

Kennewick First United Methodist Church

Virtual Charge Conference
November 22, 2020
Meeting Minutes

Presiding: District Superintendent Reverend Joanne Coleman Campbell

Attendance: Larry Jelsing, Kathy Harris, Rich Nelson, Sharon Varzandeh, Michelle Hare, Davey Hare, Jill Berg, Rachel Loomis, Amberley Almarode, Starlite Buchholz, Roberta Barcot, Cheryl Nixon, Cynthia Bement, Peggy Puryear, Pastor Mark McMurray, and Reverend Joanne Coleman Campbell.

Welcome - Pastor Mark McMurray welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced any new attendees.

Opening Prayer – Pastor Mark McMurray gave the opening prayer.

Reverend Joanne Coleman Campbell asked what has been the most challenging and has worked well since the COVID-19 pandemic started:

Dave Hare: Maintaining state and local standards while continuing our missions, such as Soul Soup. Our church has done some “unnatural” things, such as Zoom, etc. We have kept a great Emergency Plan throughout, while reaching out to the community.

Kathy Harris: The United Methodist Women had a successful Holly Daze Bazaar in October and has another Bazaar scheduled in December.

Cynthia Bement: For congregational care, the Lay Servants have been calling and keeping up with the congregation who live alone.

Amberley Almarode: Thank you to Pastor Mark for always having the staff’s back.

Rachel Loomis: Proud of the youth and youth leaders that have kept up with Zoom.

Jill Berg: Thanks to Rich Nelson for applying for the small business loan that paid the payroll for several months and now has been totally forgiven.

Reverend Joanne Coleman Campbell: Thank you to all the KFUMC congregation who made sifters!! And the KFUMC Reimagination Plan was awesome!!

Reading of Scripture – Jeremiah 29: 1-14 (CEB) was read by Jill Berg.

Reverend Joanne Coleman Campbell gave a sermon on Jeremiah’s Letter to the Exiles in Babylon and how that applies to our hope in God today.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Accountability Questions:

- Have all the church's financial activities been audited for 2019? **Yes**
- Are your corporate status and property tax exemptions current? **Yes**
- Is your Fire and Liability insurance current and paid? **Yes**
- If you have a parsonage, has it been reviewed? **Yes**
- Does your church have a "Safe Church" policy? **Yes**
- Are you current on abuse awareness training and national background checks on volunteers and staff? **Yes**
- Is your church current on its apportionments? **Yes**

Membership Report – Pastor Mark McMurray and Cheryl Nixon gave the membership report. KFUMC welcomed 8 new members in 2020 and 144 members were removed. The read list for 2019 and 2020 was read. Cynthia Bement stated that Peter and Lauren Horan should be left on the membership rolls. Joanne explained that the 2019 list of people can be removed from our membership rolls.

Pastor's Compensation Report – Michelle Hare went over the Pastoral Support Worksheet. She explained that it reflects a 2% increase that was agreed upon. The Pastor's pension is being paid by the Conference office, which reflects a 1% increase. The attendees voted unanimously to accept the report.

Election of Leaders Report – Pastor Mark explained how the voting would go. First vote would be to elect the slate of officers. The second vote would be to allow the elected officers to fill in the vacancies and that those members would serve until the Charge Conference in June 2021. Both votes were unanimous.

Lay Servant's Report – Cynthia Bement read Lay Servant Kookie Graham's report and stated what a good and faithful servant to God that Kookie is. The attendees voted unanimously to re-certify Kookie as a Lay Servant.

United Methodist Women's Report – Kathy Harris explained the details of the October drive-thru Holly Days Bazaar.

Congregational Care Report – Cynthia Bement explained how she is delivering worship CDs and current Upper Rooms to our congregants that are unable to view worship online or need the Upper Room booklets delivered instead of mailed by the office staff. A big thanks to Chuck Smith for making the worship CDs.

Church Council – Jill Berg spoke about how the topic of their retreat last year was, "Everyone is a beloved child of God". Come 2020, and the Church Council became the Emergency Planning Team. They have had to look at being present instead of being somewhere else. The "why" has never changed.

United Methodist Youth - Rachel Loomis reported on the Youth Program and how when COVID-19 hit they had to cancel the mission trip, but the youth have been staying in contact by having Bible studies on Zoom, a socially distanced Ice block and a Trunk-or-Treat.

Starlite Buchholz explained how 300 backpacks, including school supplies were handed out to our local community through a drive-thru in the Kennewick First parking lot.

Where we are as the United Methodist Church: – Reverend Joanne Coleman Campbell spoke about three important topics:

1. Looking at staffing, different plans, and cleaning ideas, as we proceed into 2021 with COVID-19.
2. The General Conference that was scheduled for May of 2020 is now projected for August or September of 2021. The topic will be on the state of the United Methodist Church's seeing a movement of a civil moment – The Greater Northwest Conference "Where Love Lives".
3. Dismantling Institutional Racism – We are all raised with biases. We should all acknowledge that we think different ideas of colored things.

Kennewick First needs to make a slideshow of all the different symbols and pictures in the church and share the meaning with the congregation. Is it balanced? Seeing a variety of people helps a congregation. Do some self-reflecting. This slide show needs to be presented to the Church Council by January 2021 and shared with other Methodist churches in February or March of 2021.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Mark thanked all the staff individually for everything they do.

Prayer and Benediction given by Reverend Joanne Coleman Campbell, District Superintendent

Prepared by Cheryl Nixon, Office Manager