

## Agenda Minutes

In attendance were: Pastor George Reynolds, Sally Paff, Glenda Auker, Nancy Henry, John Redmond, Carl Dudeck, Jefferson Davis (via zoom), Cheryl Lenker, Michael Sokolas, and Tom Wilson.

Chairman Tom Wilson called the meeting to order and then Pastor George opened the meeting with the introduction of our newest member, Michael Sokolas. Michael shared with us that he and his Wife, Kayla and their son, Luca, recently purchased a new home and they have found their “church” home with us. Michael works as the Director of Student and Public Safety at Cumberland Valley School District and has been kept extremely busy as he deals with all aspects of safety during this unprecedented pandemic.

After introductions of everyone were made, Pastor George started immediately into our agenda, which is outlined below and bolded.

### **1. Discussion on Fresh Expression Blog Post (20 minutes) –**

**A. We have Survived.** Well this says it all, we are still here!

**B. Now we have to adapt.**

#### **1. What has the Crisis Revealed?**

**“A lack of deep adult discipleship for a resilient and preserving faith.**

**“A lack of deep community that can withstand the polarization and disconnection of this day**

**“A lack of leadership development that can be mobilized for a more decentralized mission”**

Pastor George got the Easel and Pad out and asked us to call out what we felt the crisis had revealed, so here is what literally got posted:

**Worshipping Remotely:** That has been vital to both our internal and external community.

**People still give:** We’ve been blessed that people continue to give regularly and the use of online giving has grown (LLUMC had this option available before the pandemic and it was noted that many churches were scrambling when the pandemic hit as they were not prepared for online services and/or online giving).

**Technology is essential:** This is evident as we had to pivot (key word for 2020) and adapt to online services, social media platforms for information, updating our Website, and new offering of Podcast options! The leadership council felt especially proud of their push to have a communications director position on deck before the pandemic even happened. It was always and continues to be the desire of this council to reach more people and be seen as a support center for both our internal and external community.

**People want to connect:** It is evident that people have a strong desire to connect and at LLUMC it has always had such a “family” feel. LLUMC has done and continues to do everything in their power to make available a variety of ways to connect during these times. The success of the outside services was encouraging and well received.

**Church not defined by walls:** This is a reiteration of the fact that you don’t have to physically be in a building to attend church. You have a myriad of options at your disposal to hear the word of GOD. We’ve had talks about getting back to the basics of having church in our homes and the notion that “we” are the church, and it mobilizes us to go beyond. We are not constrained by walls to spread the good news.

**ADAPT-PIVOT:** This crisis has literally forced, not just us, but other churches, businesses, etc. to make the changes necessary to survive. You either adapt or your church, your business, etc. would not survive and thrive in a very different world.

**FEAR OF VIRUS:** This crisis has exposed the varying degrees of fear within our community. There are some folks that seem oblivious to the potential health dangers, while others have become vigilant in their efforts to avoid exposure to others for fear of contracting the virus. As we know, our older communities and people of color are more prone to the very negative outcomes of this virus. LLUMC has always been conscientious and respectful of those that are more compromised and that is why we’ve gone to such great lengths to follow the science and have strict guidelines for all activities at both campuses.

**All together:** It was noted that in times of crisis we see people pulling together, reaching out to others, and keeping the line of communication open. Just because things have shut down doesn’t mean we need to shut down from others. Communication, understanding, and yes having the spiritual messages are vital in times of crisis.

**Connection to Disconnected:** Unfortunately, we still have people within our community that don’t have the technology, or the skill set to adapt easily to an “online” world. We vow to make things easier and one of the bright spots within our community has been enrolling students from Susquehanna Township for Community Classrooms! This community classroom provides free WiFi to kids from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Monday through Thursday. Our Community Classrooms were even featured on TV and Pastor Taylor Pfaff of Linglestown Life of the Rockville Campus says the facility is following CDC guidelines by offering hand sanitizer stations, temperature checks, spacing out the kids at least six feet apart, while sanitizing the building thoroughly. He believes the classroom will benefit the parents as much as it will students. According to Pastor Pfaff, ““We felt we could partner with other organizations and with the school district just to provide stability to provide extra support so that students can be successful so that this won't be a hard year without support”. This is just one example of finding that disconnect and making the connection. There are more ideas to come and Pastor George asked us to think about that in the weeks to come.

**Appreciation of People in Your Life:** It was mentioned how this crisis has made us aware of the people in our life and what they mean to us. Now this could be a good thing or perhaps you are one of those folks saying, “oh my gosh I am literally sick of my \_\_\_\_\_ and I need SPACE!” Yes, these are challenging times; however, we’ve all come to realize the

importance of our families and loved ones. For some not being able to see each other has certainly taken its toll and it makes us all a little bit more reflective.

**Ugliness/Division:** One of the negatives that has surfaced via this crisis is our community is divided. Unfortunately, the “wearing of masks” has become politicized and instead of it being a necessity for good health practices, it has become a political statement. There has also been a resurgence of racial division which reminded some of us that we’ve not come that far from those troubling civil rights movement of the 60’s. Again, this brings our attention to the need for healing within our communities. It reminds us how being kind to one another is essential and that words are powerful. We must remember that we represent the church, and we should conduct ourselves in a manner which reflects our values and beliefs. This extends to our online presence on FB, Twitter, etc.

