

## **Council Meeting Minutes February 21, 2022 at 6 pm Via Zoom**

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

1. **Call to Order** - Charlie called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. **Devotion** - Mary chose a scripture from Romans 12 about love and sharing with people in need. Verse 12 resonates with Mary that with COVID people are hoping to open up, yet need patience.

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. **Presentation by Lutheran Services of the Carolinas regarding their “Be the Light Campaign”** – Pastor Steve introduced Emily Dubay. There is a cycle of projects and the Be the Light Campaign is the current project. Lynn Caldwell was trained to lead some of the meetings in the High Country just at the beginning of the pandemic. Emily overviewed the program and technically Grace was already participating. She showed a short video which overviews the program and noted the attachment on our meeting materials. Be the Light Campaign is one of the campaigns which is unique because it is the first solely aimed at children and family services and Lutheran Services of the Carolinas.

She said the project requires four things from our congregation. (campaign materials are available that lead up to 2023).

- Run a 5 week campaign and try to reach the goal of \$70/member x 3 years by the end of 2023.
- Lift up a leader from our church to attend the one hour training to run this campaign,
- Set a goal for the congregation. \$31,500 over 3 years is a suggested goal.
- Complete the congregation acceptance form and return it to LSC.

She highlighted some updates to the video. Resettlement work is not part of this goal. Some churches are running campaigns now and some goals have been reached already. (Home for TBI in Durham). Foster care efforts which have grown. Wayne asked if the Be the Light is a new effort? Emily said this campaign seeks to expand and enhance services, particularly in the Asheville/Henderson area. He also asked about the drive and he asked if this is the officially sponsored drive for 3 year - 2021-2023. LSC only gets a drive opportunity every 19 years.

Wayne asked if Grace had participated in the campaign before? Pastor Steve said not recently.

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

Carol asked about the quilts that are missing. Pastor Steve said we didn't have a good system of tracking the number of quilts, but do now. Carol said Gail asked why the exterior door to the lower fellowship hall is propped open when groups are using it. Could the door be propped with a rock or doorstop which wouldn't let out as much heat. Pastor Steve will add it to Vera's list.

Sound issues for services were also mentioned. Pastor Steve knows about the issues with the sound of recorded sound. Pastor Steve and Steve are working on resolving the issues.

**6. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes** - Charlie asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Alan made a motion and Kristie seconded. Motion carried

**7. Strategic Visioning** -

a. **Review Organizational Chart and Liaison Assignments** - Charlie asked for any changes needed? None.

b. **2021-2022 Council Goals** - Conversation regarding Part 2: Chapters 3-5 of ReShape - Pastor Steve led a discussion of the chapters 3-5. Read chapter 6-7 for March. .

**8. Policy** -

a. **Reminder** Congregational Meeting to Approve the Constitution - Feb 27th.

**9. Monitoring and Oversight**

a. **Reports:**

i. **Senior Pastor Report** - Pastor Steve said he is going to travel with the LSA with testing and masks while traveling. We've landed at a place with recording we might look at adding more lighting for in person and online.

1. **Engagement Report**

ii. **Campus Ministry Coordinator Report** - The National Youth Gathering. The next one will be 2024.

iii. **Vicar Report** - He's talked with staff regarding removing the altar rail for a few

Sundays for Transfiguration.

iv. **Music Ministry Report** - Libby highlighted the mask requirements (N95, KN95) will be used in the choir.

v. **Administrative Secretary Report**

vi. **Facilities Manager Report** - The boiler has worked okay for a week, but the heat went out over the weekend at Grace Place. Since the property team isn't meeting, she'd like a proposal approved for power washing/painting. Charlie said the fire marshall inspected and we did fine except for some lights in exit lights. Carol asked if we need a motion, but Pastor Steve said she will pick the reliable, cost effective company.

vii. **Treasurer Report** - Morgan said for the winter, we're doing pretty well. We have done okay. We're still over budget in revenue and have a cushion. Pastor Steve said he'll do projections in another month. Charlie was very pleased with the giving in January.

**b. Old Business:**

i. **Security Protocol Group** - No update

ii. **Fire Alarm System** - Grace has received a \$10,000 Gift.

iii. **Property Task Force Update** - Pastor Steve said the committee hasn't met.

iv. **Updates on adjustments to schedule related to COVID-19**

Charlie reported Watauga County Schools will go mask optional on Tuesday and likely the Town and University will follow. Pastor Steve reviewed the COVID case rates that keeps us in the high transmission rate. The infection rate is 12% and needs to be less than 5%. Case rate needs to be lower. (Case rate is 174 currently). We need to remember why we used this rate.

Pastor Steve said mask mandates are being dropped. Carol said we should stick with the guidelines until the county rates drop and we should keep the CDC rates. Mary said we need to have a little patience. Alan said we need to remember that we have an older congregation. We should stay where we are and personally feel that we would be responsible for health issues. Martha said she's happy with the protocols and the signing in for services and Charlie was able to target who was in the service. Kristie agrees that it's a good idea to keep masks on. Western NC is in a state of high transmission. Wayne was watching the British news and Boris Johnson opening up and "live with it" and that isn't the way we should go. Mary said we should do what is best until we get more information and see dropping rates. Charlie said he just wanted to have a discussion and confirm we're keeping our policy.

**c. New Business**

i. **Update on Intern Application for 2022-2023** - Paperwork has been sent in and accepted. Interns are told in April.

ii. **Update on AMPARO Network support of Afghan Refugees in NC.** Mary said the Synod Immigrant Committee met last month and Bishop Tim really wants us to help with resettlement in the Asheville area. Most families come with children. Food Stamps don't go into effect for about 90 days. He would like churches to purchase gift cards for food. Pastor and Mary would like to know if we can share this with the congregation. Members could go online and donate immediately. Mary suggests that we put it in the newsletter to ask members to donate. 100 immigrants will all arrive at once and are overwhelmed. Pastor Steve has gotten two members who asked if we could help with the resettlement. Mary said we can apply for an AMPARO grant for \$5000. Rev. Laura Weant asked about the High County Coalition sponsoring families. Council was in agreement to allow members to make donations to this cause.

iii. **Facility Use Requests:**

1. **Horn in the West** – Sanctuary, F.H., and Lower F.H. for auditions - The Council approved this request via email.

2. **Artist Studio Request** – Carriage House - Pastor Steve said we need more information and recommends we wait for a decision.

3. **App Builds a Home** – Parking Lot - Alan made a motion to accept. Kristie seconded. Motion carried.

iv. **Approval of New Members** - Jennifer Dalton, Phillip and Carol Riggs, Karen Sperry and Lloyd Fields. Carol made a motion to accept the new members. Morgan seconded. Motion carried.

v. **April Council Meeting** – Proposed rescheduling to April 25th - Pastor Steve asked if we could change the meeting a week later. Council Exec will meet on April 11.

vi. **Review Special Offering Designations** - Pastor Steve made a motion to make special offerings during Lent **designated for** . Alan seconded. Motion carried.

10. **Next Meeting: March 21, 2022**

i. Devotion: Beth

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

Devotion List:

April - Emory

May - Carol

June - Janice

July - Morgan  
Aug - Martha