

MINUTES OF GRACE UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH GOVERNING COUNCIL

On Saturday, February 3, 2018, Grace's Governing Council met at the Lonesome Dove Ranch in Old San Patricio with 13 present: Nick Cecava (chair), Carolyn Scheible (Lay Leader), April Shaffer (Secretary), Robin Orchard, Sonya Durrwachter, Dennis DeReese, Brian Genz, Mick Machen, Judy Macek, Chad Burkhart, Geno Sharpe, Pastor Jason Fry and Pastor Rebekah Rochte. Kelly Whatley was absent.

The meeting opened with Pastor Jason Fry reading scripture from Romans 12 which emphasizes we all have differing gifts and all are needed.

After the scripture reading, each person shared stories of their faith journey.

Pastor Jason presented a teaching PowerPoint presentation on Accountable Leadership from Winning on Purpose: How to Organize Congregations to Succeed in Their Mission, which was adapted from "Healthy Church Initiative".

The presentation focused on our core values and the mission of the United Methodist Church which is to make disciples of all nations for the transformation of the world (Matthew 23:19-20). Everything we do is based on that scripture, which enlivens our own faith when we make new disciples.

Discussion of Accountable leadership included:

Problems of committee based or consensus driven leadership and advantages of staff-led mission-driven leadership & accountable leadership emphasizing responsibility, authority, and accountability. In a Simplified Structure/Single Council/Accountable Leadership structure:

- Council's role is governance
- Pastor's role is leading
- Staff's role (paid and unpaid) is managing
- Members' role is ministering

The Governing Council will be considering guiding principles in its next few meetings.

- There was discussion of pastors' roles
- Organizational chart
- Discussion of importance of mission vision and goals

Church wide goals are:

Specific

Measurable

Achievable

Relevant

Time-based

Holding Others accountable is to:

Set expectations

Invoke commitment

Measure progress

Provide progress

Link to consequences

Evaluate effectiveness

There was group discussion on these points.

Governing Council Model is made up of:

Chair

Lay Leader

Secretary

Senior Pastor

3 SPRC member representatives

3 Trustee representatives

3 Finance representatives

The advantage of this Governing Council/Accountable Leadership model is that decisions are able to be made more expeditiously. The challenge is the management of communication. We discussed how our new Communication Director will aid in this.

The minutes of the Grace UMC Governing Council will be published to the congregation. The actions of the Council will be transparent and open to the congregation, except when functioning as SPRC dealing with staff/personnel issues. These matters will be kept confidential, as SPRC always has been.

The basic pattern for the agenda for each Governing Council meeting will be some variation of:
1/3 Spiritual formation, leadership development & review of new mission fields
1/3 deal with pressing decisions
1/3 review goals

The next agenda item will be the consideration of Guiding Principles, which will define the Mission Principles and outline the Boundary and Accountability Principles.

After a delicious lunch prepared by Jeff Stracener, Brian Genz went over the financial report:

We had a surplus this year, with giving exceeding expenditures by over \$35,000. All apportionments were paid in a more timely fashion than usual

The Expanding the Mission Capital Campaign was very successful (with over \$900,000 pledged over three years) and we reduced our debt by over \$350,000.

Our budget giving has been more consistent through the year. The financial report will be sent to Council members (detail to Finance Group, summary to entire Council).

Discussion was had regarding funding an audit. No decision made at this time.

Pastor Jason went over 2018 Budget Worksheets, Summary of Staff Positions at Grace UMC & Salaries of Personnel Budget & Staff Supervision for Grace UMC.

It was mentioned that Gary Salman and others are developing recommendations on safety/security issues. Those will be discussed at a later date.

Pastor Jason and Pastor Rebecca will develop a congregational a congregational survey to receive input from the congregation to help the Council set refine the vision and goals of the congregation going forward. The plan is for this to be done either before right after our August meeting.

Pastor Jason presented a draft for **Governing Council Guiding Principles of Grace United Methodist Church** (based on one from Trinity UMC). We agreed that it was a good template for Grace as this congregation has done good work in implementing the same model, although some minor revision is needed. Brian will work on the financial boundary principles section in consultation with Pastor Jason and then Pastor Jason will have an updated revision to send out the Council in advance of the May meeting, with the goal of adopting the document at the May meeting.

A presentation of Vision and Goals was made by Pastor Jason. We reviewed the goals for 2017

and an assessment of how they were met:

We met leadership development goal of transitioning to a Simplified Structure

We began work on developing a discipleship pathway, but it is still a work in progress we hope to have it in place by this fall.

We met congregational stewardship goals:

Launched 3 year capital campaign in March 2017 for debt retirement

Cultivate congregational culture of generosity and stewardship

We did not implement a prayer ministry.

We are considering for our Mission Statement:

Grace United Methodist Church exists for this purpose: to “Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.” This is the mission statement of the United Methodist Church and for the whole church as given by Jesus in Matthew 28:18-20.

We are considering adopting as a Vision Statement:

We will pursue this mission strategically by envisioning Grace UMC as “A Place to Connect”:

- **Connect with God** through passionate, transformative worship, and intentional discipleship efforts that help people grow in their faith journey as followers of Jesus Christ.
- **Connect with each other** not only through worship, but also through small group communities in which people support and help each other as they encounter Christ, grow as disciples, and discover how God is calling them to serve and share their faith with others.
- **Connect with the world** through compassionate service and faith-sharing ministries in our surrounding community and the farthest reaches of the world.

The goals proposed to flesh out this vision in 2018 were:

Connect with God (through- prayer ministry, develop intentional discipleship pathway)

Connect with each other (increase number of small groups, percentage of worshipers in small groups, and percentage of worshipers involved in hands-on ministry)

Connect with the world (percentage of worshipers involved in missions and ministries)

There was much discussion as to how to measure each of these developing new ways to track and ideas for prayer ministries in church itself. Pastor Jason and Pastor Rebekah will come back in May with specific baselines and specific percentages for measuring these goals.

Our next meeting will be Monday, May 21, 2018 from 6-8 pm. at the church.

The August meeting will be Saturday, August 11, 2018 from 8:30 am – noon (possibly Lonesome Dove Ranch).

The meeting was closed and adjourned with special music, communion and prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

April Shaffer
Recording Secretary