**Eastside United Church Leadership Team**

**Minutes of the March 25, 2020 Meeting**

**Attendees:** Sarah Tkachuk, Russell Mitchell-Walker, Bonnie Yake, Sam Baidoo, Cathie Henderson, Doug Scheurwater, Anita Tessier, Jim Fallows, Wanda Barr, Bonny Manz

| **Agenda**  **#** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Call to Order – Sarah**  Sarah called the meeting to order at 7:06. |  |
|  | **Opening Devotion – Russell**  Russell read a poem called “Pandemic” written by Lynn Unger in early March, 2020. |  |
|  | **Acceptance of the Agenda**  One new item added under New Business, “Covenant”. Doug moved acceptance. 2nd by Bonnie. Carried. |  |
|  | **Minutes of the February 13, 2020 and January 8, 2020 meeting**  Doug moved acceptance of the February 13, 2020 and January 8, 2020 minutes. 2nd by Sam. Carried. |  |
|  | **Reports (30 minutes)**  **5.1 Minister’s – Russell**  As circulated.  Some highlights:   * Has been calling some seniors that do not have access to online information. * Has received some feedback about March 22nd’s service on Zoom. The numbers of people accessing the service was quite high. Wesley are beginning on online service on March 29th. * The pandemic response has been taking priority for both Eastside and the United Churches within Regina and nationally. * Russell currently on-call for hospital visits for prayers should someone die. That is the only time the health authority is allowing the chaplaincy service peeople into the hospitals. The person that generally does chaplaincy is in a high risk group so is self-isolating.   **5.2 M&P - Cathie**  Harvey seems to be fitting in and is doing quite well in the Communications position. He is currently working from home. There is a specific contact on the M&P committee that he will contact in case of overtime or wanting leave time (ie. Holidays).  Some discussion on Michelle’s time for accompanying Advent choir for practices.  ***Cathie moved Michelle be given an honorarium of $225.00 for providing past choir accompaniament. 2nd by Anita. Carried.***  **5.3 Region - Doug**  NIL.  **5.4 Finance – Jim**  Russell advised that there have been announcements in the weekly announcements and newsletter, as well as on the powerpoint slides, asking that those not on PAR do their offering via online or mail. Both Bonny and Doug volunteered to check for offering at the church on an intermittent basis.  There is also offering being received online. Jim believed notice is being received when that is done.  **5.5 Living Spirit Centre Committee – Bonnie**  Dog park update – the south entrance and drive through is to be widened so that the parking lot for the dog park can be easily accessed. No timelines at this time.  The foregoing will be discussed at LSCC’s next meeting on March 31st, as well as the budget and a suggestion by BOL about a potential deferral of the mortgage(business line), and our Caretaker’s pay during COVID-19.  Doug was wondering about checking the building for leaks, etc. during this time.  **5.6 Faith Formation**  The house groups were recently reorganized. There is also consideration about getting a Music Director, perhaps using the money set aside that was received from Whitmore Park’s closure.  **5.7 Gratitude team**  There are still a few people to be contacted. It has been a huge job and, if planning to do it again, more helpers will be required. Russell is working on a house group phone tree.  **5.8 Congregational care**  The committee has been very active with lots of phone calls. Eastside’s weekly announcements and weekly emails are being printed and hand delivered to the few people that are unable to access to the online ones.  **5.9 Chair – Sarah**  As circulated.  The main points included a review of the process against strategic priorities and an update on meetings regarding potential opportunities to connect with the Balgonie and Wesley churches. | Bonny and Doug to coordinate between them.  Doug to check with other Property committee members.  Faith Formation to research further and report at LT’s April meeting. |
|  | **Emergency preparedness/COVID-19 (30 minutes)**  **6.1 Update from Russell**  The latest book for the Craft/Study has been completed. The book for the next session will be accessed online. An evening study called “Courageous Faith” is beginning on Thursday, March 26th. Film and Faith will be held Friday, March 27th. All the foregoing being done via Zoom.    **6.2 Future plans**  **- call lists/pastoral support/connection in the community**  Russell participated in a call with the Ministers from this geographic area – Eastside, Wesley, Sunset, and Broadway. Balgonie is considered part of the group but currently has no Minister. They discussed coverage for each other if a Minister is unable to work. Wesley would invite Eastside to their Sunday service should ours not be available. Ministers from other churches will provide pastoral care for each other. Regular contact between them will be maintained. No funerals will be held until this is over, except perhaps a graveside burial service with immediate family only. There are weekly meetings for Lay people at this time. Russell also did up a card that is available online that can be printed and left with neighbours if members want to offer their assistance to them should they need it. Doug said the ICF breakfasts are continuing but as “take out”. They go to the door and hand them to whomever comes for breakfast.  **- back up for staff**  Harvey working from home. No one currently available for backup. Suggestion that someone contact Suzanne to see if she might provide backup for Harvey, if required  **- future preparations?**  May need to prepare for funerals.  **- changes to budget**  Zoom was purchased. Some conferences were cancelled and one of Russell’s training sessions deferred to possibly later this year. May be somewhat less offering over this time. Zoom can be used for 100 connections and it is hoped that is enough for Eastside.  **- offering counting and deposit**  See item 6.4. | Sarah to contact Suzanne. |
|  | **Business Arising from the Minutes (15 minutes)**  **6.1 Strategic plan and action plan review**  Most of the Recommendations from the Strategic Plan are going well.  Russell is doing daily prayer.  Doug commented that we just have to deal with things as they come along, and stay flexible.  **6.2 Alcohol policy**  Bonnie, Peter Braun and Russell working on it.  **6.3 Feedback from gratitude team**  We must remind people about our financial requirements, that they don’t stop.  Sarah thanked Wanda and the team for all they have accomplished. | Feedback on services will be requested about the Zoom services. |
|  | **New Business (5 minutes)**  **8.1 New Covenant – Russell – tabled to next meeting**  A covenant is required. | Sarah will check with Tracy. |
|  | **Next Meeting**  April 22, 2020 7 pm Leadership Team  May 24, 2020 programming meeting |  |
|  | **Adjournment**  Sarah adjourned the meeting at 8:59. |  |