

**MINUTES OF GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**CALLED CHURCH CONFERENCE**  
**SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2019**

On Sunday, April 28, 2019, the Called Church Conference met at Grace United Methodist Church at 6:00 p.m. with the Rev. Brad DeHaven, presiding, with 38 members present.

Rev. DeHaven opened the meeting with prayer. April Shaffer was nominated as Recording Secretary by acclamation.

Nick Cecava, Chair of the Grace UMC Governing Council, opened the meeting and had the Governing Council members stand. He then proceeded to present the proposed objectives as follows:

1. To authorize the purchase of a new parsonage for the Senior Pastor
  - a. Minimum of 2,100 sq. ft. with 4 bedroom (or 3 BR and study), 2 baths)
  - b. Constructed within the last ten years (with the provision that an older house could be purchased, provided it has been well-maintained and updated recently)
  - c. Goal purchase price of \$250,000 or less, not to exceed \$300,000
  - d. To authorize the sale of the existing parsonage with minimum proceeds of \$150,000
  - e. Within an approximate 5-mile radius to Grace UMC
2. To authorize securing an interim 6 month note for the full purchase price from Texas Methodist Foundation
  - a. New Parsonage to be purchased as well as existing parsonage will be used as collateral
  - b. Maximum permanent financing of \$150,000
  - c. Incorporate monthly mortgage into church budget
3. Authorize the appointed new parsonage committee to choose the actual house (according to the approved parameters) and execute purchase and sale

Nick Cecava also stated that we would like to purchase the new parsonage first so that Pastor Mark Porterfield and his wife could move in as soon as possible. Then we could prepare for the sale of the existing parsonage, giving Pastor Jason Fry and his wife time to move out.

The members of the new parsonage committee are: Chad Burkhardt and Nick Black (Trustees), Geno Sharp and Judy Macek (Finance), and Mia Taylor.

The three (3) options presented by the Governing Council include:

1. Keep the parsonage and identify additional budget needed for the repairs.
2. Sell the parsonage and provide the Senior Pastor a housing allowance
3. Purchase a new parsonage and sell the existing parsonage "AS IS"

Option 3 was recommended by the Council as the most prudent.

Discussion was had on the following:

Financing: \$150,000 for 10 years = \$1665/month vs. Housing Allowance of \$2500/month

Property taxes would be exempt if church owns the property. Housing allowance would have to include property taxes.

Proceeds from sale of existing parsonage cannot be used for housing allowance.

Rev. DeHaven gave advantages/disadvantages of housing allowance:

Advantages: Build equity in property, Church pays the property taxes

Disadvantages: Maintenance is pastor's responsibility, pastor pays own taxes

Discussion was also had regarding displacing pastor if repairs made on existing parsonage vs. pastor moving right in as soon as new parsonage purchased. Home warranty on new(er) parsonage vs. continuing maintenance/problems on existing parsonage.

After Jim Dunmyer gave a slide presentation of the repairs needed to the existing parsonage, there were questions regarding future maintenance. A home

warranty would prevent a lot of problems on a new(er) home. Our maintenance manager on staff has helped with maintenance issues.

Nick Cecava stated there is insufficient funds in the budget for a housing allowance. Council would rather put money towards missions than housing allowance as that would be more than mortgage payment. If we own church property, there are no property taxes. The parsonage is part of the pastor's compensation package and although the existing parsonage has served six pastors well, council wanted to make a financially prudent decision for the church and to provide our new pastor with a new(er) home.

Geno Sharp moved to end discussion. Jeff Durrwachter seconded. Motion carried. A vote was then taken to adopt proposal Objectives 1, 2 & 3 as stated above:

Vote was as follows:

Yes:	36
No:	2
Abstain:	0

Proposal passed

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



April Shaffer

Recording Secretary for Church Conference