Council Agenda
April 17, 2023, at 6 pm Via Zoom

Present: Morgan Wright, Mary Ballard, Martha Kreszock, Alan Hauser, Kristie Evans, Emory Maiden, Carol Norris, Jordan Burkhart, Suzanne Wise, P. Steve, V. Spence

Absent: Jesse Lutabingwa, Jennifer Davis, Wayne Powell

1. Call to Order – Mary 6:03PM

2. Devotion – Emory

    -   Philippians 1: 25 - 26, there's abundance in sharing. This is what Grace is about. Abundance can appear out of clear air.

3. Ground Rules – Mary

    ● 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 – Mary

    A. Want to have communion around the rail
        - concerns about people with canes or those that can't kneel
    B. Want to have healing prayers around the altar

5. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes – Mary.

    -   Motion for approval made by Suzanne, seconded by Martha. Motion passed unanimously

6. Strategic Visioning – Mary

A. Review Organizational Chart and Liaison Assignments

- Has been updated. Not available for meeting.

B. Council Goal-Setting Process

Book discussion, Chapter 5, "The Holy and the Hybrid".

i. Limits of technology? Ex. A pastor who allowed people from all different states to join their church. Does proximity matter? Could an all online church work?

ii. Discussion - What about interpersonal relationships? Age considerations - more attractive to younger people? Balancing needs of digital vs in-person worshippers. Would redefine the role of clergy (baptism, communion). What's the most important aspect of worship for a person and does that affect how they want to worship?

7. Policy – Mary

A. Personnel Policy Update - no update

8. Monitoring and Oversight

A. Reports:

i. Senior Pastor Report

a. Review of Engagement Report - What happens to attendance if we cancel in-person worship? March 12th was canceled. Average online attendance is 60ish; on this day attendance was 70 - 128 (went up).

ii. Campus Ministry Coordinator

iii. Vicar's Report

iv. Office Manager Report

v. Music Ministry

vi. Facilities Manager Report - not available

a. Discussion of current landscaping project status
b. Property work date coming soon
c. Sign needs finished

vii. Treasurer Report

a. YTD giving is matching the budget

      b.   Total expenses about the same
      c.   Projected. OK for now
      d.   Some March donations not applied until April
      e.   Probably break even for end of year

B. Old Business:

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

    ii. 100th Anniversary of Grace
      a.   100th Anniversary song status
      b.   Cost estimates for tent received. 30' x 30' tent reserved.
      c.   RSVPs to be sent soon
      d.   Asking folks to provide a donation to offset costs and possibly do a food drive
      e.   Pastor Tim and Wendy's attendance will be truncated if at all (family wedding, health concerns)
      f.   Brass quintet will play
      g.   Old photos being requested

    iii. Circle of Welcome for Refugees - no update

    iv. Columbarium Update

      a.   Communication on new columbarium niches
      b.   Concerns about drainage is slowing project
      c.   30 days out from ordering, 60 - 90 days before install

    v. Security Protocol Group

      a.   "Ring" type doorbells for the Narthex area, office and side doors have been ordered. To arrive later this week. Probably end up ordering additional cameras.

    vi. Fire Alarm System (Pastor Steve)

    vii. Sabbatical Update (Pastor Steve)

      a.   Coverage covered except for one Sunday of preaching
      b.   How to pay for covered responsibilities? Draw from budgeted intern monies?

    viii. Strengthening the Financial Position of Grace

      a.   Stewardship drive after Easter
      b.   Temple talks leading up to 100th Anniversary

    ix. GLOO and He Gets Us programs - No movement. Remove for consideration.

C. New Business

     i. Nursery Coordinator

        a. Status of position - Rielly Kerr hired. They have started working on the nursery. Barrett Davis assisted this past Sunday.   Hannah Rose is interested in helping as a paid person.
        b. Background checks will be required for volunteers.

     ii. Facility Use Request(s)

        a. JrROTC car wash - approved prior to Council meeting by the Exec Committee. Already done; successful
        b. All Addictions Recovery Group
        c. St. Elizabeth's
        d. Abby Barker - baby shower. Person in the community who wants to use the facility. We would prefer to be more direct with costs of facility use
        e. Hearts of Hospitality
        f. Motion made by Allen to approve all the above facility requests; seconded by Morgan. Motion carried unanimously

     iii. Pastor Steve's Crazy Property Idea

        a. Giving percentage is not 10%. Church financial structure based on 10% tithe.
        b. Battle between operational support vs ministry resources.
        c. Accessibility and flexibility needs. We need facilities that multiply ministry.
        d. Downtown location; downtown needs (parking, meeting spaces, student housing)
        e. Watauga County Housing Crisis
        f. Overlapping Needs of Grace and Boone (housing, parking, meeting spaces, student housing)
        g. Is there a way for Grace to update its property and facilities that meets both the ministry needs of the congregation and the community needs in Boone. Could this be done to be a more sustainable model for ministry moving forward?
        h. Idea is a large-scale building project that would update and add new buildings to both downtown properties which would be primarily funded by income generated through workforce housing, student housing, office rental space, parking, etc.
        i. 20 year generational project. Would generate lots of income.

9. Next Meeting: May 15th

   - Devotion: Jesse

10. Meeting Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer - Emory

Upcoming Devotion List:

    June - Jordan

    July - Wayne

August - Jennifer