

## **Council Meeting Minutes - July 21, 2021 at 6 pm Via Zoom**

**Attending:** Janice Koppenhaver, Beth Reavis, Mary Ballard, Laura McArthur, Gail Lund, Charlie Wallin, Pastor Steve Troisi, Carol Norris, Alan Hauser, Morgan Wright, and Sandy Moretz. Luke Ramsdell Emory Maiden

1. **Call to Order** - Mary called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m
2. **Devotion** - Janice gave a devotion on working together.
3. **Review Updated Council Ground Rules** - Mary 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.
4. **Congregational Input** - None
5. **Approval of Council Meeting Minutes** - A motion to approve May minutes was made by Gail, seconded by Beth. Motion carried. Motion to approve the June minutes was made by Alan, Gail seconded. Motion carried.
6. **Strategic Visioning** - Mary
  - a. 2020-2021 Council Goal Setting
    - i. Planned Giving Meeting Workshop (Aug. or Sept.) - Pastor Steve said there is a little more work to do, but should be on track.
    - ii. Constitution Update, Financial Policy Update (begin in Jan) - Pastor Steve said we didn't get on the Synod Council agenda, so we won't have an approval until September. We may need a special congregational meeting .
    - iii. Audit of COVID Ministry (May) nothing added.
7. **Policy** - Mary
  - a. Policy Updates: Constitution Update - Status noted previously.

## 8. Monitoring and Oversight

### a. Reports:

i. **Senior Pastor Report** - Pastor Steve noted that staff did an annual report in lieu of a monthly report.

1. **Engagement Report** - The numbers between online and in person are pretty constant, but a small dip.

ii. **Campus Ministry Coordinator Report** - LSA has chosen a spring break to Alaska.

iii. **Music Ministry Report** - Alan commented how much Libby's report shows how much has been done with music and choir.

iv. **Administrative Secretary Report**

v. **Facilities Manager Report** - Jennifer is working on her annual report.

vi. **Treasurer Report** - Adjusted Monthly Giving/Cumulative Giving - Pastor Steve reported that giving in June was pretty strong. It is unlikely that we'll meet the \$320,000 mark. Our giving is pretty steady and we ran a capital campaign.

### b. Old Business:

i. **Security Protocol Group** (Sandy and Carol) - No update

ii. **Fire Alarm System** (Pastor Steve and Jeff) - Grace has received a \$10,000 Gift.

ii. **Wilkes County Property** - Pastor Steve said he's working with Bill Moretz who has the contact for a mill. The other option is to hire a consultant.

iv. **Update on the High Country Coalition** - Holy Communion has an interim.

v. **Nominating Committee** - There are currently five people who have said yes and would like one more for the slate. Council will need to vote by email, probably next week.

### c. New Business -

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

**Survey Results** - Pastor Steve reviewed the survey results which are in the reports. Three highlights-

- 95% are fully vaccinated (of 74 respondents). 68% would like to see the mask requirements lifted.
- 7 who may stop attending if the mask requirements are lifted and , they may not continue to attend.
- Ages of respondents: 76% are 65+, 8% are 55-64, 30-50 yr olds 8%, <30 is 3 %. Pastor Steve said that 2 who won't be vaccinated

and 2 who won't disclose, but don't want masks. Beth noted that she is concerned about the vitality of the congregation - where are the younger people and why don't they vote? Pastor Steve noted that parents of children are just exhausted and not answered surveys. What are we restarting in the fall in terms of activities? Mary wondered if people getting rid of masks would answer the survey. Pastor Steve said the 65+ are more engaged.

**COVID Safety Protocols At Grace** - Pastor Steve highlighted the summary of changes to "COVID Safety Protocols at Grace". Mary reiterated that masks are required if not vaccinated, but highly encouraged for those who are vaccinated to wear masks. In a straw vote, 6 in favor, 3 against, 1 abstain. Masks are highly encouraged in worship for those who have vaccinated and masks are required for those who are not vaccinated. Gail made the motion and Carol seconded. 6 for, 2 against, 1 abstention.

