

MINUTES - W&M MEETING

TUESDAY SEPT 15, 2020

1. IN ATTENDANCE: Sheri, Judy, Barbara, Kevin, David, Ken, Sandy, Julie
Excused: Pastor Fred, Jessie, Lynn, Shelly

2. PREP FOR IN PERSON WORSHIP
 - a. Starting Sunday, Sept 20 we will begin to offer in person worship in our sanctuary as an OPTION. These are a given. = All will wear masks, all will be 6' apart. The sanctuary has been "measured" and the maximum number of people in the pews is 24 and this must include the 2 ushers, 2 readers and greeter. The support team cannot be more than 6 (Pastor, Julie, asst. minister, acolyte, AV tech, and 1 other/ musician). That allows us a total of 30 absolute maximum.
 - b. Kathy will keep a list in the office and we will require people to sign up and request that they not sign up more than once per month. We believe this could allow everyone a chance to be here in person if desired.
 - c. We should hand select the ushers at first since they will have a lot of responsibility for the social distancing. We have to have one – way traffic and the ushers will need to escort people out of church one pew at a time. It may also be challenging to seat people properly spaced; the last service at Germania park was not as well spaced as previously.
 - d. There will be no congregational singing, but a cantor or soloist could be used if positioned far enough away. Kevin will attempt to schedule the Choir Scholars on a rotational basis. The team suggested we try to have a cantor at least once a month and/or for special services; anything beyond that is extra awesome.
 - e. Pews have been cleared of all hymnals and other items. The church will be sprayed each week after service.
 - f. Readers can unmask while using the microphone but only ONE person should use the mic at each service. Assisting ministers and any announcements should be done without the mic OR it should be wiped after use.
 - g. DISCUSSION = what else needs to be done before 9/20 to make this as safe as we possibly can? There was a lengthy discussion about "advertising" – some felt the announcements and bulletin notices and weekly newsletter article were not enough; that there were people who still didn't know that they have to sign up to attend church. Robocall, mail chimp, postcards, and congregational letters were discussed. We did agree to include a review of what steps we have taken to be safe in this weeks "newsletter/worship announcement."
 - h. How do we make sure everyone knows that Youtube will continue but that they must call the office to reserve an "in person" seat if desired?

3. REVIEW OF WORSHIP SERVICES
 - a. Feedback/review of all recent services including outdoor service at Germania Park on 9/13. In person attendance was 55 with 33 online. People were not respectful; standing and talking thru the entire prelude. Many people were observed NOT social distancing which made others anxious. It is absolutely necessary that we insist that everyone follow the rules; otherwise no one will feel safe to attend. But how do we balance this with the desire to be a 'welcoming congregation' – seems like a fine line?

- b. We need a volunteer to pick hymns for November. (Sheri will have the October hymns picked by 9/15). Ken will do November and Julie will do December. Sheri to send Ken a copy of October and soon as Pastor and Julie have a chance to review and modify it.
- c. Any feedback from the Weds prayer time? Two people attended and were glad to do so.
- d. Begin initial brainstorming about Advent and Christmas services. Decorating team will meet on 9/27 – any input or suggestions for the team? Will we have a Blue Christmas service this year – attendance has been decreasing each year since we started it.
- e. Pastor suggested we need to be as FLEXIBLE as possible this year – it will NOT be a traditional Christmas due to Covid, so let's be as creative as we can and consider all possible worship options. Do we have one Christmas Eve service, record it on YouTube and suggest that as an alternative? Do we have multiple services throughout Christmas Eve so that all could potentially attend in person? Should we consider an abbreviated service – how on earth can we do the traditional candle lighting socially distant; is there any point to playing all the hymns if we can't sing? Could we go outdoors at the end and sing the last hymn outside? We have "conceptual" agreement from Father Rod to do a combined outdoor service on the lawn at St Johns – the idea would be to do lessons and carols so we can sing all the favorites. Would have to be rain or shine - dress accordingly, bring umbrella, etc.? If we get a tent, is that considered inside or can we still sing? Possibly late in the evening – 10 pm or 11 pm?? The only conclusion that the team came to was that we really can't decide yet. Let's see how in person church goes the next 4 weeks and be prepared to fully discuss this at the October meeting.

4. BUDGET

- a. Finance asking for us to submit budget request for 2021 – done.

5. ROUND TABLE

- a. Council received our requests to re-space the pews but denied it. Their objection was that it does not increase the # we can seat 6' apart; "not worth it at this time." They failed to comment on the disability aspect of the proposal. WM will consider resubmitting after we experience a few of the upcoming 'in person' services.
- b. Upcoming dates to think about: Nov 22 Christ the King; Nov 29 First Advent; Thursday 12/24 Christmas Eve; Friday 12/25 Christmas Day; Sunday 12/27 First Christmas.
- c. Julie is trying to schedule Dryburgh to tune the sanctuary piano soon.
- d. Kevin – is there any better way to track attendance? The ELCA suggestion is to just double the online presence but that is unsatisfying. Could we count the number of downloads of the bulletin? Number of views on Youtube?
- e. We had a discussion about the perceived degradation of the wine again. Sheri verified that each Germania service used a brand new bottle – there was no reusing an open bottle since it had sat for a month. Why didn't we have this problem ever before? Judy looked up some info and found that the wine currently being used "should be stored in a dark cool vibration free" environment. Our previous wine didn't have these requirements so that might be the answer. Looks like we should find a place to store the wine in the Music room downstairs.

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday Oct 20