

Council Meeting Minutes - April 19, 2021 at 6 pm Via Zoom

Attending: Gail Lund, Morgan Wright, Beth Reavis, Mary Ballard, Laura McArthur, Pastor Steve Troisi, Carol Norris, Alan Hauser, Charlie Wallin, Janice Koppenhaver, Sandy Moretz, Emory Maiden, and Luke Ramsdell .

1. **Call to Order** - Mary called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. **Devotion** - Carol read a devotion on "Wait 3 Days" and an old flower lady who was asked how things were and she said "wonderful". She thinks about the worst day of the world when Jesus was crucified, but rose on the third day and how prayer raises us up. Whatever troubles we have, our troubles are gone like the 3 days.

3. **Review Updated Council Ground Rules** - Mary 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 - None**

5. **Approval of Council Meeting Minutes** - Gail made a motion to accept the minutes. Emory seconded. Motion carried.

6. **Strategic Visioning** (5 minutes) - Mary

a. **2020-2021 Council Goal Setting**

i. **Planned Giving Meeting Workshop (Aug. or Sept.)** - Pastor Steve attended a workshop about planned giving. We can continue with preparing the paperwork. Some churches wanted to have the planned giving brochure which is approved by the congregation. Pastor Steve said the other side of planned giving is what to do when someone gives a gift that does not align with the congregation's ministry.

ii. **Constitution Update, Financial Policy Update (begin in Jan)** - Pastor Steve

started it this week for review and will shoot to have a Draft for May, that will be sent to the Task Force and then the Council. The Synod has to approve it prior to the August Congregational meeting.

iii. **Audit what we've done during COVID (May)** Pastor Steve will sit down with the staff to develop a list of activities.

7. Policy -

a. **Policy Updates:** Constitution Update - Review Draft Update at May meeting

8. Monitoring and Oversight

a. Reports::

i. **Senior Pastor Report** - Pastor Steve added that the LYO gathering on Saturday was nice. Beth and Luke are registered for the Synod Assembly. He's looking for a male to attend.

1. Engagement Report

ii. **Campus Ministry Coordinator Report**

iii. **Music Ministry Report**

iv. **Administrative Secretary Report**

v. **Facilities Manager Report** - Jennifer was in a car accident coming back from vacation. It limits some of her work. The grounds are looking really good. A volunteer crew helped to empty the Carriage House in cluing appliances.

vi. **Treasurer Report** - Adjusted Monthly Giving/Cumulative Giving - Pastor Steve reported that the giving for March was surprisingly higher than expected. We're still behind for the year (\$16,000), but we'll see how things are going, but we have been underspending which leads to a cushion. Right now it looks like we might land in the \$300,000 range with giving for the year.

b. Old Business (5 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 Property** (Pastor Steve and Jeff)

iv. **Carriage House Update** (Pastor Steve) - The house is empty. We are reaching out to some members with expertise to better assess the current state of the house and its systems. The plan is to begin construction in January once the Capital Drive is completed.

c. New Business

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

a. **Services/Events/Group Meetings** - Pastor Steve said

some groups are meeting and he had concerns about masks not being worn correctly. Mary said we might need to revoke privileges. Carol asked if masks could be slipped down if 6 feet apart. Gail noted that some people who are hard of hearing can't hear with masks. Charlie, Mary and Alan all said that we should maintain the mask mandate. Pastor Steve asked if staff should ask groups to follow the protocol. Charlie said one person who was at the Easter Service refused to wear a mask. Pastor Steve noted that on the Easter Services, the spots didn't all fill up like the Christmas Eve Services.

Easter Egg Hunt - Pastor Steve said it was hard to keep children apart, but on the whole the children did well. Beth said that it went well. Six children came and enjoyed themselves.

Sunday Services - The spots didn't fill up for the first in person service. Eighteen families registered and 16 families showed up. We could have up to 24 families for about 40 people. Pastor Steve said it was a good trial run with the Maiden family ushering. A bonus was that Pastor Steve got to visit with people outside who attended before or after the service. Gail asked if we could print the words to the hymns to follow along. Libby requested that, too. Emory said that everyone seemed to do a great job of following the rules. It was well organized and went really well. Pastor Steve looked through the list of the sign up and found a person he didn't know. The family moved to Boone in July and have been worshipping with us on YouTube.

