

## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH – Grace Advisory Board (GAB)

Meeting Minutes – October 29, 2023

**Board Members Present:** Pastor Brooks, Chris Wethman, Dede Crosmer, Judy Barnes, Donna Gesell

**Absent:** Joe Milko

**Others:** Barb Tippin, Bev Hudgins, Joe Wethman, Jamie Craven

1. **Meeting Opened** at 12:30pm

2. **Opening Prayer** by Chris Wethman

3. **Approval of minutes from August 6, 2023**

**Motion** made (Pastor Brooks) and **seconded** (Donna Gesell) to approve the minutes.

**Discussion:** Pastor spoke with Jordan Lutheran re: Chris Beckman's membership and Chris Beckman did not join Jordan and is attending elsewhere. Barb Tippin will look at past meeting minutes to see if we removed him.

**Minutes approved**

4. **Approval of Statistical Report**

**Motion** made (Judy Barnes) and **seconded** (Donna Gesell) to approve the statistical report.

**Discussion:** none

**Statistical Report approved**

5. **Staff**

a. Pastor Brooks

- i. Pastor will be helping at Duke Lutherans & UNC Sunday evening service tonight, so no leadership meeting. Also, when we have GAB, there will be no leadership meeting that Sunday evening.
- ii. Pastor would like GAB to participate in a study "Effective Church Group Workshop" – 4 key strategies for church growth that address issues around post-Covid
- iii. November's theme is celebration of God's gifts and Pastor will lead a 2-week class (11/12 & 11/19) on what it means to be a good steward.
- iv. Pastor Voges will preach 11/26 & 12/3 and will do a bible study on One (11/26) and Holy (12/3). Pastor Brooks will then continue with Catholic (12/10) and Apostolic (12/17).
- v. Pastor read an excerpt from the book 12 Keys to an Effective Church. The 5 M's are mission, management, members, money and maintenance. There are two types of congregations
  1. Passionate about mission – you find what they need to make it happen
  2. Passionate about the other M's – you will not have enough to accomplish anything.

b. Administrative Staff

- i. Pastor is very excited about our new Choir Director Erin Lynn Hodge
- ii. Barb Tippin will retire the end of 2024

6. **Elected Offices:**

a. **President –**

- i. Update on sound system: speakers have shipped, waiting on mounting bracket. Schedule for installation to be discussed hopefully this coming week.
- ii. A question was raised on the Special Trustees. Donna Gesell explained that the Mitchell Fund is used for outreach for things outside of the budget. Saints of Grace donations are in

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memory of those who have passed and can be used for anything. Columbarium niche reservations are deposited into the Saints of Grace Fund.

- b. Vice President – unable to attend
  - c. Secretary – no report
  - d. Treasurer – Financial Review (reports included)
    - i. The Financial Review will be finished by the next meeting and Becky Thomas will make recommendations to the board once completed.
    - ii. Chris Wethman asked about the Touched by Grace Fund. **Motion** made (Pastor Brooks) to move the TBG funds to Grace House and **seconded** (Dede Crosmer).
- Discussion** – none  
**Motion approved**
- e. Elected representative
    - i. Judy hoped everyone read her most recent letter about Pastor’s bible study.

### 7. Board Reports

- a. Servant Board (report included)
    - i. Geoff Heintzelman has resigned from the Servant Board (and GAB). **Motion** made (Donna Gesell) to combine servant board and discipleship board into one meeting and **seconded** (Bev Hudgins).
- Discussion** – we need to pray on who might be an interim chair for the servant board until the next election).  
**Motion approved.**
- b. Discipleship Board (report included)
    - i. No questions
  - c. Resource Board (report included)
    - i. Discussion on #4 of the report if this is just Grace House or Grace House and Church (Looking into contracts for HVAC, plumbing and ice maker. The Resource Board recommends that we move forward with this). Yes, it is for both.
    - ii. Discussion on whether to also purchase the UV light for germs (\$1000 one-time charge) and approximately \$200-300 for the replacement bulb. GAB agreed that this would be good step.
    - iii. A new whiteboard will be purchased instead of moving one from another room.
    - iv. Question on estimated completion of lighting for DLC. Mike to provide this next month and hope to have completed by the end of the year.
    - v. Need to get someone to assess the mold extent in the downstairs of Grace House.
    - vi. Personnel handbook revisions needed.
      - 1. Page 6 – personal growth plans. Pastor Brooks and Chris Wethman to discuss
      - 2. Page 8 – sick pay is written twice
      - 3. Page 8 – bereavement repayment. Pastor Brooks and Chris Wethman to discuss.
      - 4. Page 12 – seems to have meals under exit interview sections.

### 8. New Items

- a. Thank offering for Sally Hiller (email included)
  - i. **Motion** made (Bev Hudgins) to send \$100 from the PALS group fund as a thank you offering in recognition of Sally’s hard work and **seconded** (Pastor Brooks).

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**Motion approved.**

- b. Pregnancy Support Group
  - i. Jessica Blanding (current Pregnancy Support Group participant) is pregnant with twins (due March 2024) and does not have a car that will accommodate 3 car seats (she also has a 5-year-old). She has requested \$3000.00 assistance for a down-payment on a car that will help with this. This will be tabled until next month until the Pregnancy Support Group has been able to talk with her more about this and get more information.
  - ii. Pregnancy Support Group met on 10/28 to discuss the future of Embrace Grace. They are investigating two separate ministries:
    - 1. Maternity Home - they are collecting questions, will gather answers before presenting it to GAB and the church at large.
    - 2. Ministry Here – using Grace House and the congregation to have a relational investment in this.
- c. New Structure Challenges
  - i. Pastor will be talking with each of us in groups to discuss our mission and the new structure – revisit the why of our structure.
- d. Meeting schedule starting January 2024
  - i. Chris would like all the boards and GAB to meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month. Still to be decided.
- e. Budget
  - i. Discussion on some of the line items (Vanco, computer, lease on printer [about 14 months left], and DLC [no check has been requested this year] but will keep in the budget for next year).
  - ii. Chris Wethman would like to revisit Barb’s position in 60 days after hiring Erin as this may increase her workload.

**Motion** made (Pastor Brooks) to send budget forward for the Voters meeting and **seconded** (Bev Hudgins).

**Discussion: none**

**Motion approved.**
- f. Go & Make – Lighting Quote (quote attached)
  - i. Questions – none. GAB agreed with the Resources recommendation to move forward.

9. Wrap up – Caring for One Another (reach out to GAB members and check-in)

10. Next GAB Meeting – November 12<sup>th</sup>

- a. Voters Meeting – November 19<sup>th</sup> (packets need to be ready by 11/2).

11. **Adjourned** with prayer at 2:30pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Dede Crosmer, Secretary

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