

**Grace Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2020**

Members Present: Walker Stockley, Craig Ketner, Brian Beer, Bob Corbett, Larry Wunsch, Pastor Gregg Hoffman, Karen Warmoth, Patti Saunders, Pastor Rachel Hoffman, Dawn Hartman, Floyd Ritchie, Chris Cassidy, Adele Evans

Members Absent: John Grogan

Also attending: None

1. CALL TO ORDER – Walker Stockley called the meeting to order at 2:01 pm.

2. DEVOTION – Larry Wunsch provided a devotion

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Agenda was amended to add “Voting Delegates for Synod Assembly” to Old Business and “Nursery Attendant” to New Business

Larry Wunsch motioned to approve agenda as amended. Brian Beer seconded. Motion carried.

4. MISSIONAL MINUTES - Each Council member was invited to share a brief comment on how God has been seen working at Grace. Topics included new attendees in Sunday School, returning members in worship, care shown for those in need in our congregation and community (especially through Rachel’s Ring), and the children’s music programming.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Bob Corbett motioned to approve the January Council minutes. Karen Warmoth seconded.
Motion carried.

6. STUDY – Executing the 2020 Missional Goals

Pr. Rachel led the Council through each of our 2020 goals. Council members determined who they’d like to ask to take lead on each project, made specific requests/goals for the projects, set a timeline, and detailed the desired outcomes of the goals. As part of the conversation, it was determined that a Task Force should be created to help with the physical projects that will take place (room renovations, etc). Pr. Rachel, Pr. Gregg, and the Property and Beautification chairs will meet to discuss creating this Task Force. Council will return to this study document periodically to check in on goals, and some goals will be planned more thoroughly once other details are set.

7. STAFF REPORTS

Parish Report:

A written report is included in the Council packet.

Senior Pastor:

A written report is included in the Council packet. Pr. Gregg’s continuing education program for senior pastors will have its third and final week of programming this August; this is different from what Pr. Gregg had anticipated. In a future meeting, we will discuss how best to allocate funds to cover these costs, as this has been proven to be a valuable program which benefits our congregation immediately and directly.

Pastor:

A written report is included in the Council packet. Our high schoolers are planning to go to Knoxville, TN, this June for our mission trip. Plans are underway.

Director of Music:

A written report is included in the Council packet.

8. COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Spiritual Formation Reports:

Worship & Music Committee:

A written report is included in the Council packet. The Committee included a request for Council to approve the use of money in the Restricted Music Fund for piano maintenance. As this fund is under the purview of the Worship & Music Committee, no permission is needed – the Committee is free to use those funds as they see fit.

Learning Committee:

A written report is included in the Council packet.

Milestone Ministry:

Milestone information is included in the Learning Committee report.

Nursery Committee:

No report submitted.

Parish Life Committee:

A written report is included in the Council packet.

Health and Wellness:

No report submitted.

Youth and Family:

No report submitted.

Operations:

Financial Secretary Report:

Report for January is included in the Council packet.

Treasurer Report:

Report for January is included in the Council packet.

Finance Committee:

A written report is included in the Council packet. Several items were presented to Council from Finance:

- a. Motion that the congregation be allowed to vote and give final approval on whatever use(s) for the excess 2019 funds that Council ultimately recommends
 1. Discussion was had. As part of the conversation, some members recalled that at a congregational meeting (perhaps in 2016), the congregation voted to designate the surplus giving in particular percentages. Some members recalled this as being a perpetual

- designation. Others did not recall this vote. It was determined that the records would need to be reviewed to determine whether such a vote had taken place and, if so, its effect. If this vote did happen, the effect did not become part of any policy book, Bylaw, or Continuing Resolution (which it would have needed to be to continue in years following). Council decided to look for documentation before the March meeting to ensure the action Council takes then is appropriate. It was also discussed that it is the role and task of Council to direct the financial resources of the congregation (as specified in the Constitution).
2. Karen Warmoth called the question.
 3. The motion failed unanimously.
- b. Recommendation that the excess 2019 funds be used to pay down the mortgage
- a. Discussion was had. It was noted that even if the Council votes against using the *entire* surplus to pay down the mortgage, in the future we could decide to use *some* of it in this way; however, this recommendation refers to the surplus in its entirety. As a recommendation from committee, no second was required. The recommendation failed unanimously.
 - c. Finance requested that Council send a directive instructing the Treasurer to transfer the Property Expense Contingency line item funds to the Capital Expense Fund. As the Property Expense Contingency line item is under the purview of the Property Committee, it is the Property Committee's responsibility to write a check request/expense form for the funds to be transferred. Floyd Ritchie will convey this information to the Property Committee.
 - d. Finance recommended that Rachel's Ring be allowed to go over budget this year, rather than be given a designated fund. It was noted that Council cannot instruct a committee to go over budget, since the budget was approved by congregational vote (but there is no penalty if Rachel's Ring does go over). Discussion was had surrounding creation of designated funds, and how new funds are to be created. Pr. Gregg suggested that Finance Committee update the policy to include Rachel's Ring as an approved designated fund; many people have already asked how they can directly give to this ministry. It was suggested that more conversation be had between Rachel's Ring and Parish Life, and that Parish Life send a recommendation to Council if they would still like a designated fund, and that this be discussed further at the next Finance Committee meeting.

