

Council Meeting Agenda Sept. 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, Jennifer Davis, Vicar Spence, P. Steve

Absent: Jesse Lutabingwa

1. **Call to Order** – Mary called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

2. **Devotion** - Mary provided the devotion. Having surgery made her slowdown in many ways. She's usually going "90mph". Slowing down has improved quality in parts of her life. She was walking with a high energy neighbor who talks and walks fast. The neighbor was struck on Mary's thought to do a devotion on slowing down.
Scriptures –
 Eccel 4:6 Better one handful with tranquility than two handfuls with toil and chasing after the wind.
 Proverbs 19:2 Desire without knowledge is not good – how much more will hasty feet miss the way!

3. **Review 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 asked for any congregational input. Kristie mentioned a couple of congregants wanted more reading of the Psalms during worship. Pastor Steve mentioned someone had mentioned the same to him. Pastor Steve said there are plans to do this.

5. **Approval of Council Meeting Minutes** - Mary asked if there were any comments on the August minutes. Changes made were "Pastor said that we need to update Covid protocols" and whomever did the devotion was present (marked as absent).

Mary asked for a motion for the approval of the meeting minutes with above changes. Alan made a motion with noted changes and Suzanne seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **Approval of Congregational Meeting Minutes**– Mary asked for a motion for the approval of

the congregational meeting minutes; Jennifer made a motion and Alan seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

7. **Strategic Visioning** - Mary

a. Review Organizational Chart and Liaison Assignments

- Upon review and discussion the following changes were made:
 - Adult faith formation to green
 - Worship & music to green
 - Evangelism (Hospitality) to yellow
 - Fellowship ministry to yellow
 - Property Ministry to yellow
- Noted: High Country Coalition, yellow but emerging as green
- New members need Liaison Assignments
 - Jennifer and Jordan; Suzanne chose Serving

b. Council Goal-Setting Process:

- *Strategic Vision*: Develop comprehensive long-term property and financial vision. How do people give (what are the patterns)? How do we tap emerging givers? We need to investigate alternate income. How do we move forward and get things done?
- *Policy*: Wedding – pastor updating, Financial – may need to get rid of some, Personnel – needs updated
- *Monitoring*: Council to read “The Holy and The Hybrid: Navigating the Church’s Digital Reformation by Ryan Panzer”. A new book coming out Sept 27th available 1st week of October. We may not begin it until November.

8. **Policy** - Mary

9. **Monitoring and Oversight**

a. **Reports**:

- i. Senior Pastor Report
 1. Engagement Report
- ii. Campus Ministry Coordinator Report
- iii. Vicar’s Report
- iv. Office Manager Report
- v. Music Ministry Report
- vi. Facilities Manager Report
- vii. Treasurer Report

- We had good news in that we balanced revenue and expenses. Expenses were down though. We need more revenue; we did not get what we expected. We had a revenue shortfall of 33K. We need giving to increase. The NC synod check came in. Some financial things need “cleaned up”. Normal for us this time of year.

b. **Old Business**:

- i. Security Protocol Group (Carol) - Needs a new leader.
- ii. Fire Alarm System (Pastor Steve) - No Update

- iii. Property Task Force Update (Pastor Steve)
 - No real update. He did hear back from Randy Blake regarding Council House work; was a garbled message. Council House info to come soon.
- iv. Updates on adjustments to schedule related to COVID-19
 - Pastor Steve said Bishop Tim expects churches to follow Synod guidelines.
 - Suzanne commented on statement saying the church would be opened 15 minutes prior to church activities. That's not workable for folks setting up for coffee hour. Pastor Steve said the kitchen code is being given out more readily.

c. New Business

- i. Sabbatical Request and Applications Update
 - Pastor Steve & Deacon Stacey did not get their big grant as requested. Possible reason is competition for sabbatical leave requests.
 - They amended their trip to be shorter & less expensive.
 - Coverage for Pastor Steve was brought up. Possibilities are Pastor Lauren and Rev Jeff McLain. Both are coalition pastors.
- ii. 100th Anniversary of Grace
 - Should we commission a song? This was done for 75th anniversary.
- iii. Landscape Project
 - The reaction of big donors was timid, not enthusiastic.
 - Carol was bothered that Steve did not get a raise this budget but we are discussing this project.
 - Alan pointed out that if we begin the project we have to finish it. He brought up our ongoing issues of the roof and boiler and if all that stuff begins to kick in any one of these projects could put us in a deep hole. Is this a strong enough of a commitment given the potential difficulties of current problems.
 - Morgan brought up that the Council House needs work. We could cover the costs with a loan. We'd have more expenses due before revenue comes in. Should we instead focus on the Council house 1st which has the potential to generate revenue to pay for this project?
 - Suzanne said she likes the project but this would not be her first choice.
 - Pastor Steve to go to Ronald and say timing is not right.
 - Mary said that when/if we do this it needs to start in better weather.
 - Pastor Steve said furnaces need updated.
 - It was decided to keep the plans as it was worth our time.
- iv. Circle of Welcome for Refugees
 - Bishop Tim's goal is for 70% of churches in NC to become involved.
 - Ukrainians are to be focus. This gives more time to plan.
 - We are good to go. Volunteers came forward quickly. Training to come soon.
- v. Facility Use Requests:
 - Quilt Guild – Alan made a motion and Carol seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
 - App Builds a Home/Watauga Habitat for Humanity. – Morgan made a motion and P. Steve seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- St. Peter's youth group wants to come down and do service during their Fall break; Oct 13 – 15. Jennifer asked if this event could be extended to our youth. Martha brought up Covid protocol concerns. We could give Covid "red" concerns to St. Pete's leader. We could approve the request with a caveat regarding Covid levels. Cost from 2014 to date is \$100/night. Should we increase the cost? Are we actually losing money at this rate? Leader said yes to \$200/night. Should this be updated as policy to \$200/night? Issue too come before Exec committee for review and approval.
- Pastor Steve gave a reminder that there's another home game on 10/1 (i.e. parking lot fundraiser on this Saturday).

10. Next Meeting: October

- i. Devotion: Jesse

11. Adjourn Meeting with the Lord's Prayer - Mary

Devotion List:

November - Carol
December - Alan
January - Kristie
February - Morgan
March - Martha
April - Emory
May - Suzanne
June - Jordan
July - Wayne
August - Jennifer