

Call to order done by Tom Wilson.

In attendance via zoom and/or in person were: Pastor George Reynolds, Sally Paff, Cheryl Lenker, Glenda Auker, Nancy Henry, John Redmond, Jefferson Davenport, Nick Sallade, and Tom Wilson. Excused were Carl Dudeck, Lewis Silverman, and Stephanie Martella.

Pastor George said a brief prayer and then proceeded to give us a “check-up” on a variety of matters such as:

### **#1 – Sunday morning**

#### **Online Campus - Kendall is working on some way to enhance engagement with folks during and after the service.**

Kendall may do some group zoom calls before or after the service per Pastor George and he shared with us that more people are actually watching the services online and the “true” numbers are not being represented as they are not completing a response card. The online attendance seems to have gone down (and not just with our church) due to a variety of reasons i.e. “the thrill/novelty is gone”, people are actually taking vacation, and finally folks are watching at different times (since you can watch the sermon whenever you want, doesn’t have to be LIVE on Sunday).

#### **Outdoor Service – We are planning to continue the one outdoor service until at least the end of October.**

We were all a bit shocked with how well attendance has been these past few weeks (70 plus) despite the heat wave we’ve experienced. The fact that people continue to come out in these conditions solidifies the notion that they really want to attend these outdoor gatherings. Speculation is perhaps we will begin to see even better attendance once weather cools off? One can hope. It is impressive nonetheless.

#### **Indoor Service – We will continue to learn from other churches and also follow recommendations from State and CDC.**

The consensus by council members is perhaps being cautious at this juncture is the proper response to these times. However, there were also thoughts of “are we being BOLD enough?” Maybe we need to look at some other ways to connect physically? Discussion ensued with regards to our Podcast homework assignment on one church’s response to closing in-person gatherings for the year. The decision made by that church certainly brought clarity and resolve to put their efforts, energy, resources, talent etc. into the 70% that would probably not attend indoor services (due to comfort levels) vs. the 30% that were willing to take that risk. This was definitely food for thought as we navigate these unprecedented times.

Pastor George told us a survey would be going out to all LLUMC congregants for the purpose of getting a sense of how comfortable they would be with regards to indoor service. Questions such as what would make you feel more comfortable attending, or would you be comfortable bringing your children to participate in Sunday school? This survey will be sent out ideally within the next two weeks and we will review the feedback once collected. Pastor George shared with us that the Central Dauphin School District also sent out a survey questioning parents on whether or not they would prefer a hybrid of classes being offered (i.e. ½ in school and ½ online). It is clear that churches, schools, businesses, etc. are all dealing with the question: what next? LLUMC needs to be prepared to go with the flow as things literally could change from one day to the next. This is why it is so important to explore ALL options and

not be “stuck” with a decision that was made at one point and find that with circumstances changing so rapidly it may no longer be feasible.

**Sunday School – We are continuing to imagine new possibilities for students.**

Staff is being creative with figuring out how this might be accomplished using different methods.

**Challenge – What does this experience teach us? How do we, for now, take the focus off of Sunday morning and re-imagine what it means to be a church? We need to think “small” and “outward-facing”. We have no idea how long this will last and what we will be left with when we do return to normal activity.**

A lot of discussion ensued on this whole issue. Pastor George reiterated that perhaps we need to re-examine the worksheet we used in past meetings on “what is really essential”? We need to tailor in-person connections perhaps via “small home church” environments. We could essentially also do Zoom calls with small groups. A point was made that anybody can attend worship services. We all know there are a plethora of opportunities in our community to attend online worship services. LLUMC is not unique in that aspect (albeit we may be a tad better...biased comment here)! What we do realize is there is a “loyalty” as evidenced by the fact that we continue to get financial support via our weekly offerings and people show up to outdoor services in a heat-wave. It seems that folks are thinking we will eventually be getting back to “normal” and they look forward to that day. However, what is important to figure out (not just from our current congregants) but from the outside community on what they **NEED** from us. What can LLUMC do to accommodate the needs within our community? This pandemic could literally go into next year and albeit we know people have been faithful, we need to figure out what we can do to keep them “engaged” and continue to grow our church.

Pastor George shared that on Wednesday morning the Faith Based Advisory Council would be meeting with Susquehanna Township to talk over a variety of things. Pastor George mentioned that if schools go to cyber training perhaps there are pockets of children that we could help by providing a space (whether it is the LLUMC Campus or Rockville) whereby they could have access to online learning provided at one of these campuses.

