

## **Council Meeting Minutes- Aug. 16, 2021 at 6 pm Via Zoom**

Attending: Sandy Moretz, Janice Koppenhaver, Carol Norris, Jessie Lutabingwa, Beth Reavis, Gail Lund, Pastor Steve Troisi, Jeff Voss, Mary Ballard, Laura McArthur, Luke Ramsdell, Kristi Evans, Alan Hauser, Emory Maiden, and Morgan Wright

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

2. **Devotion** - Pastor Steve offered a prayer to begin our meeting.

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** - Mary asked for congregational input. Pastor Steve said Lynne Mauney thought the congregational meeting went well. Beth asked if we just have one person who has COVID. Mary noted that the hospital is getting higher cases and other hospitals are full, too. Pastor Steve heard one student at Hardin Park School has COVID.

5. **Approval of Council Meeting Minutes and Special Meeting Minutes** - Mary asked for a motion for the July Council Meeting Minutes. Beth made a motion to approve. Sandy seconded. Motion carried. For the special meeting minutes, Laura made a motion to approve. Beth seconded. Motion carried. 1 abstention.

6. **Strategic Visioning** - Mary

a. **Self-Evaluation of 2020-2021 Council Goals**

- i. **Planned Giving Meeting Workshop** (Aug. or Sept.) - Develop Planned Giving Strategy and schedule a Planned Giving workshop. Pastor Steve said he thought we had done about 70% of the goal without scheduling a workshop.
- ii. **Constitution Update, Financial Policy Update** (began in Jan) The Constitution is ready, but waiting for the Synod to approve it and then the have a

congregational meeting. The Review of Financial policy is slow. About 50% done.

iii. **Audit of COVID Ministry** (May) - We completed it, prioritized the AV position, so about 100% (Incomplete note and I don't remember. Someone please complete this item)

Pastor Steve said asked how we have done on the Council front. Mary said in a highly unpredictable situation, didn't always agree and the regathering policies were the most difficult. Beth said she felt good about the two tiered policy regarding COVID protocols. Mary said the Exec. Team worked together to produce it. Pastor Steve said he felt more settled about the policy. Jeff said he thought Council did a good job given the situation. Alan said our first priority should be the safety of the people in our congregation.

Pastor said what unexpectedly positive thing happened this year. Janice said the AV presence and the ability to share this with shutins. Alan was impressed regarding the commitment of the congregation in support in giving and presence and we should joyfully celebrate it. Laura mentioned that we got a vicar. Pastor Steve noted that this Council met on Zoom and put us in a difficult situation and worked well together in spite of difficult decisions. Jessie asked what he attributed the cooperation to. Laura said that she thought that Mary's leadership and meeting. Jeff said we respected each other's position and agreed to disagree. Alan said he's been on Church Council and sometimes there has been quibbling, but we approached the bigger issues well. Pastor Steve highlighted the Executive Team worked well together tackling issues.

## 7. Policy - Mary

a. **Policy Updates: Constitution Update** - Awaiting Update from Synod Review

## 8. Monitoring and Oversight

a. **Reports:**

i. **Senior Pastor Report** - Pastor Steve pointed out that we're seeing a noticeable decline in the online participation. About 130 participated online last year and this year it's 92 participating

### 1. **Engagement Report**

ii. **Campus Ministry Coordinator Report**

iii. **Vicar Report** - Mary said that the Internship Committee met with Vicar Randy last week in person outside.

iv. **Music Ministry Report**

v. **Administrative Secretary Report -**

vi. **Facilities Manager Report -** Pastor Steve said she could have her report every other month.

vii. **Treasurer Report - Adjusted Monthly Giving/Cumulative Giving -** Mary said she was relieved that the budget passed on Sunday without a lot of discussion. Jeff said he has an anonymous member who said they will cover the new part-time AV person and equipment for the 2021-2022.

July was slim and Pastor Steve said we have about \$11000 with 3 more Sundays to deposit.

**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 County Property** - We're still looking for ways to eliminate the tax burden. Pastor Steve said that this property was donated in the 60's and we can log the property. It was designed for us to use to log it and get some money. If we put in a logging road, a sign saying it was a future home of the camp along with some camp sites. Mary Ballard noted that we can't sell it until 2024. Also, the governing of the property also has family trustees who have sign off on it.

iv. **Property and Facilities Task Force** - Mary asked Pastor Steve to review this project. The Carriage House costs to improve it outweigh the benefits to renovate it. To change it, the Town would have to reissue our property's zoning. This led to evaluating the property to develop a long term plan about how to use all of the facilities. Pastor Steve will identify members with expertise.

**c. New Business (10 minutes)**

i. **Updates to protocols related to COVID-19** (Mary) We haven't made any updates and Watauga is still in the red (cases, ICU, etc.)

ii. **Update on Annual Stewardship Drive** - Pastor Steve said that a couple of year ago, we had 74 pledges. Last year, the giving may be down, but with the capital campaign. 28 pledges for \$119,000. Kathy looked at the Simply Giving 28 with \$68,000. Currently, it's about 60% of what we'll need. It's about 60 households. Pastor Steve said he and Vera will meet tomorrow and discuss an additional strategies.

iii. **Facility Use Requests: St. Elizabeth's in Exile** - The current bishop is anti-vatican II who doesn't fit the congregation. A group has left St. Elizabeth's and are looking for a place to have worship on Saturday at 4 p.m. Pastor Steve

met their worship team and some musicians. The priest will bring all sacraments. Beth asked if our weddings would take precedent over their service. Pastor Steve said he's only had one wedding in the church, so we could work around it. Jeff asked if there is enough time to clean the facility. They will clean the sanctuary and bathrooms. Laura asked if this done as an interfaith effort. Pastor Steve said a donation is acceptable. Alan has been following the difficulties of the Catholic Church. Alan made a motion to approve this request. Carol seconded. Motion carried.

**9. Adjourn Meeting with the Lord's Prayer** - Pastor offered a devotion regarding Brave Talk, the book being read in Sunday School. The last chapter is how do we really engage in conflict. She presents a way to approach an impass using the acronym QUEST. Ask with curiosity, Understand, Empathize with the other's position, Communicate back and building a relationship and building resilient communities. Paul talks about how community's come together. Everyone has a role to play and everyone is important to be complete. If someone shows up, we're closer to being complete. It isn't because it's the right thing to do.

**10. Election of 2021-2022 Council Officers -**

**President** - Pastor Steve opened the nomination for president. Mary asked Beth Reavis who declined.. Carol asked if Charlie would be willing to be president. Pastor Steve texted him and he said he'd serve. Mary seconded. Motion carried.

**Vice President** - Laura nominate Mary Ballard. Jessie seconded. Pastor Steve asked for an acclamation.

**Secretary** - Mary nominated Janice and Beth seconded. Motion carried. Kristie said she would be willing to shadow and be secretary in 2022-2023.

**Treasurer** - Jeff has declined to continue as treasurer. He will be able to help someone to acclimate to the position. You don't have to be an accountant. Since no one is volunteering, Pastor Steve, Vera, Jeff and Kathy will brainstorm on a possible person to be a treasurer. We'll leave the nomination open until treasurer nominee is listed.

**11. Sign up for 2021-2022 Devotions**

**12. Next Meeting:** September 20, 2021 at 6 p.m.

i. Devotion: Charlie

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