

COFFEE WITH COUNCIL

3-28-21

Meeting opened with prayer by Pr Sarah Pierce.

Pam Meek reminded everyone of the 4 goals discussed at the 2/28/21 CWC:

- 1-Determine how and implement name recognition and identity in Oak Grove and Grain Valley
- 2-How can we better offer use of our building to local businesses and organizations?
- 3-Work together on service projects with other congregations. Identify projects, resources and how to implement
- 4-Improve communication within ASLC

The goal of the meeting is to pick two of the four items that we can start working on immediately and have some ideas on how they can be implemented.

Sharon LeVasseur: All are good topics and some have been tried in the past. It will be good to revisit them. There was congregational resistance from ASLC and COR the last time.

Pam: There are no wrong answers.

Sharon: I think #4 is the most important one. We have tried working with Church of the resurrection before on their backpack program for school kids.

Pr Sarah: Fr Lynch thinks their members are eager to work with us on projects.

Lisa Melton: Why didn't the projects work out last time? Was it discussed and not implemented?

Sharon: The age and health of members did not allow them to help as they would like to do. Many don't drive at night.

Ron Schwantes: I think we need to get back to in person services as soon as possible--May or June.

Pam: We need to allow time for more members to be vaccinated. May will be the earliest and we would still need to follow the social distancing and mask guidelines.

Ron: Social distancing is not a problem with the size of our congregation.

Pam: We can between 23-26 people in the sanctuary. Any overflow would have to sit in the narthex or the fellowship hall. As weather improves, we can have more outdoor services.

Lisa: Outdoor services are fantastic but maybe we need to have some kind of hybrid. Older members will be vaccinated and can attend in person but younger ones will still need Zoom. It is still hard to get vaccination appointments for many people. Tier 2 opens on 3/29/21 and it will be open to everyone on 4/9/21. The quantity of vaccine has not kept up with demand. Younger members are more comfortable with Zoom or a hybrid service.

Pam: Council has said we will continue some type of online service after the Covid restrictions are lifted. Maybe members can get assistance from their family members so they are more familiar with the process.

Ron S: We need both going forward. I don't expect attendance to cause issues with spacing. We can't hold on to existing members forever if we don't start offering in person services in the near future.

Pr Sarah: Just like there were some kinks to work out with Zoom, we have to make some decisions about in person services. Will they be open to all or only vaccinated people?

Pam: Does anyone have ideas about option 3? The ultimate goal is better name recognition.

Sharon: The Blue Springs Fire Dept. used to have meetings at our church.

Pam: We have the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and a PTA group using our facility. We were contacted by AA right before Covid hit. We can use the Blue Springs Chamber of Commerce to find other non-profits that may need meeting space. We will also need to use contacts from within our members to offer the space to Blue Springs groups. The Blue Springs City Theater would like to hold outdoor productions but it will be a couple of years down the road. They need to get funding for a stage.

Sharon: We could show movies on the side of the church building.

Pr Sarah: We would need to find out the legal issues about noise, copyright, codes, and if food would be allowed.

Ron S: Most people can access any movie they want from their home.

Pam: It is more about the experience--similar to a drive in theater. Getting out of the house and watching the movie with other people is the draw.

Carla Girkin: My home church in Cole Camp does a similar thing. They can't advertise the title but can give a description that give a very good idea of the movie. You can't charge admission.

Pam: Maybe we could do it once a month in the summer when it is warmer.

Sara: I believe Sycamore Hills Baptist Church on 39th St in Independence offers movies. I do not know that they are outdoors.

Lisa: It would be a draw for youth.

Ron S: Is there a way to reach out to members? Several families have lost people and we have been out of touch with them for over a year. We need to ask them if there is something we as a church family can help them with.

Sharon L: Pr Bill George called members on a rotating basis every Wednesday. He left messages if he couldn't talk to them. We have about 12 members that have the newsletter mailed to them. Janet Cooper, Joyce Cutbirth, and others send anniversary, birthday, and get well cards.

Pam: We need a team of 2-3 people that can call and check on members. The council called all members not very long ago for the congregational meeting in September and the CWC meeting in February. We need a volunteer for a phone tree.

Sharon L: We used to visit people in the nursing homes and left gifts for them but we can't do that.

Pr Sarah: It depends on the facility. You have to schedule it and it may be limited to 15 minutes.

Sharon L: We could have a dump dinner or a masked dinner where you wear a blindfold and guess the food.

Pam: Our potluck dinners would be an option when we get to the point we can eat together.

Sara: Do we know how many are signed up for text alerts? More people respond to texts than emails. The length of the information may determine which method is used but texts are faster.

Pam: The request to sign up for texts is in every newsletter, weekly email, and on the website. We do move them around and change the wording/format to make them catch the eye.

Lisa: Can we use texts more often? Send reminders?

Pam: When we called for the first meeting, it was stressed that they only needed a phone to participate. The lack of a computer was not a reason to not join the

discussion. This could be part of the communications group. They would send out info from Pr Sarah, council, or the Transition Team.

Lisa: Pr Bill called both adults and kids. We can have someone else do it other than Pr Sarah since she has a FT job.

Pam: I feel option 3, service project, will be delayed until Covid is gone. Options 1 and 4 are things we can work on right now.

Suelyn Olson: Bartle Hall was housing homeless people and they had a specific list of items they needed. It was nice that it was a detailed list of needed items. People could drop donations at church and I would be willing to drive them to a drop off point. They aren't using Bartle Hall anymore but we could find other places that could use donations.

Pam: Restart, Hope House, and MLM are options. Community Assistance Council closed their clothes closet to devote the space to other issues.

Sara There isn't anything in Blue Springs for housing for homeless people. The closest thing is the Salvation Army in Independence.

Sharon L: We collected hygiene items for backpacks that the Blue Springs police carried in their trunk. They gave them out when they saw homeless people.

Pr Sarah: Are the police still taking donations?

Carla: I think options 3 and 4 are the best ones to work on right now.

Sharon: We can do #3 outdoors for now.

Pam: We need to investigate and see what other churches are doing or invite them to join us. Option 4 isn't just about cards but also about talking to them about the future of the church. We need to investigate option 3 now and be ready when things open up.

Carla: We need to include a service project. It is great how the shopping cart is outdoors when we have service. We can also put out a box for donations.

Lisa: It may be longer term but we need to start planning now. Katie made a mat for Uplift before Covid. We delivered it and they were welcoming to groups of a certain age but there is a long wait to sign up. A service component was absolutely critical to some members. It can be a deal maker or breaker.

Pam: How do the plans we make going forward reflect on us as Christians? The next meeting will be on 4/11/21 at 11 a.m.

Suelyn: It would help to have talking points before we make phone calls.

Pam: The team will need to determine those. We need one person to chair the team and report to council/Transition Team. The chair tells the team what need to be discussed. Look at the positive, because the negative is a waste of energy.

Meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.