

USG Board of Trustees Minutes 3/24/20 (Virtual Meeting)

1. **Minutes** - 2/25/20 Board minutes were approved as submitted.
2. **MET Update** - Recovery Groups are no longer meeting in the USG building (their decision). The livestream worship service on 3/22/20 received very good feedback and members really appreciated it. The Mayor of Philadelphia issued a stay-at-home order, but religious activities are exempt. Nine people were physically present at USG on Sunday morning and social distancing and other safe practices were observed. We are trying to have as few people as possible in the USG building and efforts are ongoing to find the best ways to offer services and other church activities online. Andrea noted that she couldn't access the Sunday service (others also had difficulty). The team planning future services will work on ways to provide real-time help for anyone having difficulty with online access. Kent mentioned that a Zoom manager is needed. Please forward any suggestions for someone to fill this position to him.
The Caring Committee coordinated a team through the Villages that made calls to members this past week. Lisa Dutton and Linda Bernstein spearheaded this effort. An attempt was made to reach all members just to check in to see how they were doing. Unsuccessful calls were followed up with emails or texts. Kent mentioned the idea of weekly waves of outreach to stay connected.
3. **Finances** - Jenn was contacted by the Toledo Community Foundation offering possible financial assistance to USG. We need to identify for Crystal Penn what needs this group might be able to help us meet.

The Service Auction, originally scheduled for 4/25 has been put on hold. Depending on how the current pandemic develops, a decision will need to be made about whether to hold it a later date or just cancel it for this year. The Auction was budgeted at \$19,000. Rental income from the Coop Nursery School, the Home School and the Summer Camp (as well as other rentals) is now uncertain. The ability of members to fulfill pledges is also uncertain. The good news is that 71% of pledges for this year have been received and some expenses will be less, which may help somewhat to balance the budget. Our cash flow is sufficient for now, but this will be continuously monitored and Kent and the MET will keep us informed. There are many unknowns. It was noted that we need to be thinking about how the Endowment might be used to help us get through any funding shortfalls. It was also agreed that more frequent communication will be needed to keep everyone up-to-date.

4. **Lifetime Achievement Award, Congregational Award and Hit the Ground Running Award** - Names were presented for consideration and discussed. Jenn will send an email to Board members with names of nominees and instructions for voting.
5. **Videos** - Kent requested that people consider making videos (easy to do on a smartphone) that could be posted on the USG website or in church emails. The content could include saying something about what USG means to you, for instance, or just something meaningful to you. Be creative.
6. **Maintaining Connections and Support** - Debbie commented on the need to connect with people living alone. Kent explained he views connections and support in terms of 3 areas: 1) Health 2) Social and Emotional 3) Employment and Money. He would like to launch support groups for 1) parents 2) People who are alone in quarantine.

Note: There is no formal MET report this month because so many things are on hold.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sam Stormont - USG Board Secretary