

Meeting Summary

April 23, 2020

Excelsior United Methodist Church Leadership Team



Attendees: Kurt J., Kaitlin H., Pastor Brooke, Chuck W., Glenna C., Kristie L., John P., Jason F., Jim L., Sarah B., Lynn H.

We missed: nobody, 100% attendance!

Here is a summary of our third, virtual ZOOM meeting of the new EUMC Leadership Team:

Team Logistics

6:00 pm - The team met again via “social distancing” using Cisco’s WebEx teleconferencing tool. The meeting Agenda was documented and shared on-screen as Kurt J. made live updates in the Asana tool.

Pastor Brooke opened with prayer.

The team reviewed the Agenda items; Kurt J. asked for any additions or changes.

Ministry Teams

Ministry Team leaders are meeting via ZOOM to coordinate, brainstorm and share ideas around needs volunteers, areas for people to get involved; etc. We recognize that ministry will need to change as we look for ways to connect and keep moving forward.

Special giving donations have been very strong for both Simpson’s Shelter and the ICA Food Shelf. Many thanks to those who have given time, talents and money as the need is greater than ever as people struggle with the impact of COVID.

Worship continues every Sunday using Facebook Livestreaming tool. Pastor Brooke and worship volunteers are pre-recording services in advance. Several strategies around music and speaking parts have evolved to reduce number of people in the church during filming. In addition, some services are filmed 2 services at a time to reduce setup and tear down logistics. Currently, in person Worship services are in the middle of the COVID “risk dial” and anticipate we will not have in person worship through the summer. Special thanks to the Worship Committee who continues to decorate the Altar for virtual worship.

Plans for several upcoming worship services: Pentecost will be a virtual collaboration of several churches; Annual Conference to host a camping worship service at the end of June in place of the traditional LYFE camp Sunday. We continue to explore other options for worship this summer. Our church is very proud of the quality of the streaming worship services that is being offered to our church community.

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Congregational care in the form of phone calling, emails and letter writing has continued in our efforts to reach out to members who are isolated. We continue to look for ways to reach others. Please contact Brooke or the office if you or someone you know needs getting contacted.

Outreach is donating money this month to Simpson's Shelter for catering our monthly dinner. Volunteers are not going to the shelter to serve due to the risks associated with COVID.

The ICA Food Shelf located the lower level of our church building is continuing to distribute food and supplies twice a month in the front of our building for walk ups and drive thru.

Social Justice team: Jordan Jordan Harper, Youth and Community Engagement Director and Bill Lester, leader of our Social Justice team, are meeting with area pastors and nonprofits to coordinate efforts and identifying and meeting needs of the community. For example, ICA Food Shelf expects a gradual climb in need over the coming weeks and many people in need have challenges with transportation to get to food shelves.

Our own Little Free Pantry (previously the Little Free Bookstore) in front of church has been supported by church members who have developed a good system for replenishing and monitoring the stock of food and care items.

Congregation care – Brooke continues to host two ZOOM check-ins; one on Tuesday at 2:00pm and another on Wednesday at 6:30pm. Connection details are on the Excelsior UMC private group Facebook page.

Small Groups – Saturday morning Men's Group is once example of a small group that continues to meet via ZOOM twice a week. Saturday at 8:00am and Wednesday evening at 8:00pm. If interested in joining, please contact Jeffrey Johnson or John Peichel.

Youth Ministry – Jordan continues to connect with the church's youth in various ways.

Finance

We reviewed Jan thru Mar finances. Many people have transitioned to giving using the secure online access thru our EUMC website including giving both regular Sunday offering and special collections. There are options for one-time gifts or recurring giving. We experienced a significant shift to online giving in March. Online giving overall was up 3X including many generous donations directed to our outreach ministries including ICA and Simpson Shelter. Giving to operating income does not appear to have been significantly impacted at this time and we have seen some unexpected gifts from those wishing to ensure our financial stability during this crisis. We will continue to monitor impacts to our operating income in the coming months. Thank you for your continued financial support via checks you are mailing to the church as well as your online contributions.

The current trends on giving income and outgoing expenses look within normal, historical ranges. We will continue to track and review as the year moves forward.

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Small Business Administration (SBA) PPP Loan update – we submitted two Personal Payroll Protection (PPP) Applications to our current and one additional commercial bank. Neither application was approved and we followed up with specific discussions. As a result, we submitted additional requested information and the applications were forwarded to underwriting department. The SBA program allows an organization to borrow up to 2.5x your monthly payroll. As a part of COVID relief, the program will forgive loan for qualifying payroll expenses over the next 8 weeks.

The loan is a 1% interest rate and they have over 44,000 requests. Given the uncertainty as to the future impact of COVID-19, this loan, if approved, could be an option if we need it. Overall, the process has been a good education and discussion on what the loan option means for us and will continue to evaluate as the economy evolves and we hear back on the results of our application.

SPRC

Jennifer Speca, our new Office Administrator is in the church office and getting familiar with duties & responsibilities as well as where everything is located. She is a quick learner and doing very well; already working on the Shorelines and will take over Website updates; updates to Servant Keeper. We anticipate her increasing time in office starting 1 May 2020.

The open Treasurer position is on hold due to COVID. Maintaining input to Servant Keeper, QuickBooks and downloading financial analysis continues to be supported by LT members.

Children's Ministry – Melanie plans to transition during the middle of May to another church. The Leadership team discussed various options. VBS is currently scheduled for August; we have purchased curriculum and registration is open. Going forward, Jordan plans to increase help with Sunday worship to backfill Melanie. Melanie will be available to help fill in. We continue to explore non-traditional options for children's ministry; brainstorming with her as a resource for ideas.

TRUSTEES

Parking lot usage – on hold due to COVID and restaurants being closed. No further discussion with the restaurant owners. We have drafted a contract and are seeking insurance input.

Solar project – continue to get more and more information from Rooftop solar; Pace financing 7 years; support initial cost of \$82k; church gets portion and in 20 years 100%; creative financing with 3rd party. Once more details are known, we plan a critical review of the proposal. We have made no decision at this point.

New doors have been obtained and painted ... we will be able to flip the doors and transition from "We are all in this Together" back to "God's Doors are Open to All" when we return to live in person worship.

Respectfully,

John Peichel
Leader Team, Communications
Excelsior UMC

Next Meetings: May 21, 2020 and June 18, 2020