

Expanded Cabinet Meeting – Minutes – April 21, 2020

Present: Tony Bates, Donna Crane, Deb Endl, Claudia Griffiths, Andi Hamalainen, Debbi Hitchings, Skip Hoblin, John Hufnagel, Elizabeth Lally, Terri Mackenzie, Ute Molitor, Meg Thomas, Zella Walker, Susan Yoder

Opened with prayer by Ute

Above & Beyond Appreciations

- Ute, Elizabeth & Becky: Thank you! The Sunday online services are better & better!
- Terri: Thank you for your energy making the Maundy Thursday service possible.
- Greg: Thank you for making sure connections work every Sunday.
- Matt & Nathan: Thank you for the music, recipes, reading your book & Nathan for videotaping.
- Tabitha, John, Peter Palermo, Debbi: Thank you for getting the eGiving process up and running.
- John: Thank you for writing the appeal for donations to keep the church's missions going (snail mailing to congregation this week)
- John, Betty, Tony, Skip: Thank you for your behind-the-scenes work gathering facts needed to make the decision about the bailout loan.

Minutes – discussion & approval

- The question has been asked why the Cabinet minutes aren't sent to everyone in the congregation, but specially the staff.
- Especially important during this Stay-at-Home mandate.
- Currently all Cabinet, Committee and Board minutes are kept in the office and available to anyone who requests them.
- Discussion resulted in the following motion: *After the Cabinet minutes have been approved by the Cabinet (usually at the next meeting) they will be put on a page in the Members Only section of the website.* Debbi (motion), Skip (2nd); motion passes unanimously. (Committee/Board minutes will remain in the office)
 - Debbi will contact Peter Palermo about website set up.
 - When Becky gets the Cabinet-approved Minutes she will send them to the staff and to Peter. Notice will go into the TWAC (etc.) for the congregation.
- In the meantime, Zella & Andi will write a narrative highlighting the extraordinary things that the Cabinet has been doing during the time.
- April 7, 2020 Minutes approved as edited (Debbi/John 2nd/vote unanimous)

Care Team update

- 18 people on the Zoom meeting 4/21.
- Initiative going well. Purpose being met 1. Dispel isolation & fear; 2. Help connect people back to the church; 3. Tangibly help within social distance guidelines (ex. Pick up Rx, groceries, etc.)
 - Comments: New Englanders very stoic but seem appreciative of the contacts being made

- Becky connecting more people to Sunday Zoom worship as well as updating Directory information
- People not yet sharing financial needs
- During the regular Care Team meeting asked, “How else can we help as a group?”
 - Continue calls & cards
 - Great energy in the group
 - Claudia thinks the Moderator’s letter will bring great hope when people find out the percentage of the congregation helping out others
- Zella gave a shout out to Claudia & Susan for their wonderful job!

Sunday Service reflection

- Each week things seem to be smoother, more connected
- Dick Hanks did an excellent job
- Children’s talk on virtual hugs very meaningful
- Anyone making a record of the number of people in worship each week? Teri & the Deacons will do so going forward.
- Fellowship time a bit awkward. Should we continue this whole group format or break out into smaller groups? Ute will bring it up to everyone this Sunday and if people are interested in doing so we’ll figure it out for the following Sunday.
- Do we need to password protect the Zoom Worship? Does it come automatically now with each meeting set up? It was felt no further action would be taken at this time regarding adding a password.

Livestreaming proposal

- Trustees gave unanimous approval for the proposal as discussed at the last Cabinet meeting, including the extra charges for someone to operate the equipment and the yearly fees for storage.
 - Debbi and Rich spoke with Bruce Cole (Camden Conference experience with livestreaming) about the proposal. There is no downside and great growth potential by reaching out. We will want to think about production quality, how we structure worship service but remember that church is different than entertainment value.
 - Motion to accept the recommendation to proceed with Livestreaming proposal from Geoff Parker passed unanimously (Tony motion/Debbi 2nd)
- How to pay for this?
 - Use unrestricted funds, the Lois & George Bedell Estate money (see Bedell explanation later in report.) or leftover money from the Sanctuary renovation funds. Discussion to be continued.
 - A restricted grant of \$500 was received from John & Barbara Davidson to help promote “weekly support of worship.” What if we created an opportunity for other individuals to do the same?
- Ute noted that discussion about other services, changes to our services should take place with Deacons and others. This should be part of our Visioning conversations also.

Treasurer’s Report

- No new expense reports available until the end of the month

- Vanguard investment account increased ~ \$200,000, rebounding from initial fear. Skip feels it is wise that we double our cash position to \$300,000. It is currently \$150,000. This way we will be able to meet our expenses over the next 12-18 months without further reduction in our investment portfolio. He is waiting to hear back from the Finance committee regarding his proposal.
- eGiving: there have been some contributions from members & nonmembers since going live.
- \$7000 in pledges has been received in checks.

eBay account update

- Andi will ask Ed Weber to make a proposal at his earliest convenience as there is still a lot of confusion regarding what we are to be taking an action on.
- Tabitha should be included in the discussion as it will be a responsibility and she will have a better idea if it is the best way to go forward.

George & Louise Bedell's Bequest

- Marty Martens requested discussion regarding use of this money
- It is NOT a restricted gift
- George has given \$10,000 now and there will be another \$10,000 when his estate is settled.
- Debbi and John will speak with George (son, who is very happy to have the money going to the church) about this current opportunity to have the money used to make livestreaming of worship, concerts and other events at the church possible. Cabinet agreed on the approach.

Next meeting = Regular Cabinet meeting

- Brief reports from committees & boards sent to Becky by Friday, 4/24.
- For those for whom this applies: Beacon deadline Monday, 4/27

Motion to adjourn (Tony, Skip 2nd), unanimous decision.

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 28, 4:30 pm via Zoom invite.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Crane