**COMMUNITY MEETING MINUTES**

September 15, 2020

6:30pm

Pastor Dr. Brian Abasciano

Pastor Kevin Kimball

# of congregants attending: 31

Pastors Abasciano and Kimball opened the meeting at 6:38pm with prayer. Agenda items included:

Usage of the Lovejoy Parsonage If Time Allows

Church Chairs Ministry Opportunities

Small Groups Halloween Outreach

COVID Christmas Shoe Boxes

Service Opportunities (Deacons’ list)

Usage of the Lovejoy Christian Education and Fellowship Center

Pastor Brian spoke to several opportunities for use of the Lovejoy CEFC:

* Temporary residence (October – December) for Pastor Michael John and family due to recent sale of their church parsonage. John family would pay utilities and allow for continued use of the building for FCC ministries.
* Two-year residence for Christian Education Leader Gary Kimball and wife, Kate. Non-precedence setting opportunity that would allow them to save money to purchase their own home as well as relocate to the church campus, giving Gary dedicated space and access to Go Class resources and materials. Gary and Kate would be responsible for utilities.
* Mentioned as examples of potential use: for various church meetings, residence for a pastoral intern, a soup kitchen, for the homeless

Discussion ensued on the first and second options, on homeschool and Down the Line use of the building, repair projects slated, savings to utilities cost offsetting the cost to heat the church more frequently due to usage, moving the basement project up to the front of the list, and the possibility of allowing both the John and Kimball families use of the building. Pastors Brian and Kevin will take the congregation’s input under advisement as they make the final decision. The discussion ended in prayer.

Chairs

Pastor Brian spoke to the possibility of replacing the church pews with chairs. Pros included addressing the limited seating with pews, arranging COVID friendly seating, potentially gaining 20 more seats, expanding the use of the sanctuary to allow for community dinners, small groups, and enhancing current ministries opportunities with spacing options. Cons included spending the money on other things (missionaries, etc.).

Discussion ensued on the types of chairs being considered, the need to do the actual math to determine the number of chairs that could fit in the area, being mindful of other project costs. It was the consensus of those present to replace the pews with chairs. Pastors Brian and Kevin will take the congregation’s input under advisement as they make the final decision. The discussion ended in prayer.

Small Groups (Bible Study and Prayer)

Pastor Kevin announced that due to COVID, there will be no Bible Study/Prayer/Small Groups for the fall and winter months; but instead, a weekly training series on evangelism will be offered on Tuesday evenings at the church. The series God Space is an interactive, 6-week course that will equip believers to hold spiritual conversations naturally. This series will be followed by trainings in sharing the Gospel and sharing personal testimony.

Discussion ensued on the enthusiasm for the training, on congregants taking the initiative to hold prayer sessions and Bible studies apart from the training series, developing prayer partners, returning to small groups at a later date, college student participation and COVID protocols. The discussion ended in prayer.

COVID

Pastor Brian spoke to the COVID protocols in place, the fact that many congregants are mixing with one another without restrictions, the wearing of masks when entering and moving around the church building, and the risk factors for those with specific health issues. He then solicited feedback with respect to the protocols in place.

Discussion ensued on the increase of risk when meeting as a large crowd, being symptom aware and refraining from in-person participation when appropriate, utilizing the Zoom videoconference tool, being mindful of the surrounding communities’ virus activity, serving one another regardless of where one stands on the issue, revisiting the protocol during the winter months, the science on the use of masks, the data relative to the virus itself, and ventilation options for the sanctuary. Pastors Brian and Kevin will take the congregation’s input under advisement as they continue to monitor the situation.

Service Opportunities

Pastor Brian spoke to the updated service list that will be disseminated within the next day or so, and for congregants to prayerfully consider serving in the vacant areas. He noted that other service opportunities may be added to the list as needed.

Paul Hemond spoke to getting the safety items on the projects list address soon and invited congregants to sign up to lead or assist in any of the projects listed.

Cathy Belcher spoke to cleaning the church and the Lovejoy CEFC on Saturday morning in preparation for the return to church.

The discussion ended in prayer on COVID protocols and service opportunities.

The business portion of the community meeting ended at 8:28pm.

The congregation then enjoyed a short video in celebration of Pastor Brian’s birthday.