

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH & WESLEY FOUNDATION
October 27, 2020

ATTENDANCE:

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

Non-voting Members: Greg Milinovich, Sarah Voigt

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The minutes of the August 6, 2020, meeting were approved.

USE OF CHURCH FACILITIES DURING PANDEMIC:

Council discussed a request by the boy scout troop to begin meeting at the church again, specifically in the social room and gym. During the discussion, the following issues were raised:

1. Things seem to be going well with Abba Java, the Shoe Bank, and the Preschool with respect to following our established safety protocols. However, there is concern about outside groups adhering to the guidelines.
2. Someone on church staff will need to be involved in providing the scout leaders with the guidelines we expect them to follow.
3. Outside of Abba Java, the Shoe Bank, and the Preschool, the Wednesday Women's Bible Study is the only other group that has been meeting at the church. They do the clean-up specified by our policies. A more routine type of cleaning is done later by our custodial staff.
4. We need to determine the number of people that are permitted to meet in the social room, gym, and other meeting spaces under the current occupancy percentage guidelines (G. Milinovich stated that this would be assigned to the Trustees).
5. Should we consider purchasing a portable HEPA filter that can be moved from room to room?
6. We need to make it clear in our policies that Council may have to restrict use in the future based on orders/recommendations of our bishop, the governor, or the mayor.

Following the discussion, D. Flick asked there was a consensus for allowing the scouts to meet in the church building. Council members agreed to grant the request. D. Flick stated that he and G. Milinovich would meet with Joe Davidson (scout leader and a member of St. Paul's) to go over our policies.

REQUEST TO FORM A RACIAL JUSTICE GROUP:

S. Bonsall explained that the idea to form a racial justice group at St. Paul's arose out of a summer book study of "I'm Still Here" by Austin Channing Brown. A number of people met several times after the study and thought it would be appropriate to bring the idea to Council so that it would have Council's support to move forward. The group would coordinate various activities related specifically to racial justice – education, outreach, joint activities with other faith-based groups, etc.

P. Mohr noted that this might overlap with the Mission & Justice Committee and asked if anyone had discussed it with them.

S. Bonsall stated that they had not, but agreed that would be a good idea, as well as discussing it with Open Table.

G. Milinovich stated there may be some overlap, however, the idea as he understands it is to focus specifically on racial justice and to be a resource for the congregation – for example, to provide educational resources for small groups and children's and youth ministries.

P. Mohr asked if organizationally it would make more sense for this group to be a subcommittee of Mission & Justice.

G. Milinovich explained that in practice, Mission & Justice focuses more on the mission aspect (approving different monies to go to different mission groups) rather than the justice aspect, so from a functional standpoint, it may be better for it to be a stand-alone group.

A. Stewart asked who the group would report to. G. Milinovich stated that the group will have a staff liaison, as all our programs do. The only reporting line to Council for any of our groups is through their respective budgets. This group is not currently seeking funding.

D. Flick asked there was a consensus for supporting the formation of a racial justice group. Council members agreed that there was.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

D. Flick stated that the 2021 budget will be presented for approval at the next Council meeting, scheduled for December 8. S. Bonsall will provide the preliminary budget to Council members for review by December 1 at the latest.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Harris, Church Council Secretary