

## **Minutes from Pilgrim Congregational Church Council Meeting**

**Tuesday 16 June 2020 19:15-20:45**

**Present (via Zoom):** Susan Carabbio, Pastor Reebee Girash, Bob Beckwith, Doug Johnson, Jeff Boehm, Ed Bond, Dick Edmiston, Mary Mackie, Marge Saradjian, Mike Stevens, Nick Zorn, and Dave McClave

### **Regarding Meeting Minutes:**

- May's minutes were already approved via email earlier
- Susan C. explained the reason why we're now putting the minutes online - to achieve the goal of offering more transparency to the congregation
- Doug asked if there's a way to publish them to the congregation only, and not to the world via the website, and Reebee has a few thoughts on this:
  - o the website is getting re-built within the next month; we could tuck them away into a members-only section (via a constant-contact list)
  - o Reebee feels there is very little that we would want to "hide" from the public
  - o Nick: perhaps we could use Pilgrim's G-Suite Google Drive to archive the minutes, and send out the link to the members
  - o Ed: Can we email them out to folks directly? Reebee: There is an existing list that includes many non-members, but we'd have to create a members-only MailChimp list
  - o Jeff prefers to have them widely available to members, but not non-members
  - o MOTION by Jeff/Reebee: to make the minutes available to members only via electronic means (whether it's Google Drive or email is TBD)
  - o Motion seconded by Marge, all ayes, no nays

### **Treasurer's Report**

- Dave's caveat - there was a typo in the paper part saying the report was through the end of April
- Doug's question - you're not including the PPP money in the budget... why?
  - o Dave realized is the operating budget "is what it's going to be". When we convert the church's loan (\$28k) into a grant, that will go into "revolving reserve" and not appear in the budget - it would distort the budget; we did not earn this by selling more pumpkins; it kind of just fell into our lap
  - o The Nursery School ended up with a different amount than the church ended up with
  - o The "revolving reserve" has historically been used to put in operating surpluses; there are no significant restrictions; it's sort of a rainy-day fund

- Jeff's observation - by doing this, we are reaping the benefit of this decision but not bearing the cost. It was targeted for a reason (payroll/staff relief) for which we used it; Reebee has similar feelings to this
  - Doug observed that for most businesses this was designed to offset losses, and we did indeed lose revenue (rental, etc), so we may want to include it in the reported budget
  - Susan wonders if we should "wait and see" on that until the grant application goes out, since there have been some changes along the way with the SBA's guidelines for these loans
  - In Reebee's mind, this might be more of a reporting issue, and less of a substantive issue.
  - Dave: If we don't move it into operating, we're going to have a large deficit (perhaps ~\$30k) this year. Then we would end up drawing on such reserves. If we move it into operating and use it to offset the deficit to ~2k. "The net effect is the same."
  - Reebee: "The larger concern is that we're going to have to be very thoughtful/prayerful about building the 2021 budget."
- Reebee: This is going to be an unusual fiscal year upcoming in 2021; it behooves us to perhaps get started talking about how to deal with this for FY21. We don't know what's going to happen with a possible second "surge" of cases, and how that stuff will affect the budget; Reebee believes a subset of the Council group ought to meet with F&A to be involved in those discussions.
- Dave's summary of what Reebee just said: "It's bad news, and then it turns to worse news." ;)
  - Susan feels sooner than later would be better; Dave said he agrees but there are so many variables at play until more time passes; we could possibly come up with multiple potential budgets?
  - Because our \*biggest\* expense is staff (including herself), Reebee believes we might want to have people from the most recent Pastoral Council Committee, F&A, and perhaps a Council member or two; Susan will set up the meeting, invite the whole Council

### **Rev. Reebee- Status of in-person gatherings and fall planning**

- SNEC-UCC continues to urge churches to wait until after Labor Day and to not promise their congregations any particular re-opening timeline
- There has been growing concern about projected singing and wind instruments
- Mike Stevens has begun working on augmenting our live video worship sharing capabilities
- An ecumenical group put together a 36-page document guiding houses of worship
- Doug has also put together a great document with ideas summarizing possible protocols etc at Pilgrim
  - Very hard to figure out what to do with the shared air-mass that is the sanctuary, though...

- Can we possibly consider having people bring in sanitizing wipes to possibly offset their impact?
- Many families are starting to do socially-distanced backyard parties... can we consider moving in that direction to doing that type of stuff? It gets tricky with little kids. Reebee is hesitant to do that yet though.
- Jeff - remember we do have the Bell Choir!

### **Small groups/ Care ministry over the summer**

- Only got 2 responses after the survey which was put out after the last Council meeting
- Heard from Tuesday morning Bible study they don't want to pause at all - attendance ranges from 6 to 14 at this group, and they'll continue meeting for an hour a week through the summer
- Marge and Reebee are going to try to engage with people who might not be tech-savvy or not be fans of Zoom
- Ed. Min. committee was excited about having some sort of movie night or something with the kids

### **Reebee' summer plans**

- Reebee will take some time the last week of July and be completely offline

### **Next Meeting**

- Other than getting together over the summer re: budget - Tuesday Sept 15 2020 at 19:15