

February Council Meeting Minutes
February 16th, 2026 at 6 pm; Hybrid (in person + Zoom)

Present: Pastor Steve, Amy Atkins, James Holden, Lynn Caldwell, Eric Breitenstein, Jennifer Davis, Jonathan Stamey, Kristie Evans, Mike Seden, Kristie Evans, & Jesse Lutabingwa

Absent: Liz Peter, Morgan Wright

1. Call to Order – Made by James @ 6:02 PM
2. Devotion – Lynn: man on an island who built 3 huts. They were a house, a church, where he used to go to church. This story/joke brings to light the division in our daily lives, even within ourselves. There’s global, national, and personal division to deal with. Sometimes we forget to find the beauty and laughter in our lives. Scripture focus - Psalm 51: 6 - 12.
3. Ground Rules – Reviewed by James
 - 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 the 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
 - Lynn: Jordan Rucker and family splitting time between churches. Once again, no one was in the nursery to take care of the kids this past Sunday. Both people scheduled to come in did not show up.
 - James: he and Blair feel very supported after the birth of their child
5. Approval of January Council Meeting Minutes
 - Motion made by Jonathan to approve the January minutes. Jesse seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
6. Strategic Visioning – James
 - A. Review Organizational Chart and Liaison Assignments
 - B. Council Goal-Setting Process
 - C. “Raising the Roof” book –
 - Discuss 100 Year History of Grace – What is something that you didn’t know? What stood out to you about the history of the congregation?
 - The acquiring of land piecemeal. The growth in certain eras. Not knowing how prevalent Lutheranism was in the High Country. We were a new mission start with support from other churches and the NC Synod and were supported by these entities for a long time.

7. Policy – James

8. Monitoring and Oversight

A. Reports:

- 1) Senior Pastor Report - Addition: The Worship and Music committee met and, for the time being, we're going to serve communion down front (not at the railing). Safety concerns.
- 2) Campus Ministry Coordinator
- 3) Music Ministry Report
- 4) Office Manager Report
- 5) Facilities Report
- 6) Treasurer Report - Doing fine. Capital campaign coming up.

9. Old Business

- 1) Pastor Steve's Big Property Idea – Extension of the parking lot
 - a. Contracts signed, no start date set.
- 2) Playground Project Update - on hold until funds are received
- 3) Full-Time Director of Congregational Life Position
 - a. Applicants' status
 - i. 10 resumes received. We have confidence we can choose a person among these applicants.
 - b. Need to form an interview committee
 - i. Definites - Jennifer & Amy
 - ii. Desired - a youth person, an older person (Scott Evans?), and a 60+/retired person (Kelly Rucker?)
- 4) Capital Campaign
 - a. Date – February 22nd through April 19th
 - b. Wilkes Property Sale Endowment Fund Creation and bylaws - Steve
 - i. On April 19th, at the conclusion of the campaign, have a congregational meeting. At the meeting, establish the endowment and bylaws. Afterwards have lunch.
- 5) Roof Replacement – bidding process status
 - a. A spreadsheet to be created to compare all the bids and their suggestions
 - b. Most are in the \$130K range.
 - c. A vote to approve the bid must be unanimous by the council (NC law).
- 6) Grace Place - bidding process status
 - a. Waiting on the bid.
 - b. Anna Wilder volunteered to be the liaison with Josh on the Grace Place work.
 - i. Some Property committee members to walk through the house with her and identify issues and expectations.
 - c. Current renters need to stay through June. Not ideal as we'd like to get work started (was hoping they'd be out mid-May). We need to troubleshoot housing for them.

C. New Business

- 1) Facility Requests – The Rock. Motion to approve made by Amy. Jesse seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
- 2) Council Retreat Date - currently set for Saturday, May 2nd, 9AM - 12PM.

9. Meeting adjourned with prayer – Lynn

Upcoming Devotion List:

Mar - Eric
Apr - Liz
May - Jennifer
June - Jonathan
July - P. Steve
Aug - Morgan