**Eastside United Church Leadership Team**

**Minutes of the April 22, 2020 Meeting**

**Attendees:** Sarah Tkachuk, Russell Mitchell-Walker, Bonnie Yake, Sam Baidoo, Bonny Manz, Jim Fallows, Cathie Henderson, Maureen Hughes, Amanda Benesh

| **Agenda**  **#** |  | **Action** |
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|  | **Call to Order – Sarah**  Sarah called the meeting to order at 7:03. |  |
|  | **Opening Devotion – Russell**  Devotion and prayer. |  |
|  | **Acceptance of the Agenda**  Two items added under New Business, Faith Formation and LSCC reports. Bonnie moved acceptance. 2nd by Cathie. Carried. |  |
|  | **Minutes of the March 25, 2020 meeting**  Cathie moved acceptance of the minutes. 2nd by Cathie. Carried. |  |
|  | **Reports - Tabled** |  |
|  | **Emergency preparedness/COVID-19 (45 minutes)**  **6.1 Update from Russell**  The worship services are going well with more attendees than regular worship. There has been good feedback. Staff meetings continue to be held once a week. Craft/Study group is continuing via Zoom, as well as meetings and “Courageous Faith” Thursday evenings. Harvey doing well, lots to learn in that position. Very good on social media.    **6.2 Future plans**  **- Current plans – Wesley services**  Discussions have been held with Wesley and Russell did an orientation for Zoom with a few people. We will need to determine if this works well. The plan is for Wesley to host the May 10th service.  There is some uncertainty on whether holding joint services is a good idea and how long we may need to continue them is unknown. One of the reasons for doing this is to relieve some pressure on Russell, who has found his workload has increased with COVID-19. The plan is to try it with each church maintaining their regular service times – Wesley 10:30 and Eastside 11:15.  Russell also spoke about a celebration of the 10-year anniversary as an Affirming Ministry. The anniversary date is May 4th but Russell said the original plan was to do it as part of the Pride Service on June 7th. Since that service is not happening, other plans need to be made.  **- Summer services**  Discussions ongoing with BOL and SP on how summer services will be conducted. No decisions yet.  **- Programming service/annual meeting**  National office says these meetings can be deferred but it was felt our meeting can be conducted via Zoom.  **6.3 Budget Review - Jim**  Most of our costs are fixed but there is a concern envelope giving may start decreasing. Some donations have been coming in online and a few envelopes have been mailed or dropped off at the church. Sarah suggested we check on the wage subsidy for employees being offered by the government, although we do not know if national office is already looking into that.  **6.4 Staffing – Report from M&P**  Cathie spoke about the number of hours of overtime Russell has put in, especially the first couple of weeks of the pandemic. It has eased up somewhat now. Cathie said a concern was raised about backup on using Zoom in case Brian not available sometime and when Russell is off.  The Congregational Care Team has been extra busy making phone calls and dropping off bulletins to those that don’t access them on line. Some appreciation should be given to those members. Perhaps a gift and/or card?  Russell said that the Region has been holding regular meetings with lay people and suggested someone from M&P and/or the Leadership Team attend. Lori can attend. The announcement for the meetings is in the Regional Rambler.  Sarah contacted Suzanne about being backup for Harvey but she is very busy with her new job and perhaps would be willing to be Plan C. No specific backup at this time. | Additional advertising of Zoom service may be done on social media.  Russell will speak to his Affirming Ministry Network and perhaps LGBTQ community.  Will be held June 14th.  Jim and Anita to check with national.  Amanda volunteered to be backup.  Maureen said Gratitude Team has cards. |
|  | **7.1 Report from Faith Formation - Amanda**  Research and discussion has been done on having a part-time person for music ministry, as a use for the Whitmore Park funds. This person will help form direction for programming music for children, youth, and adults. The idea is to have them work from September until June, with the potential to extend after that. It would be done in the hope that it may draw in more children and youth to the church. Until larger gatherings can be held this likely cannot move forward.  **7.2 Report from LSCC – Bonnie**  We are currently getting less rent so revenue decrease for LSC. BOL has asked about deferring payments until September, then paying by the end of the year. So far, mortgage and utilities have not been deferred. Another meeting to be held in May to revisit the budget. | Sarah suggested tabling the decision until we have a better idea of the 2020 financial results. |
|  | **Next Meeting**  May 27, 2020 7 pm Leadership Team  June 14, 2020 programming meeting |  |
|  | **Closing Prayer - Russell** |  |
|  | **Adjournment**  Bonnie adjourned the meeting at 9:01. |  |