

**SPECIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH & WESLEY FOUNDATION**  
**June 10, 2020**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Voting Members:** Jack Basiago, Sam Bonsall, Rebecca Connelly, Dave Flick, Alicia Grandey, Kelly Grimes, Jane Harris, Scarlett Miller, Phil Mohr, Al Stewart, Darrin Thornton

**Non-voting Members:** Becky McGee, Greg Milinovich, Sarah Voigt

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m.

**REOPENING CHURCH FACILITIES:**

The purpose the special meeting was to continue our work on developing a plan for reopening St. Paul's facilities under the Green Phase of the state's COVID-19 Response Plan.

G. Milinovich opened the meeting with the following comments:

- Given the unprecedented nature of our current situation, it is okay for us to admit that we don't know exactly what to do.
- He was on a call with several other downtown pastors yesterday; their reopening plans vary widely. One church is planning to hold in-person worship services this Sunday, while another is waiting until after Labor Day at the earliest. Many others are somewhere in between.
- Our decisions must be based on what is right for our church family using the information we have. Whatever we decide, God will be with us.

The three subcommittees formed at the May 28<sup>th</sup> meeting shared the main takeaways from their discussions:

**Building/Sanitation Subcommittee**

- It's important to understand what the differences between cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing. Cleaning is done with soap and water and involves physically removing germs from surfaces. Disinfecting is done with a product that kills most germs on surfaces (e.g., 99%). Sanitizing is done with a product that kills some but not all germs on surfaces.
- We will need to use a two-step process of cleaning and disinfecting in all buildings. The biggest concern right now is the Preschool, which will need to be cleaned and disinfected nightly once it reopens next week. This will be a priority for our custodial staff, which is currently short-handed due to the recent resignation of one of our part-time custodians.

- The possibility of forming a team of volunteers to clean other areas of the church as needed was discussed (for example, after worship once we resume in-person services).

#### **Preschool/Sunday School/Small Groups Subcommittee**

- Andrea Lies believes she and her staff have a pretty good handle on what they need to do during the day to meet the guidelines, with custodial staff cleaning and disinfecting the facility each night.
- Small groups meeting in the building should be required to wear masks and to clean and disinfect the room when done. Cleaning supplies and instructional signage will need to be posted in meeting rooms. Group leaders will be responsible for ensuring that proper protocols are followed.
- Children's Sunday School has a lot of moving parts, with many children coming and going, ranging in age from infants to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Older children will probably be able to follow the rules independently, but younger children will require assistance. Protocols being used at the Preschool may be a good model, once we see how that works out.
- If we decide to allow outside groups to use our facilities, the group leaders should be required to sign an agreement stating that they will meet our requirements for mask wearing, attendance taking, etc.

#### **Worship Subcommittee**

- A big consideration is whether or not people really want to come back to in-person worship right now, given what it will look like with social distancing in place – wearing masks, no singing, no communion, no passing the peace, etc.
- We need to survey our members to get the answer. The subcommittee proposes that we contact most of our worshipping families by phone, explain what in-person worship will look like when we return, and ask them a series of questions to find out how motivated they are to do that.
- Discussion of specific details for in-person worship was tabled pending completion of the phone survey.

#### **CONCLUSIONS:**

Council members agreed by consensus that in-person worship and children's Sunday School will not resume until Labor Day, at the earliest. Use of the facilities by small groups will be phased in before in-person worship begins.

Ken Musser may need to adjust his hours in order to provide the two-step cleaning process that needs to take place each evening at the Preschool. In the meantime, we will continue to look to fill the vacant part-time custodial position.

We will probably have to continue our video presence long-term. One option is to schedule Zoom breakout sessions following worship to discuss the sermon as a way to build community and form new relationships.

**NEXT STEPS:**

1. A. Grandey and G. Milinovich will put together a list of questions/script for the phone poll. A. Grandey will share these questions with Council, at which point Council will have a brief window of time to offer suggestions/changes/additions etc.
2. J. Basiago will organize a call team that will conduct a phone survey of a significant number of people who were worshipping with us prior to the pandemic. A. Grandey and/or J. Basiago will provide guidance to call team members on phone survey best practices.
3. G. Milinovich will work with others to develop a list of families/individuals to be contacted by the call team.
4. D. Thornton, K. Grimes, and R. Connelly will work as a team to compile some of the policies/procedures that have been proposed in a way that fits the various spaces, purposes, and types of meetings that may be held in our facilities in the future.
5. G. Milinovich will communicate with the congregation about the phased reopening of the building, our guiding values (keep people healthy; create vital community; and care for the vulnerable), and the "no-sooner-than" date of Labor Day.
6. D. Flick, A. Grandey, B. McGee, and G. Milinovich will stay in communication to determine when the next meeting of the council should be.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Harris, Church Council Secretary