It would be nice to have something for All Saint's Day. There is a large library of photos that can be used for the virtual service. Tim suggested we could do some hoopla about getting the stained glass back from Hackley Chapel.
- Recording for All Saint's Day is happening on October 21st. Candelabras can be configured for the 7 who have passed. Ann is contacting families to include photos of those being mentioned. We could have a virtual photo board, with pictures being sent electronically. People will have two Sundays to prepare with the deadline being on the 26th.
- Fewer people are opening the email that is sent out for the service, and missing pertinent information in the email. Tim will announce in the service that people should open the email. There are links and tutorials, appeals for volunteers, etc. Christian Ed suggested that the information be put before the link in the email so people have to scroll through it.

Old business – none

New business –

- Elisabeth discussed the previously approved plan for new equipment, camera, etc. to improve capacity to produce the virtual service. One item, the computer to control the cameras, will cost a little more than the originally estimated $1000. The quote came in for $1250. She proposed that Music & Worship reallocate some of designated fund to cover that. Hand bell refurbishment has nearly $1000. Endowments committee thinks that could be used elsewhere. Michael said new cases will be needed for hand bells. Roy said the funds for cases could come from endowments. Roy moved to transfer $250 from hand bells. Seconded by Nancy. Passed.
- Synopsis of the new spending plan: Departmental expenses – The largest dollar amount is for building and grounds. Last fiscal year, it was almost 52K. They are down by 5K. Money has been saved from lower utility bills. Missions department – 6% of pledged and non-pledged income. W&M budgeted amount was decreased severely from past years. Elisabeth and Greg bumped it up a bit from what was requested. Christian Ed went from $1350 to $200. Congregational Life went from $300 to $0. Member Care went from $590 to $270.

Adjourned at 7:32