**PAX (Zoom) General Meeting - April 19, 2020**

Participants: Mike Messinger, Margaret Schwartz, Marian Klymkowsky, Bob Merrill,

Rob Abbot, Dick Bowling, Ann & Steve Brown, Barbara Cabrera Holtz, Sylvia Diss, Frank Distasio, Leslie Evers Kaplan, Sally & Al Galiani, Paula Hillery, Charlie Hookey, Amalia Iglesias, Pat Levins, Marilu MacCarthy, Shane MacCarthy, Mafalda Marrocco, Mary Lou Melley, Lois Merrill, Amanda Messinger, Stephanie & Eric Niedringhaus, Ron Novak, Nellie Ohr, Judy & Mike Schaeffer, Rosa Scott, Tao Shen, Patty & Doug Spaulding

1. **Opening Prayer** - Bob Merrill opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. **Outreach Liturgy Pilot Program**

Mike Messinger summarized our prior discussion (November 2019 General Meeting) around “Casting Our Nets” – a response to Vince Cushing’s challenge on the occasion of our 50th Anniversary to continue being a vibrant church community 5 years down the road (while acknowledging significant decline in membership over the last 10 years).

Prior to the GM, Mike provided a written summary of the proposed “Outreach Liturgies” pilot program (once a month from July – October 2020) (copy below). Participants were encouraged to ask questions or share their response to the proposal:

* St. Luke’s Roman Catholic church had guest homilists and even presiders – although the parish was less receptive to this after the departure of Fr. Pereira;
* Proposal would open us to new riches of other Christian communities;
* Proposal would be a new wineskin;
* “Outreach Liturgies” are different from inviting a speaker to an Adult Education program, they would preside over a paraliturgy;
* The program may have multiple benefits: enliven our community’s liturgical practices; outreach with other faith/secular communities; attract more people (and possible members) to PAX; alleviate a potential presider shortage;
* Reminder “Casting Our Nets” group also recommended PAX visits to other communities as well as outreach in areas other than liturgy.

To date our online virtual liturgies have been paraliturgies (without the accompanying Liturgy of the Eucharist) and the proposed “Outreach Liturgies” too are more aptly paraliturgies. Our first virtual liturgy celebrant was extremely uncomfortable with virtual Eucharist. Mike has undertaken to discuss this practice with our presiders to better understand the theology and liturgical practice of virtual Eucharist and will report back to the community. We also discussed a lay-presider (as homilist) con-celebrating with one of our regular presiders – allowing for Eucharist during an in-person liturgy. The NOVA Community has a Racial Justice dialogue group with an Episcopal church and they have held a joint liturgy, which our pilot program could also explore.

The Steering Committee has not yet considered how/whether to publicize the pilot program outside our community until we determine members’ interest/reaction. A vote was taken and the pilot program was unanimously approved by those in attendance.

**3. Community Feedback on Virtual Liturgies to Date**

The general feedback on our online virtual liturgies was very positive. Mike Messinger is exploring the possibility of virtual Eucharist during our online liturgies and will report back to the community. It was shared that the NOVA Community does include a sharing of bread in their “Sundays Without A Priest” liturgies, but it is up to each individual to determine what it means to them.

The Steering Committee has decided to pay for a full year of Zoom to realize price savings, but also to have access to it for future sharing and outreach.

1. **Rent Abatement Agreement with St. Luke’s**

Shane MacCarthy and Charlie Hookey approached Fr. John about foregoing rent payments while PAX is not using the multipurpose room for our Sunday liturgies. St. Luke Orthodox’s board approved this request, along with a $150/month rent reduction (from $1,500 to $1,350 per month) for a 12-month period once we do resume in-person liturgies. A further rent reduction will be negotiated at that time. It is not expected our rent would go below $1,000/month over time.

St. Luke’s Orthodox does not have a Social Needs Disbursement Committee (SNDC) mechanism, and supports our commitment to SNDC spending. This is one reason they are amenable to rent reductions to enable our continued financial outreach. After 25 years of sharing space (we held our first mass at St. Luke’s on July 9, 1995), they consider PAX a part of their community.

1. **Venmo and Paypal Options for Contributions to PAX**

Charlie Hookey and Judy Schaeffer worked to make PAX both Venmo and Paypal compliant. Icons for Venmo and Paypal will be added to our website.