Personnel Committee:

No report submitted.

Property Committee:

No report submitted.

Safety Committee:

No report submitted.

Beautification Committee:

No report submitted.

Stewardship Committee:

A written report is included in the Council packet. Time and Talent surveys will be launched on March 1.

Technology Committee:

No report submitted.

Endowment Committee:

No report submitted.

Place of Grace Committee:

No report submitted.

Audit Committee:

No report submitted.

Community Relations Committees:

Outreach Committee:

A written report is included in the Council packet. A grant request was approved for the Ocular Melanoma Foundation. The Hunger Outreach Survey (being done by Winthrop) is starting next month. There is a Habitat Build coming up; Grace's day is April 25th. Outreach encourages Council to use some of the 2019 surplus for a donation to Miracle Park.

Race & Reconciliation Committee:

A brief summary of recent and upcoming activities was shared by Larry Wunsch.

Bereavement Committee:

No report submitted.

New Member Committee:

No report submitted.

Public Relations Committee:

A written report is included in the Council packet.

Rachel's Ring:

A written report is included in the Council packet.

WELCM Advisory Board:

No report submitted.

9. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Still anticipating Bylaw revisions to establish additional Standing Committees:
WELCM, Bereavement, Health & Wellness, Safety, others? (on hold)
- b. Need to implement previously approved actions from Council in 2019
Keeping on agenda until a plan is created
- c. Reviewing the scope of Council's task for the year – Council Yearly Goals document
February – the annual report is underway and will be ready for the March 29th meeting
- d. Lenten meals signup sheet
A few committees still need to sign up, most are on the schedule
- e. Spring Ministry Review Meeting – March 29th

Pr. Gregg asks chairs and other committee members to send him photos of ministry in action from the 2019 year, to be used as part of the celebration of ministry. We will highlight activities from last year, as well as encourage participation in the current year.

f. Review the roll of members (to be done at March meeting)

g. Representatives to Synod Assembly

Council needs to appoint 3 voting delegates to Synod Assembly, which is May 14-16 in Columbia, SC. Any voting member of our congregation is eligible. Pr. Gregg will advertise this in the announcements.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion and vote to disburse 2019 surplus funds

As per the discussion related to the Finance Committee's recommendation, this will be addressed at the March meeting

b. Schedule date for Council Retreat

A Spring Council Retreat will be scheduled via a Doodle poll. This will not be held until after Easter.

c. Nursery Attendant

It was asked whether we have anyone on staff for the nursery. Teresa Ferguson is still on staff, but is on medical leave. Currently, one volunteer is scheduled each Sunday for the 11am service. Concern was expressed that only one adult is in the nursery (we'd prefer two). It was suggested that we schedule two volunteers going forward, but it is unclear who is doing the scheduling. Adele Evans will ask Katie Romero if she is scheduling, and Pr. Gregg will connect with Robin Ketner (Nursery Chair) to discuss options going forward.

11. SHARING EXCITEMENT: Each Council member was invited to share what part of Grace's ministry is exciting to them in the time between this Council meeting and the next.

Excitements shared included: Beautification projects happening around the church, the planning work we've done for our goals, the excitement of having surplus dollars to designate rather than a deficit, many projects happening, good attendance in worship and in growing Sunday School classes, good work of our music interns, Council's commitment to and engagement with the work we are elected to do.

12. Action Items and Announcements:

- Devotions for next month: Patti Saunders
- Next Meeting: March 15th

13. ADJOURNMENT - Lord's Prayer

Craig Ketner motioned to adjourn the meeting. Larry Wunsch seconded. Motion carried, meeting adjourned with praying the Lord's Prayer.