**FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**CONSISTORIY MINUTES – NOVEMBER 16, 2020**

A meeting of the Consistory of First United Church of Christ was held on Monday, November 16, 2020. **Present (in person and ZOOM)** **:** Patricia Frey, Mike Coulson, Susan Stott, Dave Rohrer, David McKibben, Bill Harrison, Kate Poe, Cathy Wilson, Craig Kern, Dallas Bailey, Greg Lewis, Pastor Chris Schwab, and Karen Byers. **Absent:** Lee Fischbach.

**DEVOTIONS:** Dallas Bailey opened the meeting with devotions and prayer.

**MINUTES:** On a Harrison/McKibben motion, the Minutes of October 19, 2020, were approved. Motion carried.

**ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:** None.

**PASTOR’S REPORT:** Pastor Chris apologized for the technical difficulties during Sunday’s service. He has made arrangements to bring in a professional to address the issues.

Pastor Chris also indicated he is making contacts/plans regarding his upcoming sabbatical in 2021.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Susan reported investments were updated and discussed at Stewardship Council, as there is a $14,000 deficit, which is not bad considering income is down. On a McKibben/Bailey motion, the Treasurer’s Report was approved. Motion carried

**CHURCH AND MINISTRY:** Dave reported there will be one service at 6:00 PM on Christmas Eve. As there will be no singing during the service, attendees will exit via the plaza door, receive a candle, and gather on the plaza to light candles and sing Silent Night, before departing. Bill inquired as to plans, if we reach maximum capacity in the sanctuary. Pat indicated Fellowship Hall would be utilized, if needed.

Dave also reported there will be musicians from outside the congregation performing at the December 27 service. Greg inquired as to safety measures that would be taken by the musicians; Dave indicated they would not be wearing masks, but bills of instruments would be covered and the musicians would be distanced from the congregation. On a Harrison/Wilson motion, approval was given for the musicians to perform at the December 27 service. Motion carried.

Bill indicated that attendance is down (26 in attendance Sunday), and he is concerned, due to our having an older congregation. Greg indicated, at this point, we may continue with Sunday services; however, cases are rising in the 17013 and 17015 areas, which includes most of our congregation.

Mike inquired of Pastor Chris how he and Sharon felt having in-person services. Pastor Chris noted Sharon is ok about this; however, he and Pastor Rachel have mixed feelings/concerns, including hospital visits.

Discussion followed regarding the Church remaining open, since numbers are increasing. David McKibben has concerns regarding the technology is not working; Dallas inquired as to pre-recording the service, rather than live. Pastor Chris indicated during the live stream, since March, we have only had two Sundays where the live streaming did not work. He explained the more advanced and complicated we are with the technology, the more problems arise.

Craig indicated we should update the system and move forward. Pastor Chris is checking on improving the system. Pat suggested Chris and Property Management Council confer, and Dave would like for Church and Ministry Council be included in discussions. Pat requested the two councils meet with Chris and report back with findings at December meeting of Consistory.

Discussion followed regarding whether the Church should remain open. Greg indicated that the CDC and PA Department of Health never mention guidelines for churches. Mike inquired if Conference has guidelines, to which Pastor Chris indicated, they do not.

David and Dallas inquired as to the use of Fellowship Hall by “outsiders” and what guidelines should be followed. Consistory felt outside requests should be denied.

On a Harrison/Bailey motion, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen F. Byers, Secretary