

## September 17, 2020 RLCC Full Council Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Jim Brown, Moderator at 17:15 pm. Those present were Jim, Pastor Pam, Audrey C , Karen K, Skip B, Russ L, Renee G, Donna R, Debbie T, Lori, and Steve H. Pastor Pam led us in prayer. She is working remotely from Colorado. Jim declared a quorum. Minutes of the July meeting were approved as written.

Financial Secretary. Debbie T. reports that she will be sending our quarterly pledge statements soon. Pledges have fallen off dramatically over the summer. The confirmation class raised \$1,500.00 for their blanket sales for World Christian Relief.

Pastor Pam's report. She thanked everyone for their care and concern during her time of grieving for her sister who recently passed away. She is also very thankful to have the opportunity to work remotely while dealing with several losses in her family. The September 20th service will be pre-recorded. All of this would not be possible had we not invested in advancing our church's technology capabilities.

Moderator's Report. Jim reported that at the direction of the Executive Council, \$8,000.00 was taken from our money market account and moved into our checking account, to pay for the purchases of updated tech equipment. This money came from excess funds donated by Pat and Edna Bomar , when they contributed to replacing the pews. Not everything has been ordered yet. Those on the tech committee are Jay W, Pastor Pam, Marty C, and Mia T.

Jim also reports that the executive council voted to keep the church closed to outside groups, other than the preschool that is meeting in the basement.

Included in Jim's report, was the fact that collections had been down \$6,000.00 a month during June, July, and August. This fact will be mentioned when pledge statements go out.

The Harvest Dinner has been cancelled. In its place the church will offer \$35.00 gift certificates to those in need. Determining who those people

are will be facilitated by contacts throughout the community. Church members are encouraged to sponsor one or more gift certificates. Debbie T motioned and Skip B seconded a motion to approve the actions of the executive committee. The motion carried.

Vice Moderator, Karen K that the availability of Harvest Dinner gift certificates will be advertised in the community. She requested that it also be included in The Weekly Wrangler.

Diaconate. Renee reported that 4 outdoor services were held this summer. The last one planned had to be cancelled due to the weather. She would like input on how we can notify people quickly if this should happen again.

Facilities Management. Skip reports that they had met in person and via phone calls. He presented several talking points.

1. The new printer has been installed and is working very well. It is much more efficient than the old printer, which was nearing the end of its serviceable life.
2. The Music Festival wants to update our contract for housing and using the grand piano , which they own.
3. The tech committee is working on developing our ability to live stream services.
4. Air filtering in the church (related to safety concerns during COVID 19nepidemic), would be extravagantly expensive, so will not be considered at this time.
5. Minor upkeep regarding gutters, and tree trimming will be done soon.
6. Due to a faulty water hookup, our ice maker had not been used in many, many months. The Senior center was in need of a temporary ice machine, so ours was loaned to them.
7. Skip reports that the fellowship hall is looking rather shabby. Paint and new carpet would greatly enhance its appearance. He wonders if now might be a good time to do this, as it is currently not in use. Skip will investigate estimated costs for this.

Christian Education. Lori and Steve presented a discussion regarding the hiring of a christian education director . Curriculum needs to be developed. Pam reported that the church had received a dedicated gift to fund this position for ten hours a week for a full year. Anyone working with youth in the church will have to pass a background check. Pam will check with the conference and our insurance company to request guidance in this matter.

Stewardship and Missions. Russ introduced the theme for this year's pledge campaign, which is "Love in Action". The campaign letter and pledge cards were mailed this week. Jim and Mia were able to analyze some statistics from the 2016 through 2020 pledge campaigns. The average amounts pledged were as follows:

2016- \$1, 952.00  
2017- \$2,097.00  
2018- \$2,046.00  
2019- \$2,116.00  
2020- \$2, 320.00

Discussion followed as to how we could improve participation in this year's campaign. The Stewardship and Missions ministry is requesting that members increase their pledges by 12%, to meet this year's budgeting needs. For example, our expenses for January 2020 through August were \$1,21,155.00 and only \$112,781.00 was budgeted. We are encouraging our members to get caught up on their pledges as they are able.

Pastor-Parish Relations. Steve Hanson reported no issues. If a congregant has a concern with the pastor, they should first speak with her, before coming to the committee.

Jim introduced the discussion topic of re-opening the church. Pam stated that it was her goal to return to live worship as soon as it can be safely accomplished. Our capacity is about 35 , with everyone

being expected to wash hands before entering, and to wear masks during the service. Attendees would be ushered to a seat, in order to maintain proper social distancing guidelines. Printed music would be used, decreasing the possibility of cross contamination.

Several options were discussed, with Skip making the motion that we open the church on a trial basis for the dates of October 4th, and October 11th, 2020 . Steve seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Pam invited everyone to participate in her book study on Wednesdays at 6pm. The book “Decolonizing Wealth” will be the focus of the study.

The meeting was adjourned at 18:45.

Respectfully submitted by Audrey Clark,  
Recording Secretary.