## **2. What is essential to our vision? (Community/Transformation/Inspiration)**

Technology seems to be one of the key components to our continuation of our vision. Pastor George urged us to think about not only our existing community, but our extended community when we explore the varying ways to realize our vision.

## **3. How do we adapt to the uncertainties of a new reality in order to thrive?**

We’ve been adapting as noted in comments above.

## **2. Reassessing Resources (20 minutes)**

**Adaptation requires us to reassess all of our resources in light of a new reality that is emerging. We will never go back to “normal”. The church has fundamentally turned a corner. While Sunday morning will never cease to exist, the value placed on Sunday morning will forever be transformed. Therefore, as we envision a new reality, how do we reassess our resources.**

**(We will cover this over several meetings beginning with identifying all of our resources. Then we will ask the adaptive question of how we can see these resources repurposed in light of our vision).**

### **A. What type of resources do we have? (this is a general list, be creative in filling in the resources under each category)**

#### **Facilities:**

**Rockville:** We have Ray’s Place, space that could be utilized (i.e. as we are doing for Community Classrooms); Pastor George shared with us that Taylor Pfaff had some ideas that both he and his wife would like to explore that apparently has been successful in their Lancaster County area (where they reside).

**Linglestown:** We have space, a gym, a stage, outside space. There is a myriad of ways we could potentially use and/or offer space to the external community and perhaps uncover a new streamline of revenue. This is something that we will continue to discuss and explore.

#### **Personnel:**

**Staff:** We have talented staff that are dedicated and driven. How can we best use their skills?

**Volunteers:** We need to tap into the various talent and gifts from our volunteers and explore new ways of making connections via their connections.

### **Technology:**

**Website:** New and improved!

**Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter):** We have a footprint and presence now. The mention of the word “presence” made Pastor George kind of “light up”. As he explained, our goal has always been, and perhaps even more so NOW in these times to be a “presence” to both our internal and external community. This keeps coming up over and over – SUPPORT for our community.

**Live Stream:** We have been doing it and continue to get great feedback; however, it is difficult to put a number to participants on our live stream.

**Podcast:** Something completely NEW, relevant, and timely! LLUMC is doing it!

It was recommended that we should engage the help from some of our Generation X community. We could ask a few of our young adults to provide us feedback. We could offer them the role of “Generational Consultant” thus providing them a voice to share their thoughts, opinions, ideas, etc. This would be loosely defined, with flexibility since their generation demands that.

### **Other:**

**How can we repurpose these resources? Who needs the resources that we possess?**

#### **How do we envision Linglestown Life as the “Support Center”? (This is a Chic-fil-A term)**

Here we go again! Support Center ties into our desire here at LLUMC. Pastor George mentioned an upcoming series that will speak specifically to Mental Health. This topic is timely in light of the ongoing pandemic. Depression, drug and/or alcohol abuse, loneliness are just some of the issues people have been dealing with during these times. In fact, I might mention these very issues were addressed as “needs within our community” via the survey we did last year. The series will address a myriad of topics all dealing with the mental health crisis and provide invaluable resources that folks could tap into.

### **3. Sunday Morning (10 minutes)**

**(Brutal facts: It will be Easter 2021 or Pentecost 2021 before we see a return to “normalized” Sundays)**

**Online Campus:** These will continue to go on forever. We are never going back to “normal”, rather we have adapted, and a variety of options will always be part of LLUMC’s services.

**Indoor Service:** With COVID numbers on the rise we were asked to share our thoughts regarding the continuation of in-person gatherings. There were pros and cons cited and

feelings of being conflicted about this decision were shared. Ultimately LLUMC will undoubtedly make the call in the best interest for the safety of our attendees, as they have always done.

#### **Sunday School:**

#### **4. Christmas Eve (5 minutes)**

**4:00 p.m. Outside Event at Linglestown Campus** – This could be great fun!

**6:00 p.m. LIVE Online Event**

#### **5. Financial Update (5 minutes)**

**2021 Budget under discussion with Stewardship Team** - This will be discussed on 11/17/20 at the evening meeting.

**Christmas Offering** – It was mentioned that everyone should have gotten their letter in the mail about this (everyone did)!

**Currently reassessing our Financial Personnel and Processes for Staffing Changes**

#### **6. Staffing (5 minutes)**

**2020 Evaluations and 2021 Goal Setting** – This will be done by Pastor George within the next couple of weeks.

#### **7. Approval of September 21, 2020 Minutes**

Chairman Tom Wilson asked for a motion to approve the previous Leadership Council Minutes. A motion was made by Sally Paff, seconded by Glenda Auker, with unanimous approval from all other Council members in attendance.

Pastor George then asked if we could all make ourselves available for a Leadership Council meeting on Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 6 p.m. All were in favor.

#### **8. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Reference Information (Standing Information):

**The 2020 Leadership Council calendar** was agreed to as follows:

February 17    March 16    April 20    May 18    June 15

July 20    August 17    September 21    October 19

November 16    December 14

**2020 Leadership Council noted -**

<b><u>Class of 2020</u></b>	<b><u>Class of 2021</u></b>	<b><u>Class of 2022</u></b>
Glenda Auker	Nancy Henry	Carl Dudeck
Stephanie Martella	Tom Wilson, Chairperson	John Redmond
Nick Sallade	Michael Sokolas	Sally Paff
	Jefferson Davenport	Cheryl Lenker