

Stream Team Report

May 17, 2020

Members: CJ Delaney, Pastor Chad Delaney, Carol Magyarics, Paul Meeker, Jon Secaur (Chair)

- Purposes:
- 1) To plan for the eventual re-opening of our beloved worship space by proposing changes to our audio and video systems to allow for live streaming of future services.
 - 2) To propose other changes in the audio and video systems to make worship experiences within the sanctuary more accessible.

We met by Zoom on Wednesday evening, May 12, with a fruitful discussion. Our preliminary recommendations include:

- 1) Stream services as soon as we partially reopen for worship, whenever that will be, and continue even after we are fully 'back in the house' because streaming allows us to reach homebound members and visitors, as well as any members who do not yet feel comfortable or safe returning to the shared worship space.
- 2) Invest in streaming equipment that will be simple to operate, versatile, flexible, minimally obtrusive, and with only reasonable cost.
- 3) Take care to design audio and video systems that will function well in our current space, and also in the enlarged space envisioned in our building plan.
- 4) Move our excellent sound board from its current location behind the chancel to the back corner of the sanctuary where the projector and computer are sited now. We will need to place a small table and tripod there, and will need to remove some seating to accommodate the equipment. That way all microphones can be turned on and un-muted at the beginning of the service and a volunteer sound operator can enable them just when needed, making it unnecessary for participants to fumble with switches as so often happens now. The sound board operator can also adjust volume quickly as necessary for participants who bring microphones up too closely to their mouths, or those whose voices are naturally softer. We will need to be careful to have all participants using microphones, even for announcements, because the sound stream for broadcast and recording must come from the sound board. Perhaps we could have folks who wish to make announcements form a line near the front of the church so the camera and microphone can receive their image and information?

- 5) Mount an inexpensive web camera above the entrance door to capture a wide-field view of the entire sanctuary, especially when congregants are standing and blocking the view of the main camera, mounted on a tripod in the rear corner room with a fine zoom lens. Jon and Linda have a Canon t6i digital camera with a 16 - 300 mm zoom lens and are willing to lend it for use in worship. The photos below show the view from the back corner of the sanctuary with the 16 mm wide angle setting, left, and the 300 mm telephoto, right. Those are the extremes, and the lens can be adjusted to any size or distance in between.



- 6) Purchase the necessary equipment to switch and mix the video and audio inputs and stream them to our YouTube account. This could be accomplished using inexpensive software on our existing church laptop computer, or with a designated device for that purpose. Carol Magyarics has asked for a quote from Just Add Tech, the company that installed our wifi system, and the committee will evaluate that proposal in later meetings.
- 7) Purchase a hearing assist system that will broadcast all sounds from the sound board stream to anyone with a smart phone with an earpiece through the existing wifi system, and to several small FM receivers for any congregants who do not carry a smart phone. This system will provide hearing assistance as soon as we are back in the building, and will be completely compatible with the planned future sanctuary expansion. We already have a generous offer from a church member to fund this part of the project.

We wish to point out that all previous acquisitions from generous gifts and the operating fund – the projector, the sound board, the microphones, the wifi upgrade, and the computer – all work together well and will continue to serve as we move, someday, to live streaming of our worship service. Nothing that we have purchased will be made obsolete as we move forward.