

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

Vision Council Minutes

Thursday, March 26, 2020

Present (via Zoom) Sara Hendrickson, Pastor Dave Mesner, Pastor Tim Berdahl, Kim Kroll, Barb Olson, Bill Pagal, Tim Kreft, Dave Chura, Dave Larsen, Cyndi Venberg, Jodi Stakken.

Excused: Chris McIntosh

Meeting was called to order at 6:35

Opening Devotion: provided by Dave Larsen - Changing Plans

Evaluation and Updating current LCGS Policies in response to COVID-19

Email and Letter to Congregation – based on our March 16 Vision Council action:

“Guided by our Mission and Vision Statement, and in response to the March 15 announcement by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that ‘in person events that consist of 50 people or more’ be canceled or postponed, your Vision Council passed the following resolutions on March 16, 2020. All resolutions will remain in effect until released by the Vision Council.

a. In-person worship

There will be no in-person worship until further notice. Worship will be offered online.

b. Food service in all forms

No food service will be allowed until further notice.

c. Sunday School and Confirmation

No Sunday School or Confirmation gatherings will be held. Alternative online experiences will be offered instead.

d. Other Church activities

No in-person gatherings or meetings (except AA and Al-anon) will be held at church until further notice.

e. Funerals

Funerals as in-person worship services will still be welcomed as long as they adhere to the CDC and Minnesota “Stay at Home” guidelines (no gathering of more than 10, six-foot social distancing rule, etc), meaning that it would need to be a private, family-only service. Families are encouraged to have the funeral as a graveside service now, and then to make plans for a Celebration of Life service to honor their loved one at a later time.

f. Weddings

Until further notice, we will not be able to do weddings in our church building. There could be a possibility that a small, outdoor, private wedding could be presided over by one of our pastors, but only if the wedding could adhere to CDC and Minnesota “Stay at Home” guidelines in effect at the time of the wedding.

g. Budget and financial resources

The stewardship team will focus on the new realities related to COVID-19, including how to receive offerings when there is no in-person worship, and the longer-term effects of unfolding economic realities. In the absence of in-person worship services, LCGS members are encouraged to continue to support this ministry through mailing offerings and special gifts, Simply Giving commitments, and electronic transfers.

h. Based on the Minnesota “Stay at Home” order, our church building will be closed and kept locked, and our staff – with the exception of Facilities Manager – will be working from home.

Discussion was held regarding AA/Al-Anon groups in the church. Pastor Dave explained that they fall under charitable and social service organizations with the MN “Stay at Home” policy.

Dave Chura motioned that the above a-h updated LCGS policies be approved. Seconded by Bill Pagal. Motion passed.

Communication to congregation and public of all the above will be sent out in paper form, and electronically on website and in newsletter.

Other business - Pastor Dave led a discussion regarding the Stewardship’s Team decision to start the Spring matching campaign fund right away. There is a current Thrivent invitation to match 50% of every dollar donation. Pastor Dave read the letter that will be going out to the congregation. Cyndi offered to help with the mailing. Pastor Dave will have Christine call her.

Discussion was held regarding the possibility of having financials available to the Vision Council prior to meetings so that they can be reviewed ahead of time.

Future Vision Council meetings

April 16, 6:30 pm via Zoom Devotions: Jodi Stakken

April 30, 6:30pm via Zoom Devotions: Barb Olson

Meeting was closed with The Lord’s Prayer.

Meeting Adjourned 7:57 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Kimberly Kroll, Secretary LCGS Vision Council