



MINUTES OF GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH GOVERNING COUNCIL

On Sunday, December 9, 2018, the Called Church Conference met at Grace United Methodist Church at 6:00 p.m. for a fellowship covered-dish dinner and celebration of Grace's ministry in 2018 with the Rev. Dr. Robert Lopez, District Superintendent presiding. There were 35 people present.

After the invocation, dinner was served and worship through song was held. The meeting was then called to order by Rev. Dr. Robert Lopez, Superintendent of the Coastal Bend District.

April Shaffer was nominated and elected unanimously as Recording Secretary.

Nick Cecava, Governing Council Chair, introduced the governing council members and then gave a recap of council items in 2018, as follows:

- a. Grace UMC went to a single leadership council in 2018.
- b. All our decisions are based on our mission statement. Our goal is to govern & set boundaries.
- c. We had six meetings this year. Our meetings are open to everyone and minutes are posted online.
- d. We set goals and did evaluations of our pastors.
- e. We had a congregational survey put together by Pastor Rebekah Rochte.
- f. We worshipped as a group.

Carolyn Scheible, Lay Leader, shared with the group how we meet as a council:

- a. Our first meeting was a day long retreat at Lonesome Dove which ended with worship and communion.
- b. Our second meeting opened with a prayer walk at the church.
- c. Our third meeting opened with a prayer walk at a nearby apartment complex.
- d. Carolyn encouraged all of us to prayer walk wherever we may be.

Nick Cecava gave a report on our accomplishments in 2018:

- a. Explored a Teen Pregnancy Day Care which is a work-in-progress
- b. Playground

- c. Discipleship team led by Pastor Rebekah initiated/implemented discipleship programs
- d. Made provisions for financial audit
- e. Approved new safety policy for youth
- f. Formed a Parsonage Task Force: They found the parsonage needs extensive repairs. The Task Force is exploring the sale of parsonage and buying a new/newer one in 2019. This will be a church-wide decision.
- g. We will be receiving a new pastor upon Pastor Jason's retirement July 1, 2019. Nick thanked Pastor Jason for his service to our congregation.

Pastor Jason, Chair of the Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development., reported on behalf of the committee.

Qualifications to be nominated as an elected officer (Governing Council, Lay Member of Annual Conference, Committee on Nominations & Leadership Development) See Appendix 1 attached

- 1. Fully & enthusiastically committed to our mission
- 2. Active in the life of the congregation
- 3. Service in the elected capacity
- a. Discussion of Governing Council Covenants: (See Appendix 2 attached)
- b. Our meetings were substantive, not just meeting to be meeting

Pastor Jason moved the election of the persons listed in the report (attached). The new elections are Tara Perry for the Governing Council and the class of 2021 for the Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development. The others will continue to serve. Dr. Lopez asked for other nominations from the floor. There were none, and those nominated were elected.

Dr. Lopez closed with scripture from Genesis 1 with the message for us to be the light of the world. A prayer was had over Pastor Jason and his wife Joan for the love and affection we feel for them and for God's blessing on their lives. A final hymn of "Your Grace is Sufficient" and prayer closed our meeting.

2019 Nominations

Governing Council

Chair: Nick Cecava (2)
Secretary: April Shaffer (2)
Lay Leader/Lay Member AC: Carolyn Scheible (2)
Senior Pastor: Jason Fry

SPRC

Class of 2019 Sonya Durrwachter
Class of 2020 Dennis DeReese (lead)
Class of 2021 **Tara Perry**

Finance

Class of 2019 Mick Machen
Class of 2020 Judy Macek
Class of 2021 Nick Black (lead)

Trustees

Class of 2019 Kelly Whatley
Class of 2020 Geno Sharp
Class of 2021 Chad Burkhart (lead)

Additional Lay Members to Annual Conference:

Nick Cecava
Lisa Boggs (District at-Large)
Judy Clifford (District at-Large)

Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development (Sr Pastor – Chair, Lay Leader, Vice-chair)

Class of 2019

David McIntosh
Susan Cornett
Ken Faughn

Class of 2020

Kaylee Stone
Sydney Stech
Winnie Janak

Class of 2021

Mary K. Hines
Nathalie Lemley
Johnnie Bickham

The Governing Council of Grace United Methodist Church

The simplified structure model of governance

We establish the following governing model to enable the church to focus its efforts on making new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The intent is to provide a smooth and transparent process for effective decision-making.

