

*Our Mission is to enable persons to encounter the living God as disclosed through Jesus Christ,  
to serve and celebrate God in an ever-changing society.*

BROADWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 28, 2020

**Present** –21 Board Members, 5 Staff meeting remotely by Zoom.

**Opening Prayer**

Steve Westgate opened the meeting with prayer.

**Information Items**

Deb Ward reported that the Visioning team has been continuing to meet. They have been considering how COVID-19 is affecting the church and sharing perspectives on that. The next meeting they will be doing a SWOT analysis: taking a look at strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. They will continue to work and may have to extend the timeline for a final report; although they expect to have something to report by Thanksgiving.

Barbara McLay is in charge of the Stewardship Committee. Testimonials from individuals and families have been included in the online Sunday services. To date 92 pledges have been received for a total of \$367,999 pledged. Ingrid commented that the number of pledges is a bit lower than last year at this time, but the total pledged is a bit more. It was noted that since we are not meeting together, some families may have overlooked the need to send their pledge. Consideration will be given to sending reminders to regular pledgers.

John Poehlmann presented the personnel recommendation for the considerations to be given to Nick Larson upon his departure from ministry at Broadway. (see attached document) Upon John's motion to approve the plan and Ken Askren's second, the Board gave unanimous approval.

**MINISTRY AREAS**

**A. Children's Ministry**—submitted by LeAnn Sapp and Aimee McBride

- Pathways last met in person on March 15. Prior to social distancing, we were enjoying regular attendance of 28-32. Since the implementation of social distancing, we have sent out weekly Bible lessons and started "The Adventures of Flat Jesus" Facebook page. Feedback from families is right now they are stressed by school obligations while also trying to balance that with family/work from home/life expectations, so they are not as able to engage as they would like. We are hopeful that this summer we will be able to engage with our students for Zoom classes and share some time in virtual fellowship with them.
- Worship and wonder had a regular attendance of 4-8. Chuck Davis and Claire Willard continue to serve as our primary classroom leaders with Shawna Schulte and Dennis and Heather Blust providing regular support as well. We are currently working on figuring out a productive way to connect with our youngest children, that does not create added tech stress for their families.
- Jyf (Junior Youth Fellowship) was unable to meet on March 15 but had a virtual gathering on April 19, attended by three students. During this virtual time together, we discussed fellowship and how much we are looking forward to being able to enjoy other people's company.

- Baptism and Pastors classes – Pastors classes have gone virtual. Sunday mornings at 9:15, all baptism candidate, mentors, and pastors come together in zoom to learn more about the history of our church and the important elements of how to be a Christian. It has been a meaningful time for everyone. Baptism Sunday is TBD at this moment, as we work to make sure that we can celebrate this moment while also practicing good hygiene and social distancing.
- Children’s Church pilot program launched on March 1 but was only able to meet twice before social distancing was implemented. Each week we had 12 students participate. We had mixed reviews from leadership on the engagement level of children and if they were benefitting. More time will be needed to determine future of program.

## FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

- It is with a heavy heart that the Children’s Ministries team has recommended there should be no in-person Vacation Bible School this year. There were many factors taken into consideration with this decision, but the biggest one being that children should not be expected to practice in-person social distancing, nor should they ever feel admonished for wanting to hug someone they love. We are currently looking at alternative options like Take-home VBS kits and/or a virtual VBS. None can replace the energy and excitement of a typical VBS, but there is also no replacement for the good health of those we want with us in the future.
- The Children’s Ministries team is recommending that in-person Sunday School not resume until August at the earliest. The team has suggested that we follow the lead of Columbia Public Schools and make sure that we have all the safeguards in place to keep our kids and volunteers in good health. Part of the considerations are the following:
  - How to keep distance between children while also allowing them to enjoy fellowship with one another. We never want a child to feel like they are in trouble for following their natural play instinct.
  - Ensuring that we have all possible safeguards in place for our volunteers and students. This includes regularly disinfecting rooms and supplies as well as having sanitizer and face masks readily available to all that need it. Possibly even temperature monitoring.
  - Developing personal Sunday school kits with crayons, pencils, activity supplies for all children to limit cross contamination exposure

## **B. Youth**—submitted by Linda Wycoff

- Youth group has been meeting weekly via Zoom on Sunday evenings. Attendance has averaged about nine youth.
- Virtual Game Night is being held monthly.
- They have also had the chance to play Art Bingo for the month of April. A bingo board with suggestions for different artistic and creative activities is provided. Youth may display their creations on the youth Facebook page.
- The youth have recorded a Psalm litany, scriptures, and a stewardship moment for the services.
- Some Youth and Children are participating in the Sunday morning Children’s Moments by recording at home.

## FUTURE PLANS

- Youth Sunday originally scheduled for April will be rescheduled in June. (This is to enable graduating seniors to participate.)
- Senior Recognition will be held May 3 in virtual service using videos. During the following week a senior will be featured each day on our social media with pictures and videos.

**C. Deacons**—No report.

**D. Discipleship**—Michelle Marshall

- Not much going in with the shutdown.
- Small groups continue to meet over Zoom.

**CareLink**--Patsy Dalton

- CareLink volunteers have been busy with cards and calls. They continue to work behind the scenes to care for the Broadway family with safe practice considerations.

