

On 9-26-2020 there was an open zoom meeting to enable the congregation to share their thoughts about opening or not opening the church in any capacity, such as for services or meetings. Twenty-six people were in attendance, including the COVID Ad Hoc committee and representatives from the Board. Some congregants just wanted to listen to the shared ideas and concerns. Some expressed that this is hard on everyone and they can appreciate understanding why people would want to meet in person.

The majority did not want to see the church open for services at this time. Many had hesitations because of the Covid 19 infection numbers rising and would not themselves attend if there were in-person services. One member talked about another church slowly opening and precautions that church was putting into place such as signage, masks, social distancing and hand sanitizers. Another member spoke of other churches being open since June.

There were concerns raised that some members are not attending zoom services due to lack of technology. It was suggested looking into what can be done to help those lacking technology such as purchasing some refurbished i-pads. For some, it is physical technology and for others that they live in areas without good broadband. There were concerns that we may lose some members because they do not want to attend services via zoom. We don't want to lose anyone due to lack of technology and Carie has asked Tracy McNaughton and the pastoral team to help her look at who may need technology assistance. Carie said there has been a decrease in attendance by some who may ordinarily attend an in-person service but there has been an increase in zoom attendance by some members that do not usually attend in-person services. She feels it is hard to say if one venue is serving people better than another.

There are concerns about the ventilation in the church and if there is any ability to adequately ventilate.

There are some who would like to hold small group meetings in the fellowship hall. The concern was raised that if the church was

opened for increasing numbers of groups we are increasing risks. There are concerns that even well-intentioned people may not strictly follow the guidelines set in place. One person expressed their concern that at a gathering of family and friends people became lax after just an hour and that people need to be really committed to following guidelines. Others expressed that the board should consider small group ministry requests. It was suggested the small groups may be responsible for cleaning and that people will not be careless.

Concerns for staff safety were expressed. Carie did acknowledge that with the office door open for air, some people just stopped by casually to talk with staff. There are no drop-in hours at the office; people should be contacting them to schedule appointments. Two congregants expressed concerns for staff safety. Carie did request that a couple of ad hoc committee members meet with the worship arts team.

Catherine held up the Drew Crew team that has been working on the Drew house preparing it for rental and how well they have done with their commitment to being safe.

The majority seemed to agree we must proceed with caution when the time comes to open for services. Many expressed thanks to the ad hoc advisory group and were grateful for the opportunity to share their opinion.

Several people who could not attend had sent emails to the ad hoc group and that input was shared during the meeting as well. One stated, "A starting point would be to list the needs of our members that the church satisfies. That list would go far beyond matters of faith." Another expressed, that Small Group is very important to them and they think we could meet in the Fellowship Hall with proper precautions. The third email was a concern that we do not relax safety measures and hold events that could increase risk. This person has seen others outside of church hugging each other, not keeping social distance and not wearing masks correctly.

The question was raised as to why at this time we are having this discussion. With the increased requests for groups to meet in the church building, the ad hoc committee and board wanted to make sure

everyone's opinions are heard and valued and that we can feel good about decisions made.

The ad hoc committee had a debriefing meeting following the 8:30-9:30 AM meeting. The topics discussed are as follows:

- Looking at the new requests for groups to meet in the church. There are several challenges such as: what is adequate time spacing, what about cleaning (there is currently no cleaning contract and the past company may not want to do less than the three buildings and/or twice a week), and could we be confident groups would do increased cleaning that would be needed such as vacuuming and dusting
- How many SGM groups want to meet? Marty will reach out to the SGM Committee to determine how many groups we may be talking about
- Ventilation is probably the biggest challenge. Don is going to investigate data regarding ventilation, airflow and how this affects time spacing between groups
- Harry had reached out to Lynn to see if people are turning in their checklists and she is getting some back. He will reach out again for more specifics.
- How much time is needed between groups and who would be responsible for coordinating? This could be someone from the small groups committee coordinating with Lynn in regards to other groups but needs to be discussed.

Before making any suggestions to the board about increased number of groups meeting, the ad hoc committee is going to gather the above information. Our next meeting is Oct 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM.

