

Chelsea First United Methodist Church  
Administrative Council Meeting Minutes  
June 11, 2020, 7:30-9pm via Zoom Conference

FINAL – Approved as of 7/2/2020

**In Attendance:** Edie Wiarda, Kerry Plank, John Seto, Dana Schmunk, Charles Schmunk, Jim Alford III, Sandy Schmunk, Joy Barrett, Mike Vanderspool

Guests: Darlene Schaffer, David Schaffer, Jeanne Franks

Minutes from the May 14, 2020 meeting were approved via email.

**Opening Devotion & Prayer** – Edie did a devotional based on Martin Luther King Jr.'s letter from the Birmingham jail. (for leading a March without a permit). She noted several themes: Attitude toward tension (constructive, non-violent), difficulty related to waiting – effects on children and people's insecurities, the difference between just laws (those that uplift humanity) and unjust laws (those that tear down humanity), was not Jesus an extremist?, disappointment with the church and its leadership.

Lord, forgive us for hiding out sins from ourselves. Provide us with what we lack.

**COVID: Sustainment & Transformation of Ministries:**

Finance -- Kerry: Income received in May was overbudget almost \$20,000. One family paid their yearly pledge in full (\$10,000). Unpledged giving was up over previous months. Expenses were underbudget for the year, significantly under for May due to PPP funds which paid salaries, utilities, pension etc. Still expect fluctuations month by month. Kristy is keeping a 2<sup>nd</sup> ledger of the PPP expenses and what has been paid.

**Updates on Selected Objectives:**

ID of Target Demographic Groups & pass thru to other ministries (3<sup>rd</sup> bullet point on list of objectives). Mike Vanderspool reported: One of our direct prescriptions of VCI was to study the Mission Insight Report to understand who our neighbors are and changing demographics in our area in order to help us determine missional outreach. This can help us see what is needed for church vitality and mission renewal. The report splits the demographics into many segments. The Prescriptions Implementation Team has been looking at this information, drawing a line around areas on the map that we feel represents our target demographic area. The Worship Team is using this to understand how we may wish to adjust our worship services to better fit certain segments of our target area. Other teams such as the First Impressions Team can use this. Question – was there anything surprising in this information? Mike: Perhaps about 75% of the information was info we already knew or suspected, perhaps 25% was new. Edie: One thing that surprised me was the high affluence in our community, also related to high levels of education of heads of household. In many ways we seem to be one coherent community. This group tends to prefer inspirational and educational worship. Mike: In addition to the strong Senior age group growth in Chelsea, young families with children are a growing

segment. Charles: Is there a group of low income households.? Edie noted based on the data, this would be a very small segment in our community. Joy said if we want to reach such a group we would need to work with other churches and organizations to come alongside them. New people coming into churches tend to look for others that are like them.

Messaging/Marketing of who we are: Nothing to propose at this time. We will be looking more at that in the coming month, as it is high on list of Ad Council objectives. Edie noted the chalk messages and the sign board portrayed at the front of the church for last week's online service. Kerry noted that the creation of the youtube services have been, and will be, a good tool for us.

### **Continuing Discussion – Clarifying LGBTQ Stance:**

Aspirational Statement – Several versions/examples of an aspirational statement were presented by Edie, based on discussions last month. There was some discussion that the statement should come from Ad Council rather than indicating it was from the whole congregation. Some further notes via email after last meeting supported the idea of moving this forward sooner than later.

Timing: Should this wait until we are back with in-person worship? We have no sense yet of when in-person worship in some form might begin. A reopening task force has begun to meet. Worship outdoor is a possibility. Joy: there is a group of people who have been asked to wait for a long time, especially since Feb 2019. We should not put this statement out there with nothing, but have a strategy on how we will engage around this. We might want to consider having an informational Zoom meeting to explain why and why now? Followed by some focus groups. Sandy suggested sending the statement out in written form, with information about a Zoom informational meeting (virtual Town Hall meeting), followed by scheduled focus groups. John: I believe our world events have changed since our last meeting which pushes me toward being more bold. We all have to be all in on this. I suggest each of us reading part of the statement we make so everyone knows who is signing this – let people see our faces and passion around this. Joy – I think we can also include a bold statement on how we as a congregation are going to address the sin of racism. Two very distinct statements but all flow from the same gospel. Dana – we could each read a statement and someone can edit that so we are all included. People are stepping back and questioning how they could have done more, how to do more as we move forward. John – I think we need to be clear and address both these areas. Charles: I think we are all pretty much overwhelmed with what is happening and we have a need to address that. Not sure how we tie these together. I think we have to do this through a video. I would like to see it happen within 3 weeks.

The Ad Council reviewed the options presented on Aspirational statements. Options #2 and #4 were both lifted up, with some concern that Option #4 was too wordy. Mike noted perhaps we do not need to worry about length of wording if we are going to do a group reading. Edie asked whether we want to keep the wording “The Administrative Council of Chelsea UMC”, or state “The Chelsea UMC”. .. Feedback was that our ultimate aspiration is to have this be a congregational statement, but in putting this out to the congregation we need to start with us. John: We need an introduction but then two distinct statements, not mesh them together. Joy

agreed and made some suggestions: “we believe all persons are of sacred worth”, “in light of recent events we feel compelled to make these statements”, “in the name of Jesus Christ we believe all means all.”

**Options for Engagement on Racial Reconciliation** –Jeanne Franks

Jeanne made a statement on how she sees us having an opportunity to truly be the church. She told a story of one of the young boys from the Mentor2Youth program in Ypsilanti. She quoted “To whom much is given, much is required” , and stated, “I want to be a part of a church that is known for its light.” Our action against racism needs to be a collective, consistent plan and reconciliation effort. Jeanne presented a page on options for engagement including help with finishing the house in Jackson and work with Mentor2Youth.

Joy proposed the following statement: ‘We endorse the efforts of Jeanne and the youth of this organization to support the work of Mentor2Youth, through assisting with the rehabbing of the house in Jackson, both through personal commitment and assistance, and through promoting this within the congregation’. The Council agreed.

Eddie will talk to Jeanne about how to organize this.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- a. July 9
- b. August 13
- c. September 10
- d. Special Church Conference on Mission Tithe – by September 30 (Can be held via Zoom)

Meeting closed in Prayer by Joy

Notes compiled by Sandy Schmunk