

COFFEE WITH COUNCIL
ZOOM 8-23-20
11 am

Present: Ron Easton, Sara Meyers, Pr Bill George, Nancy Cramer, Jim McDonald, Ron Schwantes, Niel Johnson, Linda Byrd, Phil & Mary Ann Gross, Lisa Melton, Sheryl Seevers, and Suelyn Olson.

Thanks to Ron Easton for putting in the time to set up and maintain our online presence. There have been some issues in the past week, so the online services have been posted later in the week. He starts the download on Friday but often has to wait for the participants to send their files.

The Transition Team was working very hard until COVID hit. They regrouped and hope to have a report in September. We have had some good progress. We need to discover who we are and where we are so we can move forward. We need to decide how we are at making decisions. What is the process? Decisions can't be based just on facts; other factors must be involved. The church should be a stabilizing and inspiring place. What message is God sending us? The team is looking at what other churches are doing, schools to see their needs, and what technology we can use to help others. The data will be sifted and see if it a specific direction comes of it. We need to be able to offer programs that appeal to all ages but there also needs to be broad based involvement and support. It does no good to pay lip service to a program and have no follow up. If you pray for potatoes, pick up a hoe. Be ready for rejection; not everyone followed everything Jesus did. Focus on the donut, not the hole.

Most of our newer members came because they found the church online. It is hard for us to "meet" potential new members during COVID. Fellowship time was a great opportunity to meet and talk to any visitors. We need to make plans now for when COVID has lessened its grip. What can we do differently or better? View the pandemic as a positive challenge and we can be stronger as a church and individuals.

It is important that we keep reaching out to other members via text, email, and most importantly by phone. Hearing a voice can make such a positive impact for both parties. Getting more people involved in the online services also helps us by viewing the videos of the prayers and lessons. Numbers continue to be good for the online offerings.

Any bible study during COVID would need to be via Zoom. We need a facilitator to organize and lead the study. We need to help our members become more comfortable with Zoom. You can use a PC, laptop, tablet, or smart phone for video and audio. You can also call in with a landline or other "non-smart" phone and listen to the audio. You

don't have to use the video portion. We have members that call in and never say a word, but they do listen to the conversation.

Coffee with Council on Zoom has had as many or more attendees as when it was held at church. There is no set agenda. People come if they have questions or want to see if they can learn from questions asked by other members.

Council meeting minutes, Coffee with Council notes, and the online services are offered on more than one social media format: website and Facebook,