

**Council Meeting Minutes
December 19 at 6 pm Via Zoom**

Attending: Morgan Wright, Mary Ballard, Martha Kreszock, Wayne Powell, Alan Hauser, Kristie Evans, Emory Maiden, Carol Norris, Jordan Burkhart, Suzanne Wise, Jesse Lutabingwa, Jennifer Davis, Vicar Spence, P. Steve

Absent: Emory Maiden

1. **Call to Order**– Mary called the meeting to order at 6:02PM.
2. **Devotion** – Alan. There are many emotions at Christmas. Many experience peace, hope, love, and joy. At Christ’s birth, the angels said to the shepherds ““Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy”. The Babe will bring love. This will in turn bring joy. We must share abundant love around us. We must be beacons of joy. Prayers to help us to share the above with those around 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** – Mary
 - Some congregants again asking about when we will do communion at the railing. It was decided to wait until the first of the year to make any decisions.
5. **Approval of Council Meeting Minutes** – Mary
 - a. Jesse - Regarding lower contributions possibly being attributed to fewer members, how to determine how many members we have lost?
 - b. Alan - stated we used to have 2 full services, now 1, which is not full. Some may be watching online but overall felt that our membership has fallen.
 - c. Mary - mentioned the current council book. The book seems to address this.
 - d. Suzanne - felt that Zoom folks weren’t balancing out our lost members..
 - e. Jesse - going back to 2019, has our membership fallen since then?
 - f. Motion made for approval. Suzanne made motion; Jesse seconded; Motion passed unanimously

6. **Strategic Visioning** – Mary

- A. Review Organizational Chart and Liaison Assignments
- B. Council Goal - Setting Process
 - a. Wedding policy being updated.

7. **Policy** – Mary

- A. First Review of Updated Wedding Policy
 - a. Alan - what are things that it might be best to state? Incidental things that might come up? This policy seems to address it.
 - b. Jesse - thorough.
 - c. Took out gender specific wording.

8. **Monitoring and Oversight**

A. **Reports:**

- i. Senior Pastor Report
 - a. Review of Engagement Report
 - 1. Looks to be a surge going on in attendance.
 - 2. About ½ the number of attendees compared to pre-Covid.
 - 3. Discussed how online views are converted to attendance.
 - 4. Correlation between online vs in-person worship. Probably will continue through winter.
- ii. Campus Ministry Coordinator
- iii. Vicar's Report
 - a. 220 listens/episode (podcast)
- iv. Office Manager Report
- v. Music Ministry
- vi. Facilities Manager Report
 - a. Appointment in January to address boiler
- vii. Treasurer Report
 - a. Good news - above the November budget by 3K, still 20K behind overall YTD
 - b. Matching gift achieved.
 - c. Going into Dec - at least 33K, does not include 10K (matching gift) plus another 10K coming.
 - d. Need about 60K to get just above even for financial YTD.
 - e. Same amount of givers from 2019 - 2022 but they are giving less.

B. **Old Business** (40 minutes):

- i. Updates on adjustments to schedule related to COVID-19. Flu is a concern
- ii. 100th Anniversary of Grace - no updates. Bishop Tim and Wendy Smith will be there.

- iii. Ordination of Randy - went very well. Ordination and installation at the same time.
- iv. Circle of Welcome for Refugees - will most likely move forward with training. Main office not open yet. Bureaucracy issues.
- v. Columbarium
 - a. Down to very last spot.
 - b. 3 people have asked about a spot in new unit.
 - c. Need to get moving on a new unit.
 - d. May have a proposal in January.
 - 1. Would divide cost of such by # of niches.
 - 2. We can presell the niches.
 - 3. Create a fund for columbarium that will be reimbursed as niches are bought.
 - 4. Jesse - How much currently for a niche? Currently \$350/niche.
- v. Security Protocol Group
 - a. Should we do another training for ushers?
 - b. Should we get a new quote for wireless security cameras?
 - c. Boone PD has increased the number drive bys through the parking lots.
 - d. Carol - could we get a panic button in the office area?
 - e. Suzanne - just call 911?
 - f. Jordan - there are iphone short cuts to emergency services. Is there an Android option?
 - g. Jesse - what are other churches doing? - Most have plans. Ours is pretty good. A visible camera may help
 - h. Kristie - no in person usher training (no lesson on how to lock main entrance door)
- vi. Fire Alarm System (Pastor Steve)
- vii. Sabbatical Update
 - a. P. Laura Weant qualified for sabbatical.
 - b. P. Steve to trade coverage with her with his own sabbatical.
- vii. Strengthening the Financial Position of Grace
 - a. Doing well on short term goals.
 - 1. Wilkes property. Weather has caused delays (timbering).
 - 2. Working on carbon credits with Wayne. Went to the local USDA office, registering it as a farm. Opens up the possibility of carbon credits.
 - b. Expanding the parking lot project.. There are 2 ways to go about it. We are evaluating the options (Board of Adjustments, public hearing and lawyer) or we can petition the Town Council.
 - 1. What is the overall goal/master plan of using this property?
 - 2. Should we propose the big, overall plan?
 - c. What to do about staffing? A vacancy now due to Frank's untimely death.
 - d. Student parking; keep in mind an increase

- e. P. Steve contacted deeds office regarding AT&T property between Grace and AT&T. There's been no movement/difficulties in communication.
- x. 2023 - 2024 Intern status / Grace Place College Interns
 - a. No intern available for us next year.
 - b. 2 college interns have leased the Grace Place. This will be income for Grace.
- xi. Surplus designation
 - a. A decision will be made in January's meeting
 - b. What to do to see how December plays out money wise (about 5K to "play with").

C. New Business

- i. Facility Use Request(s); none
- ii. GLOO and He Gets Us programs
 - a. Mary - Should we get a feel for interest? Has concerns about data collection.
 - b. Jennifer - ask for the privacy policy. What are they doing with the data collected?
 - c. Jesse - are other churches doing this? P. Steve - Yes.
 - d. Difference between this and Slack is GLOO is via text.
 - e. Jordan - how invasive is the program? Too many texts are annoying.
 - f. Martha - would this system work for just our congregation or would other congregations be included? Just our church. Maybe an option to add other congregations.
 - g. If this moves forward, it would happen in the spring. Maybe a Lenten project.
- iii. Congregational Meals in 2023 - Should we go back to doing meals since we're doing coffee hour?
 - a. Martha - wait til flu is over.
 - b. Mary - wait til RSV also over.
 - c. Jennifer - evening events better for some folks rather than coffee hour.
 - d. P. Steve - 1st of March would be the first time we would have meals.
 - e. Discuss in January council meeting.
- iv. Animals Supply Drive for Veterinary Mission Trip
 - a. Lynn Caldwell, a retired vet is doing a mission trip to St. Vincent and Grenadines. Will be working with stray, wild, island dogs. They will primarily spay and neuter but will also address parasites in these dogs. This will help with zoonotic diseases that pass from these dogs to humans. The trip will help with overall health of these dogs and people. The organization is called the Bequia Animal Protection Alliance.
 - b. Could she run a drive January 8th - 22nd for dog supplies? Money to pay for medications, etc.

- c. Mary - she might get more stuff than what she's expecting. Can she ship supplies?
- d. Carol - when is her trip? Sometime in the spring. Carol made a motion to help Lynn with the project. Morgan 2nd, majority approved. One abstention.
- e. Wayne - how much does she need for this project?

9. Next Meeting: January 16th

- Devotion: Kristie

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

Devotion List:

February - Morgan

March - Martha

April - Emory

May - Jesse

June - Jordan

July - Wayne

August - Jennifer