

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Board of Directors Meeting – held virtually.

5.25.2021

Present: Sara McCormack (President), Robert Beggs (Vice President), Wade Huseh (Treasurer), David Vogt (Secretary), Tyler Gold, Betsy Johnson, Vern Andren, Rick Blum (Staff), Chris Enstad (Lead Pastor)

Absent: Elizabeth Deterding, Angie Rieger

Guests: None

Events:

1. Meeting called to order by Sara at 12:03pm
2. Devotion lead by Sara focused on the word unity (Romans 8).
3. Summary of Covid Task Force items agreed upon:
 - a. Eliminate capacity limits for indoor services.
 - b. Maintain social distancing in seating.
4. Motion #1
 - a. Bob moves to remove capacity limits at both campuses while maintaining social distancing in seating.
 - b. Seconded by Betsy.
 - c. No discussion.
 - d. Motion carries unanimously.
5. Motion #2
 - a. Bob moves that the board adopt the Dane county guidelines on 6.2 removing the need for masks for vaccinated church attendees, maintaining that non-vaccinated church attendees wear masks, and continuing to support people to will prefer to continue to wear masks.
 - b. Seconded by Vern.
 - c. Discussion
 - i. Vern stated we should have some words in the Messenger that if members feel uneasy about the decision, we should give them someone to talk about it with.
 - ii. Sara explained the concerns of the medical group on the task force. They had concerns about the vaccination of 12–15-year-olds, and whether enough of them have been vaccinated.
 - iii. Bob shared the Dane County info that 80% of adults have been partially or fully vaccinated. Age band of 12-17 vaccination rates were discussed as about 50%. Members of the Covid Task Force wanted that number to be higher.
 - iv. Vern commented that we'll never have a perfect specified number, and we can reserve the ability to monitor rates and call a meeting to discuss if a situation arises.
 - v. Chris discussed scripture and softened his opinion overnight. Reminded the board of the quote, "Which commandment is most important. You should love God above all others. You should love your neighbor as yourself."

- vi. Vern thought it may be harmful to wait because you must do this at some time and wants to show the congregation that we are on top of the issue you.
- vii. Dave prefers options available for both preferences – wait and let people chose indoor or outdoor for now as they see fit. Allowing options for each segment of our mask wearing congregants. No rush to unmask in church.
- viii. Wade agreed pointing out that by providing masked services we allow three options (masked, unmasked, and virtual). Prefers picking a date in the future to allow people to get vaccinated.
- ix. Chris shared that we cannot police what people will do. Our faith must be in God, not in each other's judgements.
- x. Betsy: If we wait it is because we want people to have the opportunity to vaccinated. There may be a risk to not allow people in worship without masks if the guidelines allow it. There will be some people that will not come to church because they want to worship indoors, and they are being told to wear a mask.
- xi. Chris offered that we may lose some people with either option.
- xii. Bob stated that the current motion allows for everyone to make their own choices. Following Dane County guidelines allows for a straightforward date.
- xiii. Vern commented that picking a date is the most important thing but did not like delaying.
- xiv. Tyler supported the motion as is.
- xv. Sara agreed that we need to plan for opening for mask optional worship, but when and how is the key. If we delay, we have to use the appropriate language with the thought of unity and faith as the deciding factor.
- xvi. Chris said it was important to make sure that no one feels judged for their choice.
- xvii. Bob also agreed that we need to announce a date to the congregation.
- xviii. Sara offered up 7.4.21 because it gives people time to get vaccinated and time for the congregation to get accustomed to the date.
- xix. Motion withdrawn by Bob and Vern agreed.

6. Motion #3

- a. Wade moves that Good Shepherd adopt the Dane county guidelines and transition to a mask optional environment in all indoor and outdoor activities effective 6.20.21.
 - b. Bob seconded.
 - c. Discussion
 - i. Wade offered this so that it gives people time to understand this transition.
 - ii. Wade also identifies that this will give people who choose to vaccinate time to do so for themselves or their children.
 - d. Motion carries unanimously.
7. Tabling any discussion on non-mask singing until we have additional time to review the existing research.
8. Chris ended the meeting in prayer at 12:56pm.

9. Motion #4

- a. Vern motioned to end the meeting.
- b. Bob seconded.

c. Motion carries unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

David A. Vogt, Secretary

Good Shepherd Vision

By the grace of God and the love of Jesus Christ, we will meet each person where they are, and invite them into transformative relationships with God, each other, and the communities in which we live and serve. We will cultivate and empower lay leaders to support this life-changing work at Good Shepherd and beyond.

Good Shepherd Mission

In response to God's love and grace we...Welcome as we have been welcomed, forgive as we have been forgiven, serve as we have been served.