

**MINUTES OF GRACE UNITED METHODIST**  
**CHURCH GOVERNING COUNCIL**

**Meeting Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church in the Youth Cave.**

**MEMBERS:** April Shaffer, Chris Williams, Nick Cecava, Carolyn Scheible, Pastor Mark Porterfield, Geno Sharp, Nick Black, Susan Cornett, Ted Van Blarcum, Chad Burkhart, Dennis DeReese, and Tara Perry.

**Absent:** Judy Macek

**Opening Prayer** - Pastor Mark Porterfield opened with prayer at 6:38 p.m. He gave the devotional from the poem 'Dark Night of the Soul' that discusses as we go through difficult times we should not think of them with fear or trouble but as something obscure as we walk in a fog toward God's voice and direction. The fog will eventually rise. This will free us from our attachments and give us an opportunity for creativity.

**Consent Agenda Items**

- **Financials & Overview /update-**
  - **ETM results:** Pastor Mark gave report on Expanding the Mission. It was very successful in going toward reserve funds (AC, parsonage & general-\$15,000 each).
  - **Virus and our Financial situation:** good. Giving does not seem to be affected by the virus.
- **A report from Mark with various items**
  - **Facilities Team:** They will meet Tuesday, July 28, 2020
  - **Finance Team & SPRC Team:** They will meet later
- **Minutes from our last meeting are approved**

**Pastor Mark made a motion to accept Consent Agenda Items. Nick Black seconded. Motion passed.**

**Consideration/Discussion:**

- **Governing not Managing Reminder**

**What things would be helpful to GC to receive? Between meetings and as Consent agenda:** Trying not to manage but to govern will be hard and having more meetings with committees before Governing Council will help to streamline the process. What will help this group is to keep up-to-date? We need to pay attention to follow-up of first-time visitors. We only had three visitors that were not family members within the last 6-8 weeks. Mark sees his job as to move us in that direction as set out in Mission Possible. Nick Cecava stated summary reports are helpful. Pastor Mark stated if governing is not going to work, then we need to go back to way we use to do things (managing style). Pastor Mark equated Governing Council as a School Board with Pastor Mark as the superintendent, having a conversation with the board (us as Governing Council) and doing long range planning.

#### **Current and Post Covid Church and Worship:**

- o Continue with Church Unique & Mission Possible: Adjusted as needed for current circumstances.
- o House Church - Technology up - Calling check in: Discussion had on 3-5 years long range planning which included house church with an emphasis on connecting with each other in small outside church groups and checking in on members via phone, e-mail, etc.
- o Longer Range
  - Full Day- Day Child Development Center: This will be a conversation for the future.
  - Land Use - Relationships with other groups
    - Disaster Recovery- Missional  
Discussion had for land use of the 10 acres in back of the church and how to use it in connection with other groups in the community. We would need to find a way to partner with retail. Ted Van Blarcum stated we cannot do anything with the property until it is replatted. Governing Council might make 5-10 year long range plans which would include disaster recovery and other missional uses of the property.

## For Consideration

- **Need to adjust our Guiding Principles to account for expenditure of special funds. Finance Team will meet and advise G.C.:** Discussion had on whether Trustees need to make that decision or does council need to approve an adjustment in addressing dollars. Facilities Team which is the informal part of the Trustee team will meet and address those items related to our facilities.

## The coming split of the UMC

- **Let's be prepared**
- **Where Mark stands**

Because of Covid, the General Conference had to postpone its annual meeting until next year. They will meet in August/September of 2021 at which time a vote will be taken on whether the United Methodist Church will split over the issue of human sexuality. Pastor Mark laid out a graph and discussed both sides of the issue.

7:10 p.m. GC stopped and repeated the Breakthrough Prayer.

After questions and discussion, it was decided that Pastor Mark will put together a bullet point list of the issues. We will come back in a month or two to re-discuss. Pastor Mark will do a sermon series on this issue after Easter.

Pastor Mark bases his stand on Acts 10 & 11.

**Closing Prayer & Adjourn:** The meeting was closed with everyone reciting The Lord's Prayer. We adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

**Next Scheduled Meeting: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

*April Shaffer*

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Recording Secretary