

**Council Minutes**  
**May 15, 2023, at 6 pm Via Zoom**

- **Present:** Morgan Wright, Mary Ballard, Martha Kreszock, Alan Hauser, Kristie Evans, Carol Norris, Suzanne Wise, P. Steve, V. Spence, Jesse Lutabingwa, Jennifer Davis, Wayne Powell

**Absent:** Emory Maiden, Jordan Burkhart

1. Call to Order – Mary, 6:02PM
2. Devotion – Jesse; John 11: 17 - 45. Went to visit friends in Colorado. During the flight, the friend tried to contact him repeatedly but was unsuccessful. The friend's son was very ill; they went into a 5-day coma. Would they take back a very sick child or a dead one? Had to amputate this person's legs. He and others were very angry with God. Why did this happen? Where was God in this? Still didn't stop praying for healing power. Person is now alive. We often don't know God's plan. God answered their prayers for him to live. Must keep believing in the healing power of God, that he is always with us.
3. Ground Rules – Mary
  - Please raise your hand to indicate that you would like to speak.
  - Please give your name and state your views on the matter under discussion, including any questions or concerns you may have.
  - In order to allow others ample opportunity to join in the conversation, please keep any subsequent comments by you on the issue/motion succinct and to the point.
  - Please remain quiet when others have the floor so everyone can hear.
  - Please be respectful of those voicing differing opinions.
4. Congregational Input
  - Carol - 100th Anniversary, what's the status of the sign out front? Harold wants to complete this project himself. May not be ready in time for the anniversary.
  - P. Steve - Cinda Williamson wants to go back to the altar rail for communion. This is complicated due to masking and Healing Prayers.
5. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes. Motion made to approve - Jesse. Jennifer seconded. Unanimously approved.
6. Strategic Visioning – Mary
  - A. Review Organizational Chart and Liaison Assignments

## B. Council Goal-Setting Process

### 7. Policy – Mary

#### A. Personnel Policy Update - no update

### 8. Monitoring and Oversight

#### A. Reports:

##### i. Senior Pastor Report

###### a. Review of Engagement Report

##### ii. Campus Ministry Coordinator

- LSA funds from Synod are decreasing next year and probably will continue to decrease.
- Parking lot fundraiser money may need to be used to offset the food budget.
- Why the change at the synodic level?

##### iii. Vicar's Report

##### iv. Office Manager Report

##### v. Music Ministry

##### vi. Facilities Manager Report

##### vii. Treasurer Report

- Did well last month. Income meeting expenses.
- Budget needs realistically need to go up 10 - 12%.
- If budget line items are negative, one should question why and how being covered.

#### B. Old Business:

##### i. Updates on adjustments to schedule related to COVID-19

##### ii. 100th Anniversary of Grace

- a. 76 RSVPed for dinner
- b. Special music before and during.
- c. Former pastors attending.
- d. Sabina found Grace's 90th Anniversary digital file. Found old video footage. Gathering stories from interns.

##### iii. Circle of Welcome for Refugees - no update

iv. Columbarium Update - 2 units ordered. Pavers to be added for better handicapped accessibility.

v. Security Protocol Group/Fire Alarm System

a. "Ring" type doorbells for the Narthex area, office and side doors installed.  
- Deterrent to unwanted visitors (3 incidents to date)

b. Fire alarm system funds moved to sound system funds

vi. Sabbatical Update (Pastor Steve)

a. Coverage complete? Almost. Need to fill some Children's Message spots

b. About \$7000 needed to pay coverage. Suggestion is to overdraw the sabbatical fund and repay with intern money from next year's budget.

viii. Strengthening the Financial Position of Grace

a. Stewardship drive going on

- Some folks would like to get a separate piece of mail or email on the stewardship drive.

b. Temple talks continuing

C. New Business (40 minutes)

i. Facility Use Request(s) // Council Designations for Football Parking

a. Libby would like the parking lot fundraiser for the Darrius Rucker concert to go to Music.

- Leftover monies for special flowers and music generally went to Music. However, since Covid, donations for these have not returned to normal.

ii. Financial concern related to negative Faith Formation Balance

- Monies given to fund Youth and Family position (pre-Covid).

- Part of Deacon Stacey's salary was drawn from this.

- Drawn \$4400 - 4500 below limit due to oversight. How to cover this?

- Motion to reallocate designated fund expenditure for Youth and Family into Campus Minister budget line item. Motion made by Morgan. Carol seconded motion. Passed unanimously.

### iii. Pastor Steve's Crazy Property Idea

- Primary question before us is whether or not to present the plan to the congregation before Pastor Steve leaves on sabbatical.
- One person agreed with the vision, scope and timing of Pastor Steve's plan, as long as it had broad congregational approval. Another found the ideas thought provoking and "out of the box."
- Several others saw merit in the plan, but had the concerns listed below:
  - The timing of the project should move a step at a time rather than all at once.
  - Funding this vision would be challenging.
  - We are likely to lose our tax-exempt status.
  - We have other improvements that we should focus on first.
  - Rather than present the congregation with a specific plan for the extension of the building, we should get feedback on what services/spaces the congregation would want in the building. (e.g., Should there be students living in proximity to the church? Should we build a gym?)
  - Building costs will come in much higher than the estimates.
  - We would have to hire an agency to oversee and maintain the rental units.
  - We would lose one of the last green spaces near King Street.
  - Governmental regulations about housing; we would likely need to have HUD housing to have affordable housing for workers/families.
- Since the housing units would be on church property, would alcohol consumption be allowed? Particularly in the units aimed at students that will be "in" the church.
- A few people suggested discussing other strategies in addition to Pastor Steve's plan:
  - Selling our current property and moving to a new location where we can start from scratch on buildings and parking.
  - Talk to neighboring churches about their plans. To see how they respond to our plan and if they have similar plans.
  - Talk with Crosspoint Church to see if they might ever sell and purchase their building and property.
- Concerns over King St. setback. Town of Boone is very interested in projects like this. Would most likely bend or change rules to accommodate.
- The particulars are not important. Bigger question is how we can serve the community.
- Need to gather more information. Should we do "this" before "that"? Should we contact a lawyer regarding tax-exempt status? Don't make decisions too quickly.
- If presented before P. Steve leaves, congregants will have many, many questions. Council decided best to wait until P. Steve returns.
- Council will continue to talk among ourselves. Organize questions, determine how to strategically present information, etc.

9. Next Meeting: June 19th

- Devotion: Jordan

10. Meeting Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer - Jesse

Upcoming Devotion List:

July - Wayne

August - Jennifer