

Council Meeting Minutes - Nov. 15, 2021 at 6 pm Via Zoom

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

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

2. **Devotion** - Pastor Steve provided a devotion. He said he's speaking to a group of religious faculty. He is going to speak about where young adults are in their faith. One of his big concerns is that youth are not being given the offerings that help carry them through their young adult years. Activities through their formative years don't help develop their faith. We tell stories of the Bible and expect them to learn a deeper formation and wider sense of meaning from the scripture. Students participate about 26% of activities. So, students are absent more than present at church activities. About 80% of the population have an inclination toward God. He wondered if we're approaching this wrong. What happens that half of our congregation is online or in person? What do we owe our next generation of worshipers? He is also encouraged by the young people and is pretty tuned into church. What we do at church does matter and COVID has forced us to look at things differently.

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.

4. **Congregational Input** - Charlie asked for congregational input. Beth asked about the hearing aids in the Ushers' closet. Who is responsible for the hearing aids? The one that a member tried wasn't working, but another one was. Pastor Steve said most of the time is batteries. He'll ask Steve to check on them and keep an eye on it. Charlie said it is on the usher duty list. Kristie said she is ushering and asked where the list is. Charlie said the usher list is in the closet. Beth said there was money in the offering plate and the money should be placed in the safe by two people.

Jesse said he was impressed by the number of children at the children's message. Pastor Steve said he thought about the addition of a children's church had brought more children to church.

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

6. **Strategic Visioning** - Charlie stated that the organizational chart and materials have been updated.

a. **Review Organizational Chart and Liaison Assignments** - Charlie stated that the organizational chart and materials have been updated.

b. **2021-2022 Council Goals** - Charlie said Pastor Steve reviewed some of the goals. We're reviewing all the goals and getting a book to review in January.

7. Policy

a. **Review Policies for Updates:** Constitution Update - Charlie said the Constitution has been updated and asked if anyone had read the updated document. We'll look at financial policies in the spring

8. Monitoring and Oversight

a. Reports:

i. **Senior Pastor Report** - Pastor Steve said he enjoyed preaching at Pastor Ethan's installation. He updated his leave sheet.

1. **Engagement Report** - Worship attendance in person is up a little. Average engagement is going down a little. Last Sunday, 87 were in attendance.

ii. **Campus Ministry Coordinator Report**

iii. **Vicar Report** - Vicar Randy said he's happy to finish moving and is working with the internship committee on his project.

iv. **Music Ministry Report**

v. **Administrative Secretary Report**

vi. **Facilities Manager Report** - Bryan Berger resigned as chair and has had trouble getting them to meet. We've had some trouble with the boiler, but Jeff was able to apply a bandaid to fix it. The furnaces which service the fellowship hall and looking into replacement options as well as the roof. Property Work Day will be Dec. 4th.

vii. **Treasurer Report** - Morgan reported good news on offerings from last month, but there was a \$10,000 gift as part of it. Pastoral Steve said with one Sunday in November, we had \$10,000 in offerings. Morgan noted a lot of big property expenses. He asked if the roof had been evaluated and Jennifer got estimates a couple of years ago and the estimates were \$50,000 to \$75,000. Charlie noted that the quarterly statements were sent out. Jesse asked if we

normally put money away for the big projects. Pastor Steve said there is a Capital Projects budgeted for these projects (about \$80,000). The Peeler Endowment has \$13,000-\$15,000 annually for capital projects. Jesse asked how decisions are made to fix capital projects. Charlie said that typically the Property Committee is the committee that makes recommendation. The furnace may be resolved with HVAC units, but the boiler may be a larger priority. We have fallen behind on capital projects. Morgan said a couple of weeks ago the property committee tried to get together. He said he would be willing to help with the property decisions. Pastor Steve said he'll mention it to Jennifer.

b. Old Business (15 minutes):

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

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

iii. **Wilkes County Property Update** - An updated letter to Darius Hall has been sent.

iv. **Spring Stewardship Drive** - June-July 18th Stewardship Drive - Pastor Steve and Kathy will follow up with members who have not responded with their pledge.

v. **Property Task Force Update** - Pastor Steve said he'd tried to get the committee together at the beginning of November, but there were too many time conflicts.

vi. **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 <5%, but the number of cases is rising. AppHealth and the CDC cases don't align. We've stated that we're staying with the CDC guidelines.

Locally, our stats have gone up in the last week. Vaccines for kids may help, but holidays will likely cause spikes. Mary noted that there are surges in Europe and in 22 states. Pastor Steve says we'll have to wrestle with what's the appropriate number of cases.

vii. **AAMPARO** (Mary said Dave Charters, chair of the Synod Task Force, sent answers to our questions. Mary said she's glad to be the contact person. Pastor Steve said a family from Afghanistan is being relocated to Greensboro and we could support a family. Charlie asked for a motion. Beth made a motion to join the AAMPARO. Jesse

seconded. Mary said we have resources for the language. Motion carried.

c. New Business

i. Facility Use Requests – Quilt Guild and Ski Group -

The Mountain Laurel Quilt Group from 11-2 and normally serve a meal. Pastor Steve said he called Gail Lund and she said people might bring lunch or go out to a restaurant. Beth is a member of the guild and made a motion not to approve this request unless they aren't going to serve food. Guild has asked for a meeting in December Jesse seconded.

Ski group request - Pastor Steve said the group is about the right size, but can't do food, etc. Charlie said we could make it contingent with vaccine rates. Martha asked if we'll get other requests for ski groups? Pastor Steve said we usually have 1-2 group requests. Mary said the group size of 25 seems high for social distancing. Alan said he wasn't comfortable with doing this. Pastor Steve said we have some COVID concerns, but Wildwood has a lot of equipment. Jesse made a motion that we say no. Charlie said without a second, we're not recommending

ii. Council Resignation - Laura McArthur resigned for personal reasons. Pastor Steve said that the Executive Committee recommends the Nominating Committee convene and select someone. Mary has suggested the Nominating Committee seek a high school student to participate. Pastor Steve will contact the Nominating Committee to start the process.

li. Starbucks - Martha has asked about proposed Starbucks at the corner of King St. and Council St. The neighborhood has some discussion about contacting pastors. Pastor Steve got a call from Rev. Cindy Banks that there will be a neighborhood meeting about Starbucks. Pastor Steve said there will be a 2600 sq ft building. Council St. would be really busy and unsafe. Rev. Cindy Banks suggested altering the middle lane to a straight lane on Hardin St. Charlie also noted the playground may need to be moved.

9. Next Meeting: Dec 20th, 2021 at 6 p.m.

i. Devotion: Alan

10. Adjourn Meeting with the Lord's Prayer - Pastor Steve

Devotion List:

Jan- Jesse

Feb.- Mary

March - Beth

April - Emory

May - Carol

June - Janice

July - Morgan

Aug - Martha