For communion, Alan said that we should distribute wine outside instead of the building. Beth said she'd prefer to do communion in the building. Morgan said that he thought that Pastor Steve should be able to pull his mask down to lead the service. Charlie said that the pastor is far enough away that he should be able to preach or lead without a mask.

For singers, it was decided to discuss at the May meeting. Alan commented that there is a lot of music written for trios. Pastor Steve said the choir would like to begin practicing in the sanctuary and record the music for Sunday. Libby could

add in the voices of other choir members who attend online. Mary asked if all choir members are vaccinated. Alan said that if you're not vaccinated, you shouldn't sing in the choir. Carol noted that there are some people who can't have a vaccine for health reasons. Charlie said he doesn't support asking people if they're vaccinated and that we should be aware of the extra work put on Jennifer to keep the church sanitized. Mary asked if anyone else is trained to use the fogger. Gail made a motion that we allow the choir to practice and perform using Libby's guidelines. Morgan seconded. Laura asked if we were going to require the vaccination. Gail noted that this would be difficult to regulate, and we should defer to Libby and the choir to guide the process. Pastor Steve clarified that the Choir would begin rehearsing in May.

Mary conducted the vote. Six in favor, five opposed. One abstention. Mary asked Pastor Steve to communicate to Libby the results of the vote including the vote totals.

ii. **Intern for 2021-2022, Grace Place College Interns** - Mary noted the bio for Randy in our package. He has been fully endorsed for internship. College interns - Corrine and Ally. Pastor Steve suggested they work in the Faith Formation maybe with the prep for the National Youth Gathering. In order for these interns to really help the ministry of Grace, there probably needs to be someone to help shepherd the two interns to help with planning and coordination.

iii. **Facility Use Contract** - Wildwood has requested to pare down the number of days and the amount of money. Pastor Steve said they are paying \$100/month to store their materials and reduce the monthly donation during the school year from \$500/month to \$300/month. It is Wildwood's responsibility to clean up after themselves. Pastor Steve made a motion to approve this facility use request. Emory seconded. Motion carried.

iv. **Stewardship for All Seasons - Synod Request** - Information about this Synod subsidized program is available in the report packet. The Synod said that we could begin the program in May, but pay in August. Gail said she thought we should wait. Morgan noted that we had recently had a big capital drive and we should wait.

v. **Spring Stewardship Drive - May - June** - Pastor Steve said based on our Stewardship Timeline, we are a little behind. Pastor Steve noted that the offering plate in the narthex has not been used.

vi. **Worship Recording Assistance** - Pastor Steve said he would like to start visiting folks, however, the time has been taken up with video editing. He asked Steve Franks what it would take to record and post all the services and Steve said about \$1500/month. Pastor Steve would then just lead the worship services online and in-person. Mary said that we should consider this in order to continue online services and to assist Pastor Steve and allow him to spend more time with visits.

ix. **AMMPARO Migrant Children** - Mary said that this is an ELCA focus. AMMPARO is geared at supporting immigrant children. Pastor Steve asked for council members to look over the information and then consider more deeply at the May meeting.

x. **Altar Guild Request for Pentecost Flower sale** - Beth asked for approval to handle Pentecost Sunday like Christmas or Easter by purchasing red geraniums. She also noted that Gail Hauser talked with florists and contacted the florist at Harris-Teeter and they have decided to try a new way of providing flowers for Sunday worship. Beth made a motion that we reserve Pentecost Sunday for the purchase of geraniums to put for a designated fund for altar guild supplies. Pastor Steve asked if we need a new designated fund for the altar guild. Beth said yes. Alan seconded. Beth said they are also planning to buy some liners which can be used to take flowers for shut ins. Motion carried.

9. **Next Meeting:** May 17, 2021 at 6 p.m.

i. Devotion: Emory

10. **Adjourn Meeting with the Lord's Prayer** (5 minutes) - Carol

Upcoming Devotions

June - Beth

July - Janice

Aug - Charlie