It was also mentioned that maybe we need to “tap” some others on the shoulder to collect food for the foodbank and give a general drop-off point as the church, whereby others that feel more comfortable pick up the items and deliver to food banks, etc. on behalf of LLUMC. Again there is this thought process that our church is not just for worship, but is actually a resource of services/help to our community as a whole.

**#2 LCNS - LCNS is moving forward with plans to begin on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Plans include temperature checks, parent drop off at the FLC door (exception is 2 year olds), masks, social distancing in classrooms, etc.**

Leadership Council empathized with poor Heidi’s first year with COVID-19 as the backdrop. We all voiced our support of Heidi and the fact that her first year would be memorable at the very least. We are sure this is not quite the “vision” she had in mind for her first year, but she is quite the trooper. One really neat thing LCNS has done is the purchasing of “little plastic desks” whereby they can just take

their portable desk and go plop down on the floor and/or (if weather permits) they can go outside with them! Creative, fun, and COVID-19 practical!

**#3 Rockville Campus** – Taylor has begun work on learning about the mission area, connecting with outside church leaders for training. The Annual Conference is providing a Coach for Taylor for the next 12 months. The Conference is covering the cost of the relationship. Also, Taylor and Pastor George will be participating in Churches Planting Churches seminar (online) with PATH 1. The Annual Conference is paying the \$1,500 registration fee. A team is being assembled to work on the material.

Pastor George shared with us that the PATH 1 training is approximately a 6-8 week training event done completely virtual. Also we should “stay tuned” for more information on the teams being assembled.

**RAYS Building is progressing well. We’ve had lots of help from both people of both campuses.**

Glenda mentioned that one thing we need improvement on is the Rockville Campus Signage whereby you can’t see the sign from every angle and it could be missed.

**#4 Director of Communications** – Kendall is working on Online Campus and also developing a plan for social media and other communications.

Much praise was given to Kendall for literally being thrown into the deep end of the pool with all that is desired from this position. She is looking for ways to make the Online Campus “more functional” on how we can relate to people, etc. She is currently busy working on sorting out the priorities first and foremost and taking it from there.

**Also our NEW Linglestown Life LOGO has been completed.**

Lots of oohing and ahhhhing over our Spiffy NEW LOGO and suggestions for online store whereby LOGO could be attached to mugs, shirts, etc. There is some \$\$ for this I do believe PG mentioned.

**#5 Financial Update** – Giving has been on par or ahead of last year. PPP loan funds continue to be used for salaries (60% available for salaries and 40% utilities, etc.). The conference loan fund (Campaign 2020) has been cut in half since beginning of the year. Balance is below \$60,000.

This was well received by all council members and again shows the commitment from everyone. Pastor George mentioned that expenses too are slightly down (always a good thing) and that by the end of next week we should be receiving the Jan thru June financial reporting. He explained that Danae is working full-time while raising four children and that has understandably created a delay in our reporting.

**#6 G-Teams** – Little to no response to direct e-mail and those responding are hesitant to be involved. Only a few people responded so the sad news is we are NOT getting people to be excited about this.

This continues to be a challenge due to COVID-19. When we think of the G-teams i.e. Gathering is to help people build community and one way we can explore this is by doing the “small house church” gatherings whereby you get together to maybe watch the sermon online in a group. One of the things Pastor George mentioned was the use of plotting out where everyone lives and identifying communities where we can make those connections. We need to think how strategically we can put those groups together.

**OTHER -**

A question came up from Sally with regards to where LLUMC stands on the Racial Injustice initiative. Pastor George shared that a three-part sermon series on this topic will be offered in September. He will be doing the sermons in conjunction with another person of color. There will be discussion groups formed following these sermons and the development of "online stories" will become available highlighting racial situations (i.e. Bi-racial couple explaining the challenges they've faced, or perhaps a person of color being treated unfairly by law enforcement, etc.). Pastor George shared that he continues to attend meetings on this topic to learn further ways in which LLUMC can fortify their response to these injustices.

Tom Wilson called for the meeting to be adjourned at 7:05 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 7?			

**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	Lewis Silverman	Sally Paff
	Jefferson Davenport	Cheryl Lenker