

Rush United Methodist Church  
Leadership Committee Meeting  
July 18, 2020

Present: Cindy Wallace, Tanya Hunt, Lynn Kessler, Lynda Wanzenried, Chris Chamot, Erin Bills, Jim Comstock, Pastor Todd  
Guests: John Kessler, Rob Gruschow, Pat Weaver, Charlotte and George Sanford, John Campanaro, Harold and Juliet Johnson, David Bills

The meeting was opened by Tonya and prayers were said for family and friends.

Learning:

Definitions of the word "Prejudice" and the kinds of prejudice

- Prejudice - prejudiced people, color, walk, teeth, clothes, words. hygiene
- Racial prejudice - prejudging people by their color
- Power - access to political, social, etc.
- Racism - a combination of racial prejudice and power
- Anti-racism - intentional interruption and dismantling of racism

Worship Reopening Plans:

- We are making progress with putting things in place for social distancing and our cleaning company will be cleaning between services. Someone has donated the cost of the cleaning service.
- At 50% of church's capacity, we can have 130 people at each service, but at 6" social distancing, there is room for only 15 people. Kellianne Williams has offered dividers so that people can sit closer.
- UV lights will be installed at the heating and cooling vents.
- John Kessler asked how many things need to be done to keep the congregation safe and no-one knew the answer so he offered to be "keeper of the list" of things to be done.
- Pastor Todd shared the results of a small sampling survey about the demands for congregants being at a live service. It was decided that he should go ahead with a broader email sampling.
- In a conversation with Pastor Todd, Britta Stambaugh suggested having outdoor worship services. Per Chris Chamot, people are already meeting in the pavilion for informal prayer meetings. Chris made a motion that after the compliance list is completed we can start services outside. Tanya 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion passed unanimously. There will be two services: 8:30 taped service and a 10:45 outdoor service. Chris will inform Britta about services in the pavilion so she can't use it for the Super Sale.
- Pastor Todd asked to meet daily with John and Chris to get the list finished as Pastor Todd has to certify that we are in compliance.
- The choir will also not be singing in the fall.
- Scheduled versus non-scheduled entrance into the church was discussed.

Finance Committee:

- The amount of pledged money has fallen back while non-pledged money is as expected.
- The likelihood of paying our apportionments is very uncertain.
- John Kessler wants plans in place by September and needs a proposed budget before he starts the pledging drive this fall.
- Pastor Todd wants the budget to reflect our core values as a church.
- Richard Nereau is asking for monetary support for the juveniles at Industry. With the COVID-19 virus, the school would like to provide extra equipment to give them something constructive to work on. Donations have to go through Pastor Todd and your checks should be written to RUMC and will

be passed on to Industry.

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#### Buildings and Grounds Committee:

- The check from our insurance company was not cashed. The amount was substantially less than the estimate for repairs given to us by Carter's Exteriors. We have a contract with Carter's Exteriors to act as our agent but the contract is not on file in the office. John Kessler asked Pastor Todd to be in charge of making sure that all contract are on file in the main office. Thirty days after the insurance company receives a "demand letter" from the church they have to reply.
- There are questions about why the gas and electric bills have not gone down. We paid \$4K for changes so that we would pay less and haven't seen any return on the money we spent. We did find out that the electric provider has changed. Also we contract with a company to find us the best prices for gas and electric for the church. There is still no resolution to the question.
- The parking lot lights are delayed because of the COVID-19 epidemic but the contractor hopes to have the job done in the next few weeks.
- John Kessler and Geoff have worked on projects at the parsonage and Leon Perkins and friends are completing the projects.

#### Super Sale:

- There will be no indoor sales because the category falls under different NYS rules.

#### Turkey Dinner:

- Lynn Kessler is concerned about the number of volunteers and estimates she needs between 50-60 of them to cook and serve take out meals. There will be no seating indoors. Lynn will send out a note to the congregation. Lynn will know if there will be a turkey dinner by the next meeting.

#### Worship Committee:

- Todd is working on the worship services for fall and will meet with the Worship Committee in August.
- Confirmation class will begin in September and end in May on Pentecost Sunday.
- Pastor Todd is working with the Cub and Boy Scouts.
- Alethea and Peter are setting up church school.
- Leon Perkins has set up a collection site in the small conference room for Red Bird Outreach. This is part of the Kentucky Shoebox outreach program servicing the poor in that state.
- The Upper New York Conference will be held online this year.

Notes submitted by  
Cindy Wallace

Next meeting to be held via Zoom on

Saturday, August 15, 2020