

Council Meeting Minutes - June 15 at 6 pm
Via Zoom

Attending: Sandy Moretz, Gail Lund, Mary Ballard, Beth Reavis, Morgan Wright, Charlie Wallin, Laura McArthur, Janice Koppenhaver, Alan Hauser, John Smyre, Carol Norris, Vicar Christopher Shealy, and Pastor Steve Troisi

Call to Order - Mary called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

Devotion - Beth shared some thoughts about how she has been driven by the Holy Spirit and the seasons of worship in creation of the new paraments that she designed and constructed.

Review Updated Council Ground Rules - Mary reminded everyone 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.

Congregational Input - Mary shared that Elaine V. wanted to compliment Pastor Steve regarding the online worship. They're moving to Florida, but enjoy watching the services. Alan noted one wording change and made a motion to accept with the amendment. Charlie seconded.

Approval of Council May Meeting Minutes - Alan noted one wording change and made a motion to accept with the amendment. Charlie seconded. Motion carried.

6. Strategic Visioning-

a. 2019-2020 Council Goals

i. **Updates on Projects from Retreat** (doors, signage, picture frames, digital ministry) Pastor Steve said on page 4. Beth and Carol are working on signage. Narthex - lighting updated. Furniture needs to be updated and put up pictures on the walls. Property has a new side door with a half panel of glass. Perhaps next week the wooden front doors will go to Foscoe to get glass put in the doors. Harold will fix a temporary door. The webpage is updated. The video committee is moving ahead. We were hoping to have it done by August.

b. Review updated Organizational Structure

c. Review Council Liaison Assignments and Job Description

7. Policy -

a. Policy Updates: Constitution Update -Mary said it will likely be next year because of COVID.

8. Monitoring and Oversight

a. Reports (10 minutes):

i. Senior Pastor Report - Pastor Steve said he took food to Pastor John and Nancy. He still is not feeling well. Pastor Steve, Vera, and Kathy have taken food to them and are appreciated.

1. Engagement Report - On the chart, Pastor Steve added some view information. 325 devices per week are being viewed is impressive. Pastor Steve said he might write some updates in the newsletter

ii. Vicar Report - Vicar's June report turned into a summary of the year. This will go into the annual report. Mary noted that there will be a drive thru farewell. Mary asked Vicar to stay for the budget committee meeting on June 28, 2020.

iii. Campus Ministry Coordinator Report

iv. Music Ministry Report

v. Administrative Secretary Report

vi. Facilities Manager Report - There is a new roof on Grace Place.

vii. Treasurer Report - Adjusted Monthly Giving/Cumulative Giving - Jeff said we're not setting any financial records, but are holding steady. Everyone needs to send in a pledge card. We are on pace to meet our goals for the year. Pastor Steve said that we had \$17,000 for the month of June with two Sundays left. Jeff estimated we might make \$25,000 or \$27,000 for June. Pastor Steve mentioned that he had round a letter from years ago with the promise of a future estate gift that would help fund the internship program at Grace. He shared another story of a person who sent in extra money to the church from the gas money they're saving. He noted that at least a couple of members' jobs had been cut back and some have had to reduce their pledge. Pastor Steve and Kathy are working together to send gifts from the Pastor's discretionary fund to help those families out during this time.

b. Old Business (10 minutes):

- i. Security Protocol Group (Sandy and Carol) - Update
- ii. Fire Alarm System (Pastor Steve and Jeff) - Grace has received a \$10,000 Gift.
- iii. Wilkes Property (Pastor Steve/Jeff)
- iv. Update on LSA Student-Intern at Grace Place for 2020-2021 (Pastor Steve) - Property approved the lease agreement with two students and they'll sign the agreement and move in July.
- v. Phone System Update (Pastor Steve) Vera is working with Skybest and the new phone system to get our number ported over. Vera brought in a CIS professor to access our internet systems along with a couple of other vendors.

d. New Business (25 minutes)

i. Budgeting Process and Stewardship Timeline Update (Pastor Steve put in the report that we've received 25 pledges so far and encouraged all Council members to pledge. Thirty packets have been mailed out. Quarterly reports were emailed out today. In the message, there is a link to a pledge. Charlie noted that people may be holding back for now to see what will happen financially in the next few months. On the budget sheets (page 31-32), Property asked for a little more money for landscaping. On page 33, the steps for finalizing the budget are listed. First, try to figure out income for this year and project forward. The best indicator of what we'll receive for next year is this year. Given that we suspended activities on March 15, we're doing well. Our current budget had a \$50,000 challenge budget and it hasn't been realized. We should have been clearer about how and when benevolences would be given out. We've gotten about \$5,000 for the Health & Hunger Coalition, but a member wondered if this took away from basic giving. Pastor Steve shared that in a previous church, the general giving stayed strong in spite of giving money to one of our benevolences, in fact the two seem to move up and down together. The mortgage giving has lagged behind the mortgage payments. The Wildwood giving has been added and the rent for Grace Place is yielding more income. On expenses, we're going to save money on expenses due to COVID. Early on, we were determined to keep staff. Then, the final step is balancing the budgets from requests. For salary changes, we won't publicize anything until Pastor Steve has a chance to speak to employees. On the staffing front, Kathy's request is on the list. No other staff have gotten raises in the last four years.

ii. Updates on adjustments to schedule related to COVID-19 (Mary said the number of new cases, hospitalizations are increasing. The governor is supposed to make another announcement until June 26th and we should revisit it on June 29th. Mary also said we need to consider which Council members are willing to come to services. Alan

agreed and stated that we'll need to wait. Laura made the motion that we suspend our opening until June 30th. Carol seconded. Motion carried.

1. Drive in Service Poll Results - Mary said 65 answered the poll and 50 said no and 15 yes, but they still wanted the online service. Mary asked Pastor Steve if he would be interested to see how many come to Vicar's drive through. Additionally, he and Steve Frank have been looking into a legal FM transmitter. Carol complimented the online services and wondered if we could just use a mic and speakers. Pastor Steve said he has had various discussions with other pastors and Steve Frank. It is possible but will take some work to figure out all of the details.

iii. Back 2 School Festival - Mary attended the Back to School Committee and students will need supplies for the back to school festivals. Kids get backpacks, shoes, school supplies (and usually haircuts and meals). After a short discussion, Pastor Steve said we could arrange some times in July to drop off items.

iv. Community Conversation on Race - Pastor Steve said he put out a letter to the congregation related to the current social unrest and persistent sin of racism. Pastor Steve connected with Mary Lyons and the Black in Boone group. They organized the first Boone protest. The Boone clergy group is considering putting out a statement. The outcome of the meeting is that there is a perception that we don't have a race problem in Boone. Mary shared some bits of history that illuminated historical and current issues related to racism in our community. It feels like an important conversation to have. Pastor Steve suggested that we have some conversations about race in July. Laura stated that it's a really good way to start with some history, understand yourself. Pastor Steve suggested reading "Eight Years in Power". Mary Lyons was pretty clear that they were feeling pressure to do more protests, etc., but wanted to encourage folks to slow down and take the lead from the voices of those in the black and brown community.

9. Adjourn Meeting with the Lord's Prayer - The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

10. Next Meeting: Council Budget Workshop: June 29, 2020 at 6 p.m.
Regular Council Meeting: July 20, 2020 at 6 p.m.

a. Devotion: July: John
August: Charlie