

**Council Meeting Minutes - April 20, 2020 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

1. **Call to Order** - Mary called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.
2. **Devotion** - Carol gave a prayer for our world about the impact of COVID-19 on the world.
3. **Review Updated Council Ground Rules** - Mary asked people to mute themselves unless they are talking.
 - 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**
5. **Approval of Council Meeting Minutes** - Mary

Regular Minutes and Special Meeting Minutes - John made a motion to approve both sets of minutes for the March regular meeting and the special meeting. Alan seconded. Motion carried for both sets of minutes.

6. **Strategic Visioning** - Mary
 - a. **2019-2020 Council Goals**
 - i. **Updates on Projects from Retreat** - Pastor Steve reported that Jennifer got all the narthex and hallway wallpaper taken down and painted. Jennifer got a quote for a new narthex door. The gentleman who made the wooden double doors will come and give a bid this summer regarding putting glass in the wooden doors. Pastor Steve and Vera decided not to put up the pastor and vicar pictures now and let the committee decide frames, etc. The Property Committee put the tile on the back burner. There has been continued conversation about what should go back up on the walls.

Carol and Beth have taken pictures of the exterior signs. They will talk to Property about the outside signage.

b. **Review updated Organizational Structure** - no updates

c. **Review Council Liaison Assignments and Job Description** - no updates

7. Policy - Mary

a. **Policy Updates: Constitution Update** - No update - Jan Burgess called and she and Roger will be on the nominating committee. She wanted to know if they should begin to meet. If there is no congregational meeting, current Council members would need to stay. Mary mentioned that Zoom has a 300 capacity for meeting, if we could figure out the voting. Pastor Steve noted that we might be able to reduce the number of Council members. Alan said we should study the Council membership and not just change it now necessarily.

8. Monitoring and Oversight

a. Reports:

i. **Senior Pastor Report** - Pastor Steve talked to Pastor John. He is still having some issues with dizziness and nausea. He'll need to return to Charlotte for more tests.

1. **Engagement Report** - Pastor Steve said our Youtube worship services have been viewed by about 150 people. The average viewer was on about 60% of the service. It is about our average weekly attendance. The Facebook views are higher, but include those who simply scroll by the videos slowly. Pastor Steve will work on creating an updated version of the Engagement report.

ii. **Vicar Report** - Vicar is trying to get online training for the support group. Rev. Melanie Childers can modify her presentation to make it fit online.

iii. **Campus Ministry Coordinator Report**

iv. **Music Ministry Report**

v. **Administrative Secretary Report**

vi. **Facilities Manager Report** - Jennifer's report includes a statement for the Grace Place roof. Property recommended the bid and funding will come from the Peeler fund. In terms of keeping Jennifer safe, she's been working most days, outside and inside as needed. She continues to regularly clean.

vii. **Treasurer Report - Adjusted Monthly Giving/Cumulative Giving** - Pastor Steve reported that the giving for March was \$19,000. Overall, the circumstances are looking better than expected. Pastor Steve said the cumulative giving for April is \$29,915. There were two stock gifts of (\$8-9K) included in the monthly goal. Morgan confirmed that this was beyond the \$2,400 given to the Hunger and Health Coalition.

- a. **Council House Mortgage** - Jeff said that the fund that has been the source to pay the mortgage payment is gone. There is a small amount in another fund. Now, the \$2200 mortgage has to be paid from the General Fund. We will need to look at the budget again. Pastor Steve said that in May, we'll need to do our regular stewardship drive and could highlight the mortgage as part of that.

b. Old Business:

- i. **Security Protocol Group** (Sandy and Carol) - Mary noted that the document about 24 things to return to church might dictate some security issues.
- ii. **Fire Alarm System** (Pastor Steve and Jeff) - Grace has received a \$10,000 Gift.
- iii. **Wilkes Property** (Pastor Steve/Jeff) - Jeff has the names to contact.
- iv. **Wildwood Learning Program** - (Pastor Steve) Wildwood has requested to renew their Facility Use agreement for the next school year. Motion to accept the request was made by John, seconded by Gail. Motion carried.
- v. **Update on Anchor Church** (Pastor Steve)
- vi. **Intern Update or renting Grace Place for the spring 2021?** Pastor Steve said we didn't get an intern from Southern Seminary. Pastor Steve looked into having an LSA student who could do some church work in Faith Formation. Luther Seminary contacted him about a Winston-Salem, based intern who would commute. Foregoing the expense of the intern (\$25,000) would be added to the income from housing the LSA student-intern in the Grace Place (\$1200x10 months). Pastor Steve said he would ask the LSA students to lead a monthly Faith Formation event and some children and family events. Gail made a motion to not have an intern this year, but apply for next year based on the available interns. Carol seconded. 10 yes, 1 abstention.

d. **New Business**

i. **Updates on adjustments to schedule related to COVID-19** - Mary wondered if we would continue to video live when we start gathering in person.. Steve Frank hooked up his camera and is willing to make some recommendations to give more options during the video services. Pastor Steve said he and Steve Frank looked into adding 4 cameras. Cameras can cost \$700-\$800/camera and a computer. Total for cameras and computer could cost \$4000-\$5000. Other options would be to film on Sunday morning, edit and post later. The Synod has opened up grants and we might be able to get part of it funded. We may need to have 1 or 2 people to run the video system, but we could possibly begin with volunteers. Carol noted it would be nice to have the option to have video services.

Pastor Steve said the Synod and the Governor have recommended continuing suspension of activities until at least mid-May. A short discussion addressed a number of concerns/ideas regarding resuming services at the church. Here are a few:

- What if there is a limit on the number of people and will there be guidelines for social distancing.
- Passing the offering plate or having a container to collect before/after services.
- Having our regular volunteers who might not feel like they're able to come.
- Sanitizing the church following the service would be a huge job.

Pastor Steve said there will be information emerging and we'll need to consider precautions. Pastor Steve said we should stay closed at least through May 16th and then schedule a council meeting in two weeks to discuss further. After some more discussion, Alan made a motion to continue the suspension of church activities until May 31. Beth seconded the motion. After a discussion about the prerequisites to resuming church, the vote resulted in 8 in favor, 2 opposed. Motion carried. Pastor Steve said he would send out a letter to the congregation on Friday. Beth suggested taking a look at the 24 points and coming up with ideas by April 30. Mary suggested that Council send her ideas and she'll compile a list.

iv. **Phone System Update (Action Item)** - Pastor Steve said the phone system is limping along. We will need to update for \$1200. This could come from one of the stock gifts. Motion to accept the John, seconded by Alan to replace the phone system. Motion carried.

v. **Property Updates** - Updates to the property we discussed earlier as part of the Facilities Manager Report.

vi. **Carpet Shampooing** - Jennifer asked if she should move forward with shampooing the church carpets. This expense is in the budget and we normally do this in May. The Council asked that this be held off until more financial information is available.

9. **Adjourn Meeting with the Lord's Prayer**

10. **Next Meeting:** May 18, 2020 at 6 p.m.

- a. Devotion: May: Gail
June: Beth
July: John
August: Charlie