1. **PAX Website Tour**

Marian walked us through the new and improved PAX website (as outlined on the GM Agenda which follows these notes). The “Online Virtual Mass Planning Guide” has been uploaded to the website (Members Pages/Documents/Mass Planning Resources). Please contact Marian if you have any questions ([klymkowskymarian@gmail.com](mailto:klymkowskymarian@gmail.com) or 703-244-7946). Marian will circulate the directories (Member, Friends of PAX – Local, and Friends of PAX – Out of Towners) for updates and corrections. These minutes will be posted to the website (Members Pages/Documents/Meeting Minutes) as well as circulated via the PAX listserv.

**PAX Virtual General Meeting (Zoom)**

**April 19, 2020 (Noon – 1:30 pm)**

1. **Opening Prayer** (Bob)
2. **Outreach Liturgy Pilot Program** (Mike)
   1. What is an “Outreach Liturgy”?
   2. Potential Lay-Presiders
   3. Community Support
3. **Community Feedback on Virtual Liturgies to date** (Margaret)
4. **Rent Abatement Agreement with St. Luke’s** (Bob)
   1. No rent due while we are not using space
   2. Afterward rent drops to $1,350 (from $1,500)/mo for 12 months
   3. Further reductions for successive 12-month periods (floor of $1,000/mo)
   4. Thanks to Shane and Charlie for discussing issue with Fr. John
5. **Venmo and Paypal options for Contributions to PAX** (Charlie/Judy)
6. **PAX Website Tour** (Marian)
   1. paxcommunity.org
   2. Username: guest / Password: loveneverfails
   3. ***Documents - ONLINE MASS PLANNING KIT***
      * + 1. Mass Planning Resources

Mass Planning Calendar

Presiders

Creeds

Songs

Mass Sheet Template

Sample Mass Sheets

PAX Community-led liturgy booklet

Resources for Mass of Resurrection

* + - * 1. Meeting Minutes

General Meeting 01/27/2017

General Meeting 11/24/2019

* 1. Members Pages

(i) Members Home

(ii) Events Calendar

(iii) Steering Committee Contacts

(iv) Ministries List

(v) Member Directory

(vi) Presider Directory

(vii) Friends of PAX (Local & Out of Towners) Directories

(viii) Communion of Saints

(ix) Forum

Please contact a member of the steering committee if you have items you would like to add to future agendas:

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Bob Merrill: r\_merrill@hotmail.com

Mike Messinger: messduke@gmail.com

Margaret Schwartz: [mschwartz@aim.com](mailto:mschwartz@aim.com)

***Outreach Liturgies* Pilot**

PAX plans to host a four-month pilot program, *Outreach Liturgies*.

Once a month on the first Sunday of the month, PAX will carry out an *Outreach* liturgy.  In Outreach liturgies, PAX will invite different presiders from other communities and from within PAX to lead a paraliturgy (not a Mass).  PAX may also elect to visit other communities.

Our aim is to further our Casting Our Net goals.  We hope this will engage PAX with new voices, diverse audiences, and enliven our liturgies.  We believe this will connect our communities to even more members and foster growth.   We also hope it will help us manage the availability of priests.

At the end of the four-month pilot, PAX can evaluate and decide if *Outreach Liturgies* should continue, be modified, or end.

To provide a concrete proposal for our discussion, the Steering Committee has identified and gotten approval from the following people for proposed *Outreach Liturgies*.

**Proposed Schedule for Outreach Liturgies Pilot (July – October):**

* Month One:  **Presider, Ms.  Catherine Maresca**, M. Div. Howard Univ., Catechist and Trainer, Founder of Center for Children and Theology.  [https://cctheo.org](https://cctheo.org/)
* Month Two:  **Presider, Mr. Julio Hernandez**, Pastoral Education Master, Duke University, Associate Pastor Crossman United Methodist Church of Falls Church, father with children in PAX atrium, active in immigration and refugee ministry.  [https://www.christcrossman.org](https://www.christcrossman.org/)
* Month Three:  **Presider, Ms. Myrtle Hendricks**, Masters in Theology, longtime PAX member.

·      Month Four:    **Open**