

Council Meeting Minutes
May 16, 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, and Jesse Lutabingwa

Absent: Kristie Evans, Vicar Randy Rothchild

1. **Call to Order** - Charlie called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. **Devotion** - Emory provided a devotion and selected Psalm 29:4. What he has been reflecting on is that he's struggled with being overly busy and this verse helps to be aware that days are short and to focus on the things that are important - family, friends and faith and the take away from this passage is to not sweat the small stuff.

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 if anyone had congregational input. Pastor Steve shared that Sunday morning that Vicar Randy was sick and Pastor Steve was away. Charlie stepped in to help cover the video sermon and thanked him for filling in with notes for the service.

5. **Approval of Council Meeting Minutes** - Motion to approve the April 2022 minutes was made by Alan and seconded by Carol. Motion carried.

6. **Strategic Visioning** - Charlie pointed out that Kevin Patterson is no longer on Troutman Foundation on the Pillars page.

- a. Review Organizational Chart and Liaison Assignments

7. **Policy** - Charlie

- a. Ratify Updated Constitution and Bylaws at August 28th Congregational Meeting
- B. Finance report update- Pastor Steve stated that they have updated all of the foundations and updated so that the financial secretary and the treasurer will be the signatory on the foundations to make it more uniform.

8. Monitoring and Oversight

a. Reports:

i. **Senior Pastor Report** - Pastor Steve said that there is another update on how to handle Vera's job in the interim. Next week, Pastor Steve is in the Columbia, SC meeting with the 2022-2023 intern.

1. **Engagement Report** - Attendance continues to creep up. Last Sunday, attendance was over 90.

ii. **Campus Ministry Coordinator Report** - Several LSA students are going to work at Lutheran camps. Pastor Steve reminded everyone of the picnic on May 22nd. He stated that on Vera's report, she had 6 pages of notes about all the things she does. He said that members volunteering to help is a great help. Carol is one of the only members who signs up for flowers regularly. Alan mentioned that Gail is getting members to sign up for the flowers. Pastor Steve said that people need to read the email, sign up and show up and notices will come out closer to the dates. We need usher slots filled on a regular basis and that is the most needed right now.

vi. **Facilities Manager Report** - On a personal note, Jennifer's dad has been in and out of the hospital, but is now in hospice.

vii. **Treasurer Report** - Kathy just forgot to do the report and was out of town and will return on Wednesday. She has to come into the office to run a report and Pastor Steve will work on getting the access remotely. Kathy did give her the giving report of approximately \$23,000 at the end of April.

Viii. **Music Report** - Libby didn't submit a report, but she will be on a 3 week vacation.

b. Old Business:

i. **Security Protocol Group** (Carol) - No update. On hold due to COVID.

ii. **Fire Alarm System** (Pastor Steve) - No Update

iii. **Property Task Force Update** (Pastor Steve) - Pastor Steve said he hadn't heard from Jeff Voss about the Council House plumbing repair. In the meantime, Patrick Greene, home inspector, looked at the Council House to see what upcoming repairs may need to be repaired. The foundation has some issues as well as electricity. As for creating two apartments, it would take \$100,000 to \$200,000, but are waiting for Jennifer back into town and arrange for a contractor to give accurate estimates. In the meantime, Kathy remembered that Mark Norris, the previous owner of the Council house, might be interested in moving the Carriage House. Pastor Steve noted the Watauga Housing Forum final meeting summary and that he'll share it. Interns have moved and Jennifer has scheduled the painters and carpet cleaners.

iv. **Updates on adjustments to schedule related to COVID-19** - Charlie noted that there aren't new updates. Pastor Steve said that 16

pastors have tested positive. A church in Southport had several events and had 52 cases. The Synod is considering requiring masks in addition to the vaccinations to attend the meeting.

c. New Business

i. **Sabbatical Request and Applications Update** - Pastor Steve said a Synod Committee member said that he should hear by mid-June for approval on the 3 grants.

ii. **100th Anniversary of Grace** - Charlie said some people have volunteered so far and we want to promote the save the date.

iii. **Facility Use Request:** Mountain Home Music? Don't have a request yet. Blood Drive - Janice made a motion to accept and Jesse seconded. Motion carried.

iv. **Stewardship Drive in June-July** - Charlie mentioned we typically start in May. Wayne Powell and some others. Pastor Steve said he would figure out how to access the Breeze aspect.

v. **Budget Process** (Goal to finalize at June meeting) - Pastor Steve said we'll need to work on it in June and he'll be meeting with the groups who have requests and anticipate the budget being somewhat flat. Pastor Steve can do some budget information sessions at 5 p.m. or 5:30p.m. on June 20th and approve the budget in July.

vi. **Nominating Committee** - Charlie noted that we need to get the nominating committee going. (They were nominated last year.)

vii. **Administrative Assistant Transition** - Pastor Steve is working on Vera's current duties to create the new position description. Vera noted that her job is engagement to get people more deeply connected and the position also exists to make sure Pastor Steve has what he needs to do his job. Problem solves issues that she can handle versus what Pastor Steve needs to do. He also noted that the labor market is tight and he is concerned that we may need to pay higher than we have. A discussion regarding position requirements and salary requirements was held. Beth noted that the Chamber has a place for posting jobs. Carol asked about the gender of the person and noted that a number of people are available who have the people and problem solving skills and believe in the ministry we're doing. Martha commented that we need to think about where we advertise. Pastor Steve noted a number of options. Next steps, Pastor Steve said he'd like a position description around June 1 and post until July 1, then narrow the candidates and interview in July and see where we land. The next thing is the job description will be sent to the Personnel Committee, then sent to the Council.

viii. **AAMPARO** - Mary said representatives from AAMPARO connected with the Synod. They want to meet with Sen. Tillis' Office. In terms of the Afghan refugees. Susannah Cunningham of LRIS in DC wanted faith leaders from NC to

meet representatives from Senator Tillis' office. So several people from the NC Synod Immigration and Refugee task force met with them. Roughly 70,000 Afghan refugees were allowed to come to the US under the Humanitarian Parole Act, but unless Congress passes an Adjustment Act (which is typical after wartime evacuation) they will need to apply for asylum in August. Only about 40,000 are eligible for SID asylum and there are not enough asylum lawyers to handle the cases, so they will likely mostly fall into undocumented status. This will affect about 1700 refugees in NC.

10. Next Meeting: June 20, 2022

i. Devotion: Morgan

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

Devotion List:

July - Janice

Aug - Martha