

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES

Wednesday, January 27, 2021 - Virtual meeting via Zoom

Call To Order: Chair Dan Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM.

Attendees (9): Lucy Diesslin, Craig Haberman, Dan Johnson, Margie & Mark Olson, Donna & Norman Rusco, Jay & Jeanne Tomlinson.

Opening: Pastor Craig talked briefly about how his mother would have had her 90th birthday this year but she died 3 years ago which got him thinking about birth & death. Babies cry when they are born and frequently people when dying seem to reach out to something. Perhaps it is because there is a place of comfort that babies are coming from and people who die are going to. He then opened the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes: The December 16, 2020 Annual Church Conference and Ad Council minutes, as previously distributed to Ad Council members, were approved. Motion to approve by Jay Tomlinson; second by Lucy Diesslin. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Mark Olson had previously sent out a copy of an amended copy of the November 2020 and the December 2020 Treasurer's reports. The November 2020 report ending balance information had been corrected in the amended version. The account balances as of the end of December 2020 – which are also our year-end balances – are General Fund \$31,184.24; Memorial Fund \$9,912.57; Building Fund \$4,373.97. Jeanne Tomlinson moved that we accept the Treasurer's reports as submitted, second by Jay Tomlinson. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Trustees:** Margie Olson reported that she and Pam Turnbull and Susan Germek had cleaned out the storage room in the back of the sanctuary. Some items were discarded, others were moved to the library or the garage. They are planning to approach Marshall Monthei to make a table that would be in the storage room to hold the choir "cubbies" so that they wouldn't be cluttering up the front of the sanctuary. Craig is working on cleaning out the church office. There were some UMW financial documents that need to be checked out to determine if they need to be kept. Lucy Diesslin will check them out.
- **Worship:** Pastor Craig reported that the Worship Committee will meet on February 1 to discuss Ash Wednesday (Feb 17) and Holy Week (Mar 28-Apr 4) services.
- **Outreach:** Jay Tomlinson reported that the 2 apartment trees were taken down in early January.
- **Visioning:** Pastor Craig reported that the committee had attempted to meet on Jan 14 but had some technical difficulties with the virtual meeting and so postponed the meeting until February.
- **Parish Care:** Donna Rusco reported that she gave out two prayer shawls and continues to make care calls. Norman Rusco provided transportation to & from the clinic for one of our parishioners. She also commented that Margie Olson has been very active in Parish Care. She did quite a bit for Andy Baker before he moved to Ohio.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Ongoing assessment of live streaming our Sunday service:** Jay commented that he now has Zach Rue and Lily Tedrick trained on the camera to serve in his absence. The general consensus is that we've worked through a number of issues and it is finally going smoothly.

2. **Choir use of building for practice** (topic tabled from Dec 16 meeting): Jeanne moved that the choir be allowed to have practice in the sanctuary whenever they are ready to resume, as long as they wear their special singing masks and practice additional social distancing. Second by Margie Olson. Motion passed.
3. **Use of Hymnals:** Pastor Craig recommended that we allow in-house worshippers to use the hymnals and just rotate the supply so that each hymnal would probably only be used once a month, which from all reports on the coronavirus, would make them quite safe. This will save a lot on paper and ink. He is also recommended we return to our usual bulletin format for the in-house worshippers. The Worship Committee will decide on the details. Margie Olson moved that we accept Pastor Craig's recommendation. Second by Jeanne Tomlinson. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Phased opening of sanctuary for worship** (see Addendum below): Pastor Craig briefly summarized his recommendations about gradually opening our church to more attendees. All present agreed with his recommendations.
2. **Church computer:** Pastor Craig reported that the desktop computer in the church office is no longer working and recommended it be replaced. It was felt that we should have a small ad-hoc committee to check into what would meet our church needs and report back. Pastor Craig will put a notice in the *Parish News* to ask for volunteers. Bev Johnson volunteered (via Dan Johnson) to be a member of the committee.
3. **TBD leadership vacancies from annual conference nominations:** After our annual conference, the following were still unfilled positions: Lay Member to the Annual Conference and Alternate, Finance Committee Chair and a 3rd member for the Annual Audit Committee. We decided the Audit Committee probably doesn't need to have 3 people and won't be meeting for awhile anyway because of COVID-19. Jay Tomlinson offered to serve as the Lay Member to the Annual Conference and will talk to Sheri & Keith Rue about possibly serving as Alternates. Mark Olson agreed to serve as Finance Committee Chair.

Items of Information

1. **Next Ad Council meeting:** Wednesday, February 27, 2021 at 7 PM.
2. **Front steps tape:** Mark Olson reported that he had taped off the west side steps at the front of the church because they keep icing over, even with salt being applied. Since there aren't that many people using them, it's safer to just not use them.

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM with Pastor Craig leading a recitation of the *The Lord's Prayer*.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Tomlinson, Ad Council Secretary

ADDENDUM

Ely United Methodist Church
Administrative Council Meeting
January 27, 2021

Thoughts on Expanding Sunday Morning
Worship Numbers

In light of the following factors we're now at a point of reconsidering the number of worshippers attending Sunday morning worship in person.

- Our camera is up and running and we've ironed out most of the wrinkles of our Facebook Live worship service.
- The number of Covid-19 infections in Ely has been going down recently.
- The number of people in our community and congregation who have been vaccinated is slowly growing.
- We've figured out the safe number of worshipers we can have in our sanctuary and basement, where to seat worshippers, and how to safely conduct a worship service.
- We've prioritized those without Internet access at home as the first to attend worship in person in our building.
- After a ten month absence even people in our congregation who have Internet access desire to attend worship services in our church building.

Here is our new worship attendance policy effective February 1, 2021.

- Presently our upstairs "carrying capacity" is 10 people, plus the six or seven people assisting in leading the worship service.
- Our basement "carrying capacity" is 10 people.
- All church members, regardless of their access to Internet, are welcome to attend worship services in person by expressing their interest to Jeanne Tomlinson.
- We will decide week by week which people will be attending church upstairs or downstairs.
- People who have not yet attended in the sanctuary will be first invited to attend upstairs.
- People without Internet access at home will occasionally be invited to attend worship services in the basement as necessary to accommodate people upstairs that have not yet worshiped in the sanctuary in person.
- People who have been vaccinated (and present a card saying so) and who chose to identify as such will be seated upstairs and not included in the carrying capacity count.
- All people except Pastor Craig and other worship leaders will wear masks for the entire worship service. Worship leaders will take off their masks when they are on the altar platform.