

MINUTES OF GRACE UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH GOVERNING COUNCIL

Meeting Date: Tuesday, August 6, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. at Grace Methodist Church in Room 117

MEMBERS: April Shaffer, Carolyn Scheible, Tara Perry, Nick Cecava, Nick Black, Mick Machen, Geno Sharp, Kelly Whatley, Chad Burkhart, Judy Macek, Sonya Durrwachter, Pastor Mark Porterfield, and Dennis DeReese

ALSO PRESENT: Pastor Rebekah Rochte (Staff)

AGENDA ITEM 1: On Tuesday, August 6, 2019, the Grace UMC Governing Council met at Grace UMC in Room 117 at 6:00 p.m. Minutes from meeting on April 8, 2019, were already approved by e-mail.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Opening Devotional. Pastor Mark gave devotional on intentional leadership. As leaders and people of faith we need to be aware of where God is leading us, to seek what makes God happy and seek to help others be better disciples. We are not to avoid conflict or criticism, just as Jesus did not avoid these things. There was also discussion on leadership communication at GUMC Governing Council as based on scripture.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Welcoming discussion and update from Pastor Mark. Nick Cecava welcomed Pastor Mark and gave an update and history of how the governing council came to be and how the single model is working. Nick thanked Pastor Jason and Pastor Rebekah for their input and influence in implementing the governing council here at Grace. Discussion was had on positive aspects of having fewer meetings with more input from committee members and council as a whole.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Update on parsonage plan and future schedule. Nick Cecava thanked parsonage committee (Chad Burkhart, Geno Sharp, Nick Black, Judy Macek, Mia Taylor, and Nick Cecava). Update: On April 28, 2019, the congregation approved parsonage plan. The committee began working with realtor Linda Cantu. They visited several houses, learned the market was seller's market not a buyer's market. They found a house on Bowman Court and placed a contract on it. It was not until after a sales price was negotiated that the committee realized there were budgetary concerns which needed to be discussed. This information was not available to parsonage committee until brought to the committee by Pastor Mark. Because of the culmination of these factors (finances) we were not in a good position to close on the house and make payments on a house. Several bills had become due and because of budgetary restraints, it was the opinion of the committee to terminate the contract on Bowman Court. They were successful in doing that. Therefore, Pastor Mark and Margot moved into the existing parsonage. The committee is still interested in purchasing a new parsonage, but it has been put on hold until finances can be reevaluated. Nick Cecava stated that Linda Cantu did an amazing job and committee will send her a thank you note and small gift. We did get our earnest money back but had to pay the survey fee. Also, the lien was released on the existing parsonage.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Consent Agenda Items

- a) Budget report and financials update: Pastor Mark gave an overview of financials from 2017 to 2019. Giving has increased since 2013. Expanding the Mission (Capital Campaign) is helping to reduce the debt. There are no provisions for future financing. To date everything is paid except apportionments. Giving should be \$820,000-\$850,000 this year. Budget is

\$895,000. In 2018 there was a drop of \$40,000 in giving and an additional \$10,000 due to moves and death. Pastor Mark will encourage but not pressure folks to tithe. A way forward to help with our financials would be to have Texas Methodist Foundation (TMF) give us a line of credit for \$50,000 as a rainy-day fund. Discussion was had.

MOTION: Judy Macek moved that we open a line of credit with Texas Methodist Foundation (TMF) for \$50,000.00 with a 12-month repayment period at the prime rate of 5.25%.

Mick Machen seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion continued on budget. 2020 budget needs to be more in line with giving. Need to reduce budget down to include: Establish 1% reserve fund as line item, establish general reserve, parsonage reserve, AC reserve, etc. with at least \$20,000.00 in each. It was suggested we continue Expanding the Mission with those monies to be put into reserve funds. Discussion had on Profit and Loss for Jan-June 2019; escrow funds are not in budget. Pastor Mark reiterated that the Balance Sheet and Budget are available to anyone who wants it.

Pastor Mark discussed ideas for the budget which include: Money Savers (NOMADS are skilled folk who travel to different locations and could do the work of removing popcorn ceilings, etc. Odem and Taft have made use of NOMADS in the past and have accommodations for them we might be able to use: i.e. RV hookups); create "FUN" raisers; golf tournaments; skeet shoots; Columbarium (interring ashes); developing property in back of church with covered pavilion (building to perhaps house Rio Texas Disaster Relief who help to build whole houses); pledge campaign in February 2020; September as tithing month; etc.

At 7:11 p.m. council stopped and repeated the Breakthrough Prayer.

Discussion also had on worship services, connection through small groups and giving. Tara Perry volunteered to help with budget.

Ways for the council to be more transparent would be to e-mail or put small snip-it into bulletin on Sundays or in newsletter.

- b) Trustee/Building /Property reports: Chad Burkhart reported everything ok. We now have two new pole saws. Workday set for Saturday, September 28, 2019 from 9 a.m. to noon. Pumpkins to be delivered Sunday, September 29, 2019
October 19, 2019 is Bake Sale and barbecue chicken lunch (plan on 200 plates)

AGENDA ITEM 6: Discussion of handrail addition to Oak Park Center walkway: Carolyn Scheible said she was approached by Gary Salman that a handrail is needed on the Oak Park Center walkway. The men will buy material and install it. They will get with Chad Burkhart and go from there.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Update on Emergency Action Plan: Geno Sharp put an emergency action plan together and submitted it to the pastor. There will be a map of the complex to distinguish fire exits, extinguishers, etc. We need an AED (Cost is \$4-\$6,000.00). Discussion of Panic Buttons: Certain persons have them and if they are held for a certain amount of time, the police will come. Pastor Mark and Nick Cecava have a draft of the Emergency Action Plan and will bring to the next meeting for adoption.

AGENDA ITEM 8: Executive Session: Staff Update (CLOSED)

AGENDA ITEM 9: Other Business:

a) Update on other ministries:

*Put on agenda for next meeting: Measured goals for 2020; bring in youth for survey

*Daycare Update: Pastor Rebekah reported that because of government regulations, the daycare project is not happening

*There is a new 40 ft. storage container that is 'Wildcat' maroon purchased by Home in a Week to store tools and materials in back of the church

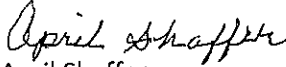
*Saturday, September 28, 2019, 9 a.m. to noon: Workday at church

*Saturday, October 19, 2019: Bake Sale & Chicken Dinner

b) Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at Grace UMC

AGENDA ITEMS 10 & 11: Pastor Mark closed the meeting with prayer. Meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


April Shaffer

Recording Secretary