**Everyone is highly encouraged to wear masks for indoor activities for groups of 50.** Carol said we should increase the groups of 50 and wear masks indoors. Janice and Alan suggested that we could require masks. Pastor Steve said the top end of the number of people with tables and chairs in the Fellowship Hall is about 110. Carol said we should follow the same rule for the Fellowship Hall as in worship. Pastor Steve made a motion that masks are highly encouraged for indoor activity and required for people not vaccinated. Gail seconded. 8 in favor, 3 opposed.,

**Sunday Morning Check-in** - People will enter through the Narthex door and continue to sign in 15 minutes prior to church activities to allow for an orderly check-in process. We will adjust seating availability based on worship attendance.

**Coffee Hour** - Pastor Steve suggested that we start coffee hour in mid-August. Luke said it seemed contradictory to eat food and wear a mask. Alan said we should wait. Gail stated that the Senior Center is serving food and hasn't had COVID. Alan said we should wait until at least mid-August. Carol raised the issue of who would be willing. Janice made a motion to revisit coffee hour in September. Luke seconded. 9 for, 1 against.

**Sunday School** - Hyflex adult Sunday School (In person and Zoom simultaneously). Pastor Steve made a motion that Sunday School can be offered hyflex in August. Gail seconded. Motion was unanimous.

**Children's Sunday School** - Pastor Steve said normally we'd do some

kind of kick off and then start Sunday School the next Sunday. If inside, children would wear masks as well as adult leaders. Beth said she thought it will be difficult to find teachers, but we have to try. Pastor Steve made a motion that Sunday School may be led outside, when possible, with masks required. Carol seconded. Motion carried.

**Nursery** - Pastor Steve made a motion that the nursery(not staffed) may be used by families used as a changing room and calming space. Masks are required age two and up. Janice noted that the parlor could be an alternative space. Beth seconded. Motion carried.

**Singing** - Alan said he thought that masks should be worn when singing because of the projections and it is the most dangerous moment when singing. Beth said that she isn't sure how we would enforce it. Alan suggested that all congregants should wear masks. Luke said he agreed that people probably won't put masks on for singing. Charlie said the only option is to separate people by 1-2 pews. Carol made a motion to take out the singing section. Emory seconded. Motion carried.

The communion will continue as is and one section at a time.

**Lay leaders** - Charlie asked if we would ask the worship leaders to wear a mask to model for children under 12. Pastor Steve said that he will model for children and others that it's okay to wear a mask.

**Food and drinks** may be served at any indoor gathering with the exception for meetings with children under 12.

**Choir practice:** Carol noted that we should let Libby and the choir make the decision and just eliminate that section.

**Church Staff** - Staff will be asked to keep masks at all times and wear a mask if another person has a mask or with children <12.

**Other COVID Concerns:**

All removed.

ii. **Spring Stewardship Drive** - June-July 18th Stewardship Drive. Council members should participate. A different message and story each week is shared each week. Council members stated that we should mail out information.

iii. **Prepare Draft Budget for 2021-2022** - Gail made a motion that we recommend the

budget as emailed to be presented to the congregation. Alan seconded. Motion carried.

iv. **Facility Use Requests:** Pastor Steve presented the first five requests and made a motion to approve the first five facility use requests. Charlie seconded. 10 approved, 1 opposed.

- NA Group - Meeting 3 times a week in the LLFH.
- Youth Group Retreat - Overnight guests in the Councill House.
- PIKA - We would need to raise the limit of indoor meetings to at least 50, so they can meet in the Fall.
- Community Action Blood Drive - August 21st - Indoors or parking lot?
- PEO - Would like to become a recurring group meeting at Grace.
- Hotdog Cart on Football Saturdays. - Pastor Steve said a person asked about using our parking lot for a donation. The donation would go to the group running the parking game day. Straw vote was for allowing her

v. **Football Game Assignments** - Pastor Steve made a motion to accept the football parking schedule. Charlie seconded. Motion carried.

vi. **Carriage House Update** - Pastor Steve recommends that we charter a Task Force to formulate a holistic use for the church council. Gail seconded. Motion carried.

vii. **Call Congregation Meeting** - Gail made a motion to have a hyflex congregational meeting on August 15th at 11 a.m. Carol seconded. Motion carried.

9. **Next Meeting:** Aug 16, 2021 at 6 p.m.

i. Devotion: Charlie

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