

## **Worship and Music Committee Minutes June 16, 2020**

**Roll Call:** Lynn, Judy, Sheri, Sandy, Jessie, Pastor Fred, Kevin, Ken, David, Julie

Excused: Barbara, Shelly

**Devotions:** Lynn – “Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled” John 14:1

Meeting hosted by Judy – thank you! Lots of discussion.

1. Worship in Sanctuary: when? Criteria?
  - Number of people, issued by governor, is presently 50 indoors or 25% of capacity
  - Recommendations issued by ELCA, based on science, state no singing, saying anything verbally in unison, even with masks on.
  - Episcopal church guidelines from Louise Olshan for comparison.
    - Suggests putting out survey to see when and if people are willing to come back.
    - Should we do this? After some discussion we concluded that there is no way, right now, to keep everyone safe and therefore no sense doing a survey.
  - General consensus was that we are no better off in church than on Zoom. At least on Zoom we can participate in unison and sing, even if by ourselves.
    - we cannot eliminate the risk totally, but we are not ready, at this time, to sit in church together for one hour.
    - started discussing extra services, social distancing in pews, etc. Decided it was pointless to continue discussing guidelines and protocol when we cannot meet inside.
  - Update on new audio/visual system
    - Internet cable had been run from Kathy's office through the ceiling to sanctuary.
    - Camera is mounted
    - Contractor is waiting on some parts
    - System is coming along nicely.
  
2. Outdoor Options for worship:
  - Present number issued by the state for outdoor groups is 100.
  - Contact has been made with Germania Park in Dover. Still waiting to hear back regarding some issues. (post meeting: Germania said yes and would charge \$250.00 per Sunday. TLC considering once a month. We have the money to do this)
  - Holy Trinity in Rockaway: we could use their parking lot. Issues with cell coverage to transmit Zoom; there is a bowl-shaped area to gather but there is an incline to get to it, not ideal.
  - Backyard Services proposed: meet in various parishioners' backyards each Sunday? We would need to sign up in order to do contact tracing, as well as parking.
    - issues: still need to social distance and wear masks.
    - Can we sing and say unison parts of liturgy?? Still problem with aerosolization.
    - would parishioners want to drive to different towns? Idea would be to go to a backyard service when scheduled near you, not every Sunday. Limit 20 people.
    - still no passing of peace.
    - Kleindienst's have offered their backyard to start. Pastor will pursue with them.
    - Need keyboard, microphone/sound system and internet service to stream Zoom service for those not present.
  - Hedden Park in Mine Hill: Need electricity. My have electricity at larger pavilion on lake.

- No great outdoor option at time of meeting. Sheri and Pastor will check out keyboard in basement of church to see if it works. Continue to pursue all of our options.
3. Communion Distribution: People are missing the sacraments and discussed if there a way to distribute the sacraments?
    - Discussed that other churches have single distribution packs that ministers have been bringing to their members. Pastor explained that communion should be part of a service as well as part of a community. Feels very strongly and this is what he believes. Good education for all of us.
    - \* We need to inform the congregation why we will not be doing "drive-by" communion.\* Sheri will write something up for Chimp Mail explaining:
      - Cannot provide a safe space
      - We know the options available and what other congregations are doing, but it is not right for our congregation.
      - The Worship & Music committee understands and would also like to have communion.
      - W & M committee has discussed it thoroughly with the guidance of Pastor.
      - Communion needs to be meaningful as well.
      - We are choosing to be conservative to keep our congregation safe.
  4. Request from scholarship committee:
    - On June 28 they would like to have each graduate and 2 parents/support people in the sanctuary for church. They would do all the lessons and intercessory prayers.
    - Discussed at length and decided we cannot make an exception for a specific circumstance or group. Our decision was not to have church indoors and that applies to everyone.
    - The committee is requesting this, not the graduates or families.
    - Sent back to scholarship committee to see what they want to do.
  5. Request to borrow handbells:
 

David Bernauer brought request from his mother, Louise Olshan, to borrow bells on December 12.

    - she will be using them in Ocean Grove for a Christmas program for the Historical Society.
    - Judy Miller said Bell choir would not be using them and the request was approved.
  6. Round Table:
 

Ken – Suggest we watch businesses opening up and see what happens. No rush to get people back in church building. Let us take a conservative approach.

Jessie – Agrees with Ken. Wait to go back.

Sandy – Agrees as well

Julie – Organ tuning has been done for the spring. States the fan in organ is not turning off. Peragala is aware of issue.

Sheri – Looking at church decorations for Christmas. Hoping we will be back in church building!

Pastor Fred – Synod will be doing another worship service on July 5. Do we want to "go to" this service instead of ours? Approved and this will also give Pastor Fred a Sunday off.

Hymns: Ken will pick hymns for August

Pastor Fred closed meeting in prayer.