

# CPMC Conference Ministers and Congregational Pastors

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

Susan Janzen opened the meeting with a prayer by Nadia Bolz-Weber.

## **Annual Meeting 2020 Information**

To practice how voting will work at Annual Meeting, Susan invited everyone to participate in two Zoom polls. One was about the previous week: Great (4), So-So (7), or Terrible (0) and the other asked if congregations had named delegates to Annual Meeting: Yes (4), Yes and They've Registered (0), No (3). Conference Ministers and two other non-pastors on the call did not respond.

These practice polls illustrate the need for each person who "attends" Annual Meeting to have their own device to participate in voting. Also illustrated, by example, was the necessity for devices to be far enough away from each other to avoid echoing and feedback noise. Each person will need to be in their own space, and on their own device, in order to participate in virtual Zoom room table groups for discussion. The participants do not need to own the device but must have access to a device to use separate from others participating from the church (or even from a spouse who is also a delegate).

About an hour's-worth of reporting that would normally take place during delegate sessions will be made available about a week prior to the virtual Annual Meeting. Delegates should view this reporting prior to the virtual meeting.

It was emphasized that each church still needs to name delegates and their delegates need to register in order to participate in the virtual Annual Meeting Zoom call. And, participants need to have an email address to receive the invitation to participate in the Zoom meeting.

Youth Delegates to CPMC Annual Meeting (and any Youth Guests) will have a Zoom call on Friday evening, June 19. Their call will include orientation to CPMC Annual Meeting, a time to meet virtually with Conference Leadership, and also some virtual games. Youth will need to register for Annual Meeting and submit an email address to receive the invitation to this Zoom meeting.

2020 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CPMC participation in the Ecuador Partnership. A special video presentation will be prepared to mark the occasion and there will be a separate Zoom meeting on the afternoon of June 20 for Ecuador Partnership reporting. For those persons who ONLY want to participate in this ZOOM call (but NOT the Annual Meeting), a link will be posted on the CPMC website closer to the date. No registrations will be required for this call, it is open to anyone interested and will be accessed through the link posted on the website (as these calls with the pastors and CM's have been).

The Conference Ministers will prepare worship materials for the June 21 Sunday morning use in all conference churches. A sermon and other worship elements will be available about 2 weeks prior to Annual Meeting. Congregations are encouraged to use these materials to foster a conference-wide worship experience on June 21.

To test logistics, another poll was composed during the meeting and administered successfully.

**Important Dates** for Annual Meeting:

- By June 7, workbook reports will be available on the CPMC website & will have been mailed to delegates requesting a paper copy.
- 2 weeks prior to Annual Meeting, the Conference Ministers will have worship materials posted for Sunday, June 21 morning worship
- 1 week prior to AM, video reporting for AM will be available on the CPMC website for Delegates to watch prior to AM
- Friday, June 19 (evening) – Youth will have a Zoom meeting (must have registered prior to call)
- Saturday, June 20 (morning) – Virtual AM by Zoom (must have registered prior to call)
- Saturday, June 20 (afternoon) – Ecuador Partnership Zoom meeting (no registration necessary)
- Sunday, June 21 (morning) – Use the CM-provided materials for Sunday morning worship

Focus shifted to the topic of **re-opening churches to in-person meetings**.

Larry Nail, Julesburg, CO – reported that they have met in person for the last 3 Sundays. Their county still has no confirmed cases of COVID-19 and they petitioned the governor for a variance allowing more activities so they could meet in person. Almost all churches in their county are meeting in person. They are following fairly strict guidelines. Hand sanitizer is available. Everyone wears a mask and they social distance in the sanctuary. Only the foyer and sanctuary are accessible to congregants. They “speak-sing” while wearing masks. About  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the congregation attends services. At-risk persons and elderly congregants have chosen to stay home.

As all states are opening to some extent, the question of congregations beginning the discussion of re-opening was raised. Much is left to individual business (churches) to determine next steps and when the time is right for re-opening.

Shawn Nolt, Salem, Shickley, NE – Salem had its first in-person service on May 17 with about half of their normal attendance. They decided to re-open on the “OK” from an infectious disease control specialist. There are only 4 confirmed cases in the county, but no community spread at this point. Should that change, or if there is a spike in cases, they will reevaluate their decision to meet in person. About half of the people attending the service wore masks. Attendees were more young families and middle age persons. No one over age 70 attended in person. They continue to live-stream for those who do not attend in person. Following the service, attendees were encouraged to leave the sanctuary quickly and visit outdoors while maintaining social distance.

Susan asked if any of the churches have opened up for committee meetings. None had.

Beth Miller, Pleasant View MC, IA – said they are making plans for an outdoor service in June.

The Kalona area churches have recommended remaining closed at least until June 21.

A reminder to still provide ministry for those who do not attend in-person services was offered.

The group was divided and placed into Zoom rooms for personal sharing and prayer before adjourning.