

# CPMC Conference Ministers and Congregational Pastors

Wednesday, March 25, 2020

Susan Janzen opened the meeting with prayer.

Meghan Florian, managing editor of Menno Media, provided copyright information for using materials in virtual settings:

- *Hymnal: A Worship Book* — p. 862 gives permission for one-time use of one item without the need to seek copyright permission. Page 862 also begins the index of Copyright holders and the entity that holds the copyright for each song in *HWB*. If the individual song is not listed in the Index, it is considered Public Domain. Resources that are considered Public Domain are free to use. If you want to use several resources from the *HWB* in a single service, email Meghan for permission (which she says is virtually always granted).
- **Additional information from Meghan:** Please follow these same procedures for materials in *Sing the Journey* and *Sing the Story*; each of these books also has an index of Copyright holders at the back. The “use one song without permission” rule applies to EACH book, which means you could use one song from each of the three books in a worship service without having to ask permission.
- For closed platforms (ZOOM would be an example) permission is not required. E.g. - reading a book to children for Children's time on ZOOM - no permission is needed.
- For livestreaming - permission must be sought and received. E.g. - If you want to read a book to children during a livestream, you need to request permission from the publisher to do so.
- OneLicense is a good way to consolidate various copyright holder requests into a single request and they are temporarily offering free memberships. [OneLicense.net]
- CCLI has an additional license available for livestreaming services. [us.ccli.com]
- Imagery reproduction: (e.g. Photos to use behind text for a hymn.)
  - Google has a filter to help people find “free to use or share” resources.
  - Unsplash.com is another resource for backgrounds for text.

Susan invited each pastor on the call to share their experiences from the past week:

- *Michael Loss*, Wellman MC – It has been a busy week. They are thinking creatively about how to be in touch.
- *Larry Nail*, Julesburg MC – Busy. They had been livestreaming their services prior to the pandemic. He is calling members on the phone, rather than doing in-person visits. CO may mandate shelter-in-place order this week/coming week. Will have to adapt.
- *Pam Gerig-Unruh*, Washington MC – expressed frustration with the ZOOM platform acquisition being complicated by her being an interim pastor, rather than a regular pastor. They have had to involve MC USA to vouch for her. Ministry is taking more time than usual.
- *Michael Swartzendruber*, Wayland MC – They are figuring things out. Working on contact information updates.
- *Beth Miller*, Pleasant View MC – She is working full time to keep up. People who are new to some of the platforms need step-by-step directions for how to access and use them. Phone calls can be tiring/draining.
- *Lewis Miller*, Beemer MC – they are using group emails/texts to communicate, but some members do not have email or don't text, so they must be looped in individually. Some of the

emails have garnered only limited responses, so he doesn't have all the input he would like to have. They are considering a ZOOM option for worship services for those congregants who can ZOOM in.

- *Kelsey Guckenberger*, Christ Community Church – She was ill this past week, so she feels disconnected, but things are going ok. She will probably have to live-stream from their home, as the worship space they use will not allow her access while she is ill. They used Facebook Live last Sunday and it went well. She is using email more to stay connected.
- *Corey Miller*, Salem Zion MC – He did a ZOOM meeting for the children of the church, reading a book, singing songs and showing the children their kitties. He plans to make this a weekly event.
- *Jon Harder*, First MC, Mt. Lake – The Deacons are calling parishioners. The secretary is sending emails to keep people connected and informed. They will begin to use ZOOM.
- *David Heusinkveld*, West Union MC – He is sensing anxiety in general but is not able to determine what, exactly, is causing individuals anxiety (what individuals are anxious about – transmission of virus, money concerns, losing their employment, etc.). He is trying to manage his own anxiety.
- *Galen Kauffman*, Bethel MC – This last week was disorienting for him. He feels that communication is like “pushing a chain”. They are updating email lists and delivering printed materials to those without email. They are including links to other churches on-line services. They will try the ZOOM platform.
- *Adam Nussbaum*, Third Way – The leadership team has been calling parishioners.
- *Suzanne Ford* – Zion MC – It has been a stressful week. She has committed to calling parishioners once weekly. They will start worship services on-line if they are unable to meet for more than 2 weeks. The congregation is not very tech ready/savvy at this point. There has been a death with loose ties to their congregation, but no funeral plans at present. There are no COVID-19 cases in their town, but they are self-quarantining.
- *Nick Detweiler-Stoddard*, Salem MC, Freeman, SD – The Deacons are meeting by ZOOM weekly and are telephoning parishioners to check in. He has noted anxiety, and also grief, among parishioners over the loss of personal contact and the cancellation of anticipated events. He is grieving that this is how his ministry at this congregation will end, as he is taking another position this summer. The congregation is planning a ZOOM meeting for Sunday morning.
- *Jack Scandrett*, Hutterthal MC – He is intentionally managing his personal anxiety with exercise and self-care. He is working to empower church lay leadership. Considering live-streaming in near future. This is an exciting challenge.
- *Shawn Nolt*, Salem MC, Shickley, NE – He noted that he sees a number of people at the grocery store or post office, while maintaining social distance. They are using Google chats or What's App? They had already been using OneCallNow (a phone messaging system). They used YouTube for the Sunday morning service. Weebly for webhosting has a Donor Box to receive on-line donations. They are using ZOOM for Bible Studies. He is going to try to include others who would have participated in the Sunday morning service by having them pre-record their part (Scripture reading, children's time, etc.) and then combing all the parts into one presentation.
- *Joel Beachy*, East Union MC – There has been a death in the congregation. They are postponing the funeral service indefinitely and he is wondering how to walk with the family in this time of grief and uncertainty. He is postponing his sabbatical that had been planned for this summer, as it was very travel-oriented. There is grief over this loss/postponement. He is also finishing up his AMBS classwork for graduation in May – more stress.

- *Ry Siggelkow*, Faith MC – Ry is also transitioning out of his pastorate into another job on June 1. How to end well? He has created a Google Form for care and assistance for his congregation. Congregants fill in what they have to offer (services, words of encouragement, time to make calls, etc.) or what they need (grocery store delivery, prescription pick-up, need to have a phone call or encouraging word, etc.) The deacons have used this information to make phone calls to parishioners. They have created a Care Line.
- *David Nickel*, First, MC, Lincoln, NE – The congregation liked using ZOOM. He had virtual “shop hours” when he had his computer set up in his shop facing the fire place and invited the congregation to visit with him, as they would if they could actually drop in.
- *Noi Harder*, Lao Christian Fellowship – She has been printing devotionals and hand delivering them, as well as using phone calls to check in.
- *Andrea Wall*, Bethesda MC – She is staying home with 3 young children, so it is harder to focus on work. A couple in the church is planning a wedding for Easter weekend. This is stressful and difficult. The church had been live-streaming previously, so that was already in place. She has been adding materials to the Faith Formation website at church. She was conducting a Catechism class with candidates and invited three siblings to get on one computer and have their parents join them – this was a unique opportunity!

We paused at noon to pray the Lord’s Prayer with other faith denominations around the world.

Susan J. – Let go of what you must. Rest as needed. Take care of yourselves. Tend to your souls.

Nathan L. closed the meeting with prayer.

The Conference Ministers will host another meeting for pastors on  
 Wednesday, April 1  
 11:00 am