

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
CONSISTORY MINUTES – May 26, 2020

A meeting of the Consistory of First United Church of Christ was held, via Zoom, on Tuesday, May 26, 2020. Present: Patricia Frey, Bill Harrison, David McKibben, Jim O'Neal, Kate Poe, David Rohrer, Susan Stott, Kirk Wilson, David Rohrer, Greg Lewis, Dallas Bailey, Kathy Wilson, Pastor Chris Schwab, and Karen Byers.

DEVOTIONS: Pastor Chris opened the meeting with prayer.

Pat welcomed the new members to Consistory: Dallas Bailey, Mike Coulson, and Greg Lewis.

MINUTES: On a Harrison/McKibben motion, the Minutes of May 4, 2020, were approved. Motion carried.

PASTORS' REPORTS: On a Stott/Coulson motion, the Reports of Pastor Chris and Pastor Rachel were approved. Motion carried.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT: David presented an update on the SPY Program. Dave met with the Directors on Wednesday to do a walk thru to see what rooms would be required for their program. The program is scheduled to open on June 15. On June 8, they will be moving supplies into the church and conduct staff training.

Dave Rohrer inquired about any conflict with REACH. David reported he spoke with Jason; REACH will return to practice at the Church, when the Church opens. David also mentioned to Jason what plans would be in place for social distancing, etc. No final decision was made by Jason.

NEW BUSINESS: Pat indicated the Church could be opened for services, as we are in the yellow phase; however, at this time, only 25 individuals could be in the sanctuary at any one time, including Pastor and organist, ushers, etc. Pat requested comment from Greg Lewis, from a medical perspective. Greg indicated the following:

- It seems too soon, since our congregation is a vulnerable population.
- Services could be held either indoors or outdoors.
- How to socially distance people in pews?
- What if someone comes in without a mask, we offer a mask, and they refuse to wear it?
- We would have to sanitize before and after each service, including door handles, elevator buttons, etc.
- No hymnals, Bibles, or bulletin/yellow sheet. One sheet to be handed out by ushers, who would have to wear gloves.

-What about greeters, flowers, offering, communion?

Kate indicated, when Cumberland County goes to the “green phase”, businesses and industry must adhere to CDC and Department of Health guidelines.

Chris also reminded everyone of whether we would sing or not sing.

On a Rohrer/Stott motion, Consistory agreed to keep the Church closed through June. Motion carried.

Bill inquired if key people have made any decisions. Pat indicated that Church & Ministry addressed some of these issues and decided it was a Consistory decision, when the church would open.

Following discussion, Pat proposed we continue live stream/video through the month of June; no face-to-face services, and that from Sunday, June 7, through Sunday, August 30, the Church will provide one service, beginning at 10:00. Beginning in September, we would plan to return to two services each Sunday. On a Poe/McKibben motion, we will have one service at 10:00 AM each Sunday from June through August. Motion carried. Greg did indicate we will need to follow the news carefully in June, to make sure there is no spike in cases, prior to opening.

Pat suggested Consistory meet on Monday, June 22, at 7:00 PM in Fellowship Hall (masks and social distancing would be required). This meeting would not include those Deacons/Elders ending their term on Consistory.

Since we are providing services via live streaming, Pat indicated we are not in a position to install new Deacons and Elders in June. Dallas inquired as to procedure from Conference. Pastor Chris will check with Conference on what procedures to follow. We could possibly install the new members at the June 22 meeting; then a more formal installation, once we are back in the Church.

There was discussion regarding a Task Force to meet and work on guidelines to follow, once we can safely open the church. Pastor Chris will work on recruiting individuals.

Dave Rohrer mentioned upcoming Summer programs on the Plaza: Celtic Martins and the ice cream social. The Town Band has not practiced and Dave does not foresee the Band doing any programs until possibly after the first of the year. Pat indicated the Church Picnic has been cancelled, as well as Celtic Martins, and we should cancel the ice cream social, also. ‘

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen F. Byers, Secretary