FUTURE PLANS

- CareLink will continue their activities, expanding as virus considerations allow.

**E. Elders**—submitted by Brent Gahn

- Elders did not meet in April. Many of the Elders have been writing for the Contagious Love devotionals. These have been well received.

FUTURE PLAN

- They plan to have an Elders Circle meeting before the Board meeting in May, and will continue writing for Contagious Love.

**F. Fellowship**—submitted by Dixie Fisher

- **March 8:** Chili Cookoff/ congregational meeting was well-attended (about 175). We had 17 crocks of donated chili.
- **March 20:** Game Night (BUNCO!). Event was cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns.
- **April 12:** Easter Breakfast. Event was cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns.
- **Budget request submitted:** Fellowship Committee requested \$1,500 for next year.

FUTURE PLANS

- **May Event:** No current plan for holding an event in May
- **June:** Anticipating providing dinner at the Annual Meeting. Lee's Fried Chicken.
- We will consider having some kind of easy, relaxed outdoor picnic event

**G. Mission and Outreach Ministry**—Wayne Dykstra

- Everything is pretty much on hold because of travel restrictions.
- One thousand dollars was donated to Love, Inc. for a single mother, and \$1,750 was given to help families that are part of the early learning center for which we are a sponsor.

## **H. Permanent Funds**—submitted by Rebecca Gingerich

### FUTURE PLANS

- A reminder to board members that the next requests for permanent funds distributions must be received by April 30th.
- Permanent funds can be used only for funding ministry items over and above the annual budget. No item already included in the budget will be eligible.

## **I. Property**— Mike Crews

- Things are pretty quiet since the building is not in use.
- They are taking advantage of that opportunity to install an intercom and do some painting and carpet cleaning.
- Don Harter has done some spring cleanup
- A drip system was installed in the Memorial Garden.

## **J. Worship Ministry**—Mary Cunningham

- Nothing to report.

## **Membership Report**

Ingrid reported a total membership of 666 with 607 active members. We lost one member, Ruth Akerson, in April.

## **Financial Report**

Martha Head submitted the financial report showing a net activity of \$39,492.65 for March.

## **Executive Committee Report**—Steve Westgate

It was noted that the online services are being well received.

Emergency preparedness was discussed. The first phase is to encourage families to have an emergency plan. Flip charts will be installed in each room detailing emergency plans for that specific room. While there is considerable concern about the active shooter scenario, it is actually the emergency least likely to happen. There will be some training, with consideration to age appropriateness in the presentations.

Crystal Harrison is the new All God's Children coordinator. She has been meeting with parents and interns from MU. She is the mother of five, has a Master's degree in Special Education, and teaches at Our Lady of Lourdes school.

Consideration was given to a request for the bus to be used for transport to a medical appointment for someone needing a lift for whom other transportation was not available. It was agreed that it could be covered under the current bus policy as a part of the CareLink ministry.

Ken Askren moved that the Board vote to approve this action and interpretation of the bus policy. Nancy Welty seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

## **Action Items**

No further action items.

## **New Business**

Steve Westgate will assemble a group of health experts to work with the ministers and Exec committee to determine the appropriate time for resuming in-person meetings and services.

### **Minister's Remarks**

**Nick Larson** expressed his love for Broadway and the ministry opportunities and experiences he has had here. He treasures the expressions of appreciation that he has received from many individual members.

**Terry Overfelt** noted that it has been a rewarding opportunity to work together incorporating all three worship styles in the online services.

**Mark Briley** expressed that it was comforting to note that Christian author Diana Butler Bass has said that "I don't know," is often the right answer.

### **Closing Comments and Prayer**

Steve commented that he has been impressed with how the ministry team and Elders have been so effective at maintain the church's ministry through unusual circumstances. The online services, including the Wednesday vespers have been particularly appreciated.

He also noted that everything has a beginning, middle, and an end. We will be moving slowly through this process.

Mark closed the meeting with these words from Diana Butler Bass:

"Feel what you feel.

Mix in love and gratitude even if that seems hard or impossible.

Take responsibility for what you can and don't try to fix what is beyond your control.

Embrace the day.

And... know you are not alone."

Minutes submitted by Betty Sapp, Secretary

## Personnel Notes

To: Broadway Christian Church's Executive Committee

From: John Poehlmann, Personnel Committee Chair

Re: Nick's Departure

Given Nick's resignation, the Personnel Committee proposes the following in recognition of both Nick's ministry at Broadway and realities of life during the COVID-19 pandemic:

1. Nick's end date is May 31 for serving us as a minister. April and May will be at full pay with benefits and serve as a time for transition and interacting with staff, members and friends as he closes his ministry here.
2. Three months of full compensation and benefits (healthcare, retirement, housing & social security) be provided beyond Nick's end date: June 1 through August 31 (est. \$17,045).
3. Nick's healthcare coverage and counseling costs (\$3,401.92) be covered by Broadway September 1 through December 31, 2020 due to conditions under the pandemic. Healthcare can be extended under the existing policy beyond December 31 if needed and would be Nick's responsibility for paying these premiums.

2019-2020 Personnel Committee members: George Fletcher, Dana Fritz, Marilee Fischer, Charlotte George, Chris Meade, Tina Van Ness, Rob Weir and John Poehlmann, chair