

Yukon Presbytery Road System Committee Report

The committee met via Zoom Tuesday evening from 7-9. Ten churches were represented with elders and Pastors. Additionally, there were other Presbytery-wide members in attendance. The focus of the meeting was on Covid-19, its impacts on us and our responses to it, adaptations we have made, and shortfalls or problem areas we identified.

In summary, most churches reported that they were not holding in-person services. Most churches were using Zoom or Facebook Live to conduct services, sometimes in conjunction with in-person services as well. Several churches had developed electronic methods to host adult Sunday School/Bible studies as well as fellowship periods. A couple of churches were able to hold youth and children's Sunday School or church related activities, usually via electronic means. The general consensus can be summed up with what one church reported from their members: most folks don't want to return to in-person services until there is a vaccine available.

Problem Areas:

Having a robust WiFi connection both inside and to/from your church building was identified as a critical component of being able to continue to hold meetings. It was suggested that contacting your provider and asking whether you are getting the best deal possible and if your service can be improved might garner reductions in cost and service improvement. Grants have been made available to ISPs to meet non-profits' needs.

Determining equipment needs, acquisition of equipment, installation, and training on the equipment was another area. Some churches have purchased a second low-cost computer with camera to use for Zoom meetings. Others have purchased WiFi enabled cameras.

We discussed singing during in-person worship. It was pointed out that current guidance recommends no singing during in-person worship because of the aerosolization of breath, making it extremely easy to transmit Corona Virus particles. One church mentioned that they had upgraded their air handling to be able to sanitize the air before it was circulated.

Recommendations:

We heard during our meeting that the budget proposal will include a line item to be used to help churches acquire and implement technology solutions for use during this pandemic period. We recommend approval of that item in particular.