

## **Council Meeting Minutes – Dec 20, 2021 at 6 pm Via Zoom**

**Attending:** Morgan Wright, Jesse Lutabingwa, Mary Ballard, Pastor Steve Troisi, Charlie Wallin, Alan Hauser, Emory Maiden, Carol Norris, Martha Kreszock, Kristie Evans, Vicar Randy and Beth Reavis. **Absent:** Janice Koppenhaver

1. **Call to Order** - Charlie called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. **Nomination of New Council Member** - Wayne Powell was overwhelmingly nominated by the council nomination committee to fill the vacant council seat. Carol Norris seconded the nomination. Council vote to approve Wayne Powell as a member of council was unanimous.

3. **Review Updated Council Ground Rules** - Charlie reviewed the ground rules.

- 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 this 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.

3. **Congregational Input** - Charlie asked for congregational input.

Mary Ballard noticed the sound started late during the live stream of Pastor John Bollinger's funeral. Pastor Steve stated there were technology issues with the camera. He also stated there's more technology involved with live events. Ideally, one more person is needed to help run tech during live events. Mary also asked if a live Zoom event would be possible for Christmas Eve services.

Pastor Steve said that Family Advent Night was very successful. 18 young people were in attendance.

4. **Devotion** - Alan Hauser was late to the meeting and provided devotion. He talked about the Season of Advent and Christmas. How it is a season of penitence and joy. That we get to receive the Gift of Jesus and how it's a time to reflect on the good things God has given us. We've now had 2 Christmases during the Covid pandemic. We would have hoped Covid would have been gone by now. With the wonderful season of Christmas and God coming down to Earth, don't be overcome by the evil caused by Covid. Keep the focus on His promise. There is hope and joy in the midst of suffering. We have so much to be grateful and to celebrate for.

5. **Approval of Council Meeting Minutes** - Charlie asked for a motion to approve. Pastor Steve made a motion to approve. Morgan seconded. Motion carried.

6. **Strategic Visioning** - Charlie reviewed the organizational chart and materials.

a. **Review Organizational Chart and Liaison Assignments** - Discussion by Pastor Steve and Charlie with Wayne on Liaison Assignments. Pastor Steve to send Wayne council member training materials to review.

b. **2021-2022 Council Goals** - Discussion by Pastor Steve and Charlie on the number of pages to be read by council members in the book "ReShape: Emerging Church Practice in a Volatile World". Council members are to have read the first part, 42 pages, by the January meeting.

7. **Policy - Approval of Grace Constitution**

a. Jesse made a motion to approve. Beth seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Congregational approval of Constitution to take place during the congregational meeting Feb 27, 2022.

8. **Monitoring and Oversight**

a. **Reports:**

i. **Senior Pastor Report** - Pastor Steve will be absent for a funeral for Deacon Stacey's uncle.

- **Engagement Report:**

a. Worship attendance at the Cantata was 153.

b. A very large number of people attended Pastor John Bollinger's funeral.

c. In-person attendance is averaging 80 – 90 per Sunday. The ratio of in-person and online worship indicates steady attendance.

ii. **Campus Ministry Coordinator Report**

iii. **Vicar Report** - Vicar Randy gave an in-person update.

iv. **Music Ministry Report**

v. **Administrative Secretary Report**

vi. **Facilities Manager Report:**

a. Jennifer Stamey gave a detailed report on the status of various facility issues. Pastor Steve pointed out the ongoing issues with the church boiler. A replacement may be needed soon.

b. Charlie stated the Fall Clean Up was a success.

c. Beth praised Jennifer for her help with Advent decorating.

**vii. Treasurer Report:**

- a. Morgan stated that November and December giving this far was good; only a \$600 difference between budget expectations and actual giving.
- b. For Year-to-Date, \$90K has been given while \$101K was budgeted. This could be due to a change in the number of parking spaces being offered for rent.
- c. Expenses have been normal.
- d. Jesse asked if the Wilkes property could be considered an Asset. Discussion on how Income, Designated Funds, and the church balance sheet play into assignment of Assets. The question arose, "How does one determine church property asset worth?"
- e. Historically, December is the best month for giving, Jan – Feb are the worst months. In 2020 we did not see a surge in giving in the fall as normal. This trend was observed in 2021.

**b. Old Business (15 minutes):**

- i. **Security Protocol Group** (Sandy and Carol) - No update
- ii. **Fire Alarm System** (Pastor Steve) - No update
- iii. **Property Task Force Update** – Charlie said the estimated cost of a new boiler would be \$8 – 10K. There are concerns about time delivery due to Covid related supply chain issues.
- iv. **Updates on adjustments to schedule related to COVID-19** - Pastor Steve said we are still in the substantial range. The CDC looks at the % positive and active cases. Current positivity rate is >6% and the # of Covid positive tests has doubled. Discussion on Omicron variant, the pressure it will put on hospitals and breakthrough cases.
- v. **AAMPARO** – Mary provided an update.
  - a. There are currently 205 congregations in the US involved. Grace is the 4<sup>th</sup> congregation to become involved in NC.
  - b. It was decided to inform the congregation of our involvement in the January 2022 bulletins.
  - c. AAMPARO sent a welcoming packet. It was asked what we can do?
    - i) Sign a letter to President Biden asking him not to expand detention centers. Mary stated she would sign this as an individual synod member.
    - ii) We can apply for and receive a grant of \$5K to assist refugees or refugee related programs. A possible candidate is the Immigrant Justice Coalition, a local agency, which supplies scholarship opportunities, help with Covid emergencies, etc., to refugees.

**c. New Business**

- i. **Facility Use Requests** – Girl Scout Troop
  - a. Mary asked if they agreed to the church policies. Marjorie asked about their child safety protocols.

- b. Carol requested confirmation of the meeting days/times.
  - c. Pastor Steve stated, regarding background checks of troop leaders, that the Girl Scout background checks are more stringent than our own.
  - d. Emory motioned the troop be allowed to use our facilities. Carol seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- ii. Book Discussion

9. **Next Meeting: Feb. 21, 2022** at 6 p.m. Devotion: Mary

10. **Adjourn Meeting with the Lord's Prayer** - Jesse

Devotion List:

March - Beth  
April - Emory  
May - Carol  
June - Janice  
July - Morgan  
Aug - Martha