

Council Meeting Minutes - Oct. 18, 2021 at 6 pm Via Zoom

Attending: Morgan Wright, Jesse Lutabingwa, Mary Ballard, Pastor Steve Troisi, Laura McArthur, Charlie Wallin, Alan Hauser, Carol Norris, Janice Koppenhaver, Martha Kreszock Kristie Evans and Emory Maiden. **Absent:** Vicar Randy

1. **Call to Order** - Mary called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. until Charlie arrived.

2. **Devotion** - Kristie decided based on transitions with life changes, retirements, birthdays and children growing tired. Wouldn't it be nice to get a heads up from God and why. Even when we know transitions are coming, we fight it and God's will. Trust that God has something good in store for us.

3. **Review Updated Council Ground Rules** - Charlie reminded us of 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 input. Carol said thanks to the pastor adding the personal notes in the congregations. Pastor Steve said he learned that only Vera was getting some of the prayer requests. Susan McKay is moving to Georgia and her last

5. **Approval of Council Meeting Minutes** - Alan made two corrections and made the motion to approve. Jesse seconded. Motion carried

6. **Strategic Visioning** - Charlie
 - a. **Review Organizational Chart and Liaison Assignments** - Pastor Steve said the chart is updated and groups. Mary asked about if she is on the Internship Committee. Once the new Constitution is approved, the VP won't need to be on the Personnel Committee, but Pastor Steve said he hoped Mary would stay on the Intern committee. Jesse asked about the liaison responsibilities. Charlie noted that Sandy needs to be removed.
 - b. **2021-2022 Council Goal Setting Process Brainstorming** - Pastor Steve proposed

a few goals to ponder for distinct goals that we can work on. He pointed out that C.12.4 section of the Constitution. The summary of the responsibilities of the Council are Strategic Vision, Setting Policy, and Monitoring Progress. To be clear, the Council is not responsible for doing anything, but think about the areas of the church and hand off the idea to the committees.

- **Strategic** - Receive recommendations from Property Task Force and develop a plan from it to next steps. Kristie said it made sense to compile all the projects.
- **Policy** - Finalize establishing constitution; review and update all Financial policies. Pastor Steve said we've finished the Constitution. With a new treasurer, it's a good time to take a look at it. Laura commented that we spent a lot of time on same gender marriages in the church. Pastor Steve said we listened to listening posts. Pastor Steve said he would perform the same meetings with a couple. Right now, the couple would submit a facility use request and the Council will have to decide when the time comes. Jesse said Pastor Steve said there were listening posts and it would be useful to have a report. We did have a report published and Mary commented that it was split pretty much in half. Laura suggested that we address the wedding policy. Carol suggested we leave the policy as it is now (to vote on each request). Martha asked if the fall listening posts are current enough? Alan suggested that we leave it for now because of the healing over COVID. Kristie agreed with Alan and we aren't doing many weddings now because of COVID. There seemed to be general agreement to keep the requests. Jesse made a motion to work to finalize the constitution and financial policies. Alan made a second. Motion carried with 1 abstention.
- **Monitoring** - Study a book about the changing dynamics of congregational ministry and how to evaluate and monitor our ministry moving forward.
Recommendations:
 - Shift: 3 Big Moves for the 21st Century Church by Tidsworth
 - ReShape: Emerging Church Practice in a Volatile World by Tidsworth
 - Canoeing Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory by Bolsinger.

Pastor Steve said one of the questions we should be asking about ministries. Pastor Steve suggested having the Council reading a book together. He summarized three books in a way to monitor beyond contributions and members. Mary suggested ReShape. Jesse approved too. Kristie said that it was a good idea. Laura asked if these books are available as an Ebook. Alan said we should take a serious look at how we measure how successful we are in all aspects of our ministries. Mary said she would ask at the Synod presidents meeting tomorrow. Pastor Steve showed us the Synod's Congregational Vitality measures. Jesse said he liked the congregational input, but he didn't know that the congregational input existed. Is there a mechanism that informs the congregation that they can come? Pastor Steve said he can just put a "Did you know?" notice about input and that it can be announced prior to the meeting. Charlie pointed out that the person should come and we receive the information, but don't try to solve the issue during this section. Charlie asked for a motion to

approve the reading of the Shape book. Pastor Steve made the motion. Laura seconded. Motion carried.

7. Policy (5 minutes) - Charlie

a. Review Policies for Updates: Constitution Update - Update from Synod Review and next steps. Pastor Steve noted the Constitution is in the report that Pastor Steve. The Synod approved giving the Council the authority to select the Assembly representatives (C5.0.01).Assembly members The Synod is waiting on us for the two meetings. Charlie said the financial policies need updating.

8. Monitoring and Oversight

a. **Reports (5 minutes):**

i. **Senior Pastor Report**

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** - Pastor noted that we didn't meet our giving for September. What makes our budget different is the staffing costs, so the budget does need to meet the giving goals. If we run really far behind, we'll have to watch it. Our operating cushion is about \$33,000, but should be more like \$60,000. Jesse asked why there is a vehicle replacement fund. Charlie said there was a van, but it died and wasn't replaced.

b. Old Business:

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 County Property Update - The agreement letter has been updated and sent to Darius Hall.

iv. Spring Stewardship Drive - June-July 18th Stewardship Drive

v. Property Task Force Update - Ongoing.

vi. Updates on adjustments to schedule related to COVID-19 - Charlie numbers in the county are going down, but we're still at the high risk categories. Charlie noted that the County doesn't always get updated

information at the same time. Discrepancies come from commuter students. Hopefully, children will be eligible for vaccines in the next month or so.

vii. AMMPARO - Charlie said Mary started this project. Mary is passionate about this because she is on the local Immigrant Justice Committee and the Synod wants congregations to join AMMPARO as a support for our immigrant/refugees (Central America, Afghans, etc). Mary hopes to get questions about AMMPARO for the Synod. In a few months, we can vote to adopt. Jesse said he thought it is a great idea to show the community that we care. Laura said it seems to fit well with our vision statement. Kristie said she likes the idea and we should move forward with this project. Mary said she can get the paperwork together and we would be a “welcoming congregation”. Mary said currently there are not any Afghan students who need support. Most of our Latinex immigrants are from Mexico. Mary will get us additional information and update us at the next meeting. Send her an email with any questions.

Synod Refugee and Immigrant Task Force

c. New Business (10 minutes)

i. **Election of Treasurer** - Morgan has agreed to be our treasurer, but he needs to be officially nominated and elected. Alan nominated Morgan. Carol seconded. Charlie proposed closing nominations and electing Morgan as treasurer. Motion carried.

ii. **Facility Use Request** - Lauren Johnson has requested use of the church for using the choir room with a secondary room for parents. Mary said she's fine with it, but we thought the Council should approve it. Jesse asked if we have anyone else doing this? Pastor Steve said the expectation is that the parents remain in an adjoining room. Kristie said we should consider the precedence. Laura asked if there are any liabilities? Pastor Steve said we carry the liability for the church. Emory made a motion to accept the facility use. Morgan seconded. Motion carried with one opposed.

9. Next Meeting: Nov 15, 2021 at 6 p.m.

i. Devotion: Laura

10. **Adjourn Meeting with the Lord's Prayer** - Kristie at 7:51 p.m.

Devotion List:

Dec - Alan
Jan- Jessie
Feb.- Mary
March - Beth
April - Emory
May - Carol
June - Janice
July - Morgan
Aug - Martha