The Governing Council:

This council provides the oversight of the affairs of the church by setting goals for its ministries, allocating resources to its ministries, and holding the responsible party for each ministry accountable for achieving the goals set for it. As appropriate, the council serves the requirements in the *Book of Discipline* for actions required of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Trustees. When the information being discussed is of a sensitive or confidential nature (such as personnel/salary issues), the Council shall meet in closed session, and information shared in the meeting shall be kept confidential.

The voting members of the Governing Council are elected by the Church Conference - many are for a three-year term. These terms are staggered so that the Council will be developing new leaders each year. The elected members are the Chairperson, a Recording Secretary, the Lay Leader, one of the Lay Delegates (could be a second Lay Leader), three Staff-Parish Relations persons, three Finance persons, and three Trustees. To meet Disciplinary requirements, one of the three persons in each of these groups will be designated as the chair of the group.

The Senior Pastor appointed as "pastor-in-charge" to serve the church is a voting member of the Governing Council with one exception: a pastor may not vote on an issue primarily focused on that pastor's own job performance or salary (the Senior Pastor is a voting member as a Trustee according to the Book of Discipline as a voting member of the Governing Council, which functions as the Board of Trustees). The Recording Secretary shall keep all minutes of all functions of the Governing Council. If this person is not present at a meeting, another council member shall be designated to take minutes in the absence of the Recording Secretary.

Mid-year vacancies on the Governing Council may be filled by the Nominating Committee. The terms of those so elected will expire in the same year as the persons whom they replace. Those who fill a vacancy may be re-elected for exactly one additional three-year term, provided that these members may succeed themselves, according to provisions of *The Book of Discipline*.

Ministry teams will be organized by the pastors and staff/ministry leaders to enact the vision of the church, and to involve members in ministry.

APPENDIX 1

Qualifications to be nominated as an elected officer (Governing Council, Lay Member of Annual Conference, Committee on Nominations & Leadership Development)

- **Fully and enthusiastically committed to our mission** to *“make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”* A crucial piece of this is a recognition that the first priority of our mission is to reach others outside the church, then to equip and care for each other within the church.

- **Active in the life of the congregation**
 - In regular worship attendance, participation in a small group or class
 - In serving in a ministry according to his or her passion and giftedness
 - In giving regularly and significantly to support the church financially

- **In serving in the elected capacity**
 - To be faithful in attending the meetings and participating in accomplishing the tasks of the group to which elected.
 - To be supportive of the pastor and staff.
 - To have a cooperative and collaborative attitude toward others with whom one serves, and to be respectful and supportive of the leaders and teams of other ministry areas.

APPENDIX 2



Governing Council Covenant

As a faithful disciple of Jesus who has answered the call of leadership by serving on the Grace United Methodist Church Governing Council, I make the following covenant.

As a leader of Grace United Methodist Church, I commit to the following:

1. To live a life of holiness by growing in my love and devotion to Jesus Christ through daily discipleship practices.
2. To love and glorify God through my life and service in and outside of Grace United Methodist Church.
3. To always seek what is best in fulfilling Grace United Methodist Church's mission, 'Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World' and when necessary, putting my own personal preferences aside in order to accomplish that mission.
4. To enthusiastically support our pastor(s) and staff by refusing to micromanage their work, but to hold the Senior Pastor accountable to the mission and vision as outlined in The Guiding Principles of the Governing Council.
5. To support and encourage the work of the laity by calling all members to serve in the life of the church.
6. To actively participate in various ministries outside of the Governing Council meetings.
7. To maintain total confidentiality regarding the contents of the Governing Council that have been deemed as confidential.
8. To take the initiative to resolve directly any conflict that might arise between myself and other members of the church. Even in times of disagreement, I treat all people with kindness, gentleness, and respect.

9. To pray daily for fellow council members, pastors, staff, and members of the church.
10. To actively participate in leadership development opportunities throughout the year.
11. To welcome open communication, constructive criticism and courteous disagreement as part of healthy decision making.
12. To fully support all Governing Council decisions outside of meetings.
13. To make every effort to faithfully attend and fully participate in Governing Council meetings.
14. To continually fulfill my membership vows by generously giving of my time, talents, gifts (including working toward tithing), service, and witness, as well as calling upon my sisters and brothers in Christ to fulfill their membership vows.

Signed: _____

Date: _____