

Council Meeting Agenda March 21, 2022 at 6 pm Via Zoom

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

Absent: Jesse Lutabingwa

1. **Call to Order** - Charlie called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

2. **Devotion** - Beth related her devotion to bad things that happen to people and related it to Psalm 91, her “go to” scripture in stressful times and related it to several personal experiences She hopes that everyone .

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 said we’ve had more commune than in some time and nine visitors.

5. **Approval of February Council Meeting Minutes** - Charlie asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Kristie made the motion to accept, then Beth seconded. Motion carried.

6. **Approval of Special Congregational Meeting Minutes** - Charlie asked for a motion to approve the special congregational meeting minute. Kristie made the motion, then Beth seconded. Motion carried.

7. **Strategic Visioning** -

a. **Review Organizational Chart and Liaison Assignments**

b. **2021-2022 Council Goals - Conversation on Chapters 6-7 of ReShape** - Pastor Steve noted that the Sunday School class has caught up to the Council. Chapter 6 is on growth and what’s God’s role in world events. BOC workout - p. 99. The author wants us to look at life as an adventure through four intervals - “It was difficult, but was good.” e.g., calling members, online worship, didn’t let COVID stop stewardship, a capital campaign and what does this say about who we are. We’ll never stop reaching out. Pastor Steve hopes we’ll look back at COVID and be thankful for what we were able to do and look ahead at the new reality. Alan noted the phrase “Absence makes the heart grow fonder”. We have the opportunity when we can look at the big picture, but also look at the mid-level changes and the fine tuning.

Chapter 7 - How do we focus our efforts using mission mantras(p. 115). He has a number of sayings. He asked if our congregation had a mantra. Mary noted Share God's Love. Pastor Steve shared when we started working on our mission statement, we shared stories to find words that align with our mission. For example, helping the Hunger and Health Coalition or calling the church members or continuing to provide a monthly meal for Hospitality House from F.A.R.M. Cafe`.

8. Policy

a. Ratification of Constitution and Bylaws at August 2022 Congregational Meeting . Charlie reminded the Council that we must meet in August to ratify. We'll choose the date in the April meeting. Mary asked if we should work on other policies. Pastor Steve said we should review the financial policies and fundraising policy which may not be needed. Charlie remembered that we asked the Jeffcoat Proctor committee to rewrite their policy. Pastor Steve suggested that Kathy and Morgan should review.

9. Monitoring and Oversight

a. Reports (10 minutes):

i. Senior Pastor Report - Pastor Steve said the story on housing isn't blaming anyone about the housing struggle and he didn't ask for help. Charlie noted that on the A/V Consultant the Council Exec. approved a \$500 stipend. Exec. Committee noted that Vera's vacation will increase by a week. Pastor Steve will be gone on Mother's Day(May 8) and Pentecost (June 5)

1. Engagement Report

ii. Campus Ministry Coordinator Report

iii. Vicar Report

iv. Music Ministry Report

v. Administrative Secretary Report

vi. Facilities Manager Report

vii. **Treasurer Report** - Morgan said we were a little ahead in the budget, but we aren't now. But total expenses are low which offsets the offering. He is still looking at other streams of income, but total revenue is low. Parking is about \$19,000. We may collect additional funds in August when we sell for the 2022-2023. Basically, we're in pretty good shape. Pastor Steve said we could see a lower March giving. Pastor Steve put the year end giving reports back in the Council's reports. p. 31-33 of the reports.

b. Old Business (15 minutes):

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

ii. **Fire Alarm System** - No Update

iii. **Property Task Force Update** - Pastor Steve suggested that we get involved in the Housing discussions. Pastor Steve gave \$500 from the Pastor's Discretionary funds.

iv. **Updates on adjustments to schedule related to COVID-19** (Charlie stated we currently moved to yellow and then green. At the last service, about half the

congregation had masks on and communion was in the sanctuary. Pastor Steve said our issue is still above 10% with another variant on the way. For Carl Clearwater's funeral, people were masked, but not for the reception in the fellowship hall. Last week, they emailed people who had hosted a coffee hour. Whenever we resume coffee hours we will ask volunteers to keep it very simple.. Charlie said any time we start something back up, the expenses go up.

v. **Update on Intern Application for 2022-2023** - Pastor Steve hopes that we'll get the assignments, we can't yet.

vi. **Update on AMPARO Network Support for Refugees** - Mary Ballard asked what donations have for gift cards for Afghan refugees (\$2500+has been collected). For the Ukraine refugees, 10 million people have been displaced. Most are going to Poland, Moldova, etc. It might be up to a year before Ukrainian refugees get here.

c. **New Business-**

i. **Follow up on LSC "Be the Light" Campaign** (Pastor Steve noted that LSC is asking for a 6 week campaign for \$31,000 over three years. Do we want to do this campaign, do we accept their campaign amount and do the campaign, maybe in the fall? Wayne noted that should we do it and what should the amount be. Carol noted that Hospitality House and Refugees, \$31k seems steep to her for the congregation. Mary is concerned that we take on this challenge that it may take away from our local agencies and we should be hesitant and should build the benevolences back up. Alan agreed with Mary and Carol and we should look at local agencies. Pastor Steve likes this type of campaign and it has long bothered him to pledge outside of the church over a longer time. It makes more sense to support, but cut the goal and do a one time goal. Wayne added we should ask if there are 100 giving units who would give \$100/year. Pastor Steve said we have 70 giving units who can give and we could wait until April.

ii. **Review 2022 Troutman Grants** (Pastor Steve noted that we gave last year \$17,000 and gave the same amount. Charlie asked if the organizations have been notified and there is a delay until some systems are in place, but the checks should be mailed in a week or two.

iii. **A/V Consultant** - Pastor Steve said that Jonathan Stamey has worked 4 hours and we've made some progress and the various issues.

iv. **Watauga Compassionate Community Initiative Conference, May 14-15** (Pastor Steve and Charlie are planning to attend and invite others to address the issues of trauma.

v. **Response to crisis in Ukraine** - Pastor Steve has been funneling people toward Lutheran World Relief as a special offering and sent to the Ukrainian Lutheran Church. This is a small church body, but works with Lutheran church bodies

vi. **Review Special Offering Designations** - Pastor Steve asked about the offering for Easter be designated for the General Fund.

10. **Next Meeting:** April 25, 2022 *Note the changed date i. Devotion: Carol

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

Devotion List:

April - Emory

May - Carol

June - Janice

July - Morgan

Aug - Martha