

## Special Church Council Meeting: January 12, 2023

### MINUTES

Church Council was properly noticed to Church Council (CC) members via email dated January 5, 2023, from church office on behalf Church Council Chair, Stacey King. Meeting Agenda and meeting materials were sent to CC on January 10, 2023 and a updated document sent on January 11, 2023. Discernment Team and Consultant, Mike Gammill were included in these emails.

The Minutes of this meeting as set forth below are hereby certified by Recording Secretary, Mathilde McCann.

#### Church Council Members Present:

Brenda Ard	Nancy Bailey	Jerry Beauchamp	Virginia Crawford
Daniel Hixon	Linda Holmes	Debra Davis (via Zoom)	
Ada Lord	Joe Kelley	Neal King	Cathy Howard
Stacey King	Mathilde McCann	Amanda McKinney	Claire Mott
Matt Paxton	John Piper	Pam Rabb	Danielle Ritchie
Martha Robertson	Sam Rosso	Theresa Stevens	Haley Green

#### Church Council Members Absent:

Lauren Daniel                      Matt Paxton

#### Minutes Presented in Order of Agenda Topics

1. Welcome & Call to Order: The meeting was called to order around 5:30 by Stacey King. The meeting was conducted in person (Fellowship Hall) and via zoom. Attached is the sign up sheet reflecting names of Church Council members present, Discernment Team members present and names of guests. Consultant, Mike Gammill (zoom). Church Council Chair, Stacey King (Stacey) reminded all that the meeting was open to church members only.
2. Opening Prayer: Rev. Hixon open us in Prayer
3. Agenda, Meeting Materials, Objectives, Meeting Format t: Stacey King reviewed the materials being made available to the Church Council for the meeting which included the Meeting Agenda (attached), Objectives & Format for the Meeting (attached), recommended Agenda for upcoming Townhall (attached), 40 day Prayer Program (attached), recommended Discernment Survey (attached), Minutes from Nov. 14, 2022 Meeting (attached). She then highlighted the key objectives of the meeting being approval of Townhall Agenda, Discernment Survey and 40 Day Prayer Program and Survey. In reviewing the agenda, she highlighted that Mike Gammill would lead the Townhall Agenda and Survey portions of the Agenda. Guests would be provided the opportunity to ask questions and make comments on motions on the Townhall Agenda and Survey prior to Church Council members finalizing their vote on each. She indicated the meeting was being recorded and that the Minutes to the meeting will focus Motions and vote results on those motions but not the discussions on the motions.

A Motion was made by Nancy Bailey and seconded by Lauren Daniel to i) accept the meeting objectives and format presented, and ii) due to difficulties connecting with Mike

Gammill via Zoom, to amend to move Prayer Program and Nov. 14, 2022 Minute topics before Townhall and Survey topics. A Hand raise vote was taken and unanimously accepted the Motion.

4. Prayer Program: Virginia Crawford then presented the 40 Day Prayer Program which included the calendar, daily scriptures and prayers, and a discussion on fasting. She recognized the team that worked on developing which included Ada Lord, Joe Kelley, Kathi Bates, Jean Fox, Daniel Hixon, and Stacey King. Martha Robinson made a Motion to accept the recommend Prayer Program and Brenda Ard seconded the motion. A Hand Raise vote was taken, and the Motion was unanimously approved.
  
5. Upcoming Townhall and Survey- General: The meeting was then turned over to Consultant Mike Gammill to lead the discussion on the proposed Discernment Survey and Townhall Agenda. He began with comments on the integral nature of the two to assist individuals in their personal discernment and to also inform the Church Council better on the sentiments of the church matters on affiliation/disaffiliation
  - a. Survey Discussion: There was discussion on the reasoning and pros and cons of including the name on the Survey. Mike noted that it was aimed at protecting against multiple surveys being filled out by a single person, and he discussed how he will monitor for that situation. He discussed the importance for having as many as possible filled out in the Jan. 29 worship service, offering link, QrCode and paper copies. He indicated someone in Church would have to input paper versions online. Katie Williamson and Debra Davis have agreed to do that task. He then explained the reasoning for demographic Questions 1-4 and the correlation with Questions 5-9 in the Survey. There was discussion about limiting the Survey to asking whether a person wanted to stay or disaffiliate rather than to try and understand why. Mike explained how the additional questions, particularly Q6-9, could provide valued input on potential impact of the vote on church to allowed for some advance planning. Wording changes were discussed on Q7 and 8 to address concerns raised. There was discussion about adding question at the end whether a member would support a decision not to proceed with a church conference vote if the Survey did not reflect sufficient support to disaffiliate. Views on whether or not to add and whether or not to go for a vote regardless were exchanged. Mike followed with a recommendation that the additional question not be added as it could bias Survey response in his judgement. Discussion followed on that point. Stacey then read the following changes the council members converged on being as follows:
    - i. See Stacey's hand written changes on Survey provided to Tudy.
    - ii. ....Motion was then made by Nancy Bailey to make the above noted changes (i and ii) which was seconded by ..... A Hand raise vote was taken on that Motion with all in favor , none opposed and none abstained. The Motion passed
  - b. Townhall Agenda Discussion: There was discussion to understand the difference between the first draft sent to Church Council on Tuesday, Jan. 10 with other meeting materials and the updated draft sent on the following day, Jan. 11. Mike explained the difference between

the two; specifically, the importance the topic more explicit to Paragraph 2553. He discussed how the original Agenda presented the prior week to the Discernment Team contained 3 topics, but the Team felt it important to dedicate time in the Townhall to answer questions submitted by the congregation. In order to accomplish, we had to go from 3 topics to 2 topics and the team therefore suggested the 'big tent' topic removed. The final draft was sent to the Council Wednesday pm in an effort to provide as much advance review as possible. (Note: The draft Townhall agenda and Survey was updated and sent to the Discernment Team on Friday, Jan.6. Comments were received from most of the team over the weekend on both documents and after further prompting, Abby and Jerry sent their comments on Tuesday. They only commented on the Survey and was a substantive deviation from the prior direction team gave to Mike. Then on Wednesday am, Mike sent the final recommended Townhall Agenda to the Team with an explanation for being more pointedly connected to Paragraph 2553. No comments from the team were on the changes.)

Discussion followed on the Townhall Agenda topics, underlying questions and how to reword. The facilitation format for the Townhall meeting and related logistical matters were also reviewed. Following that, a Motion was made by Debra Davis and seconded by..... to revise Townhall Agenda wording as reflected below

There was further discussion on timing of the Townhall meetings, and signup for sessions that would start on Jan. 16 . An email would be sent to all professing members which we had an email for as well as posted in newsletter and in bulletin. Participation was to be limited to members that are eligible to vote. and members would be allowed to participate in 1 session. Signup would be on first come, first serve basis and efforts would be made to accommodate unexpected changes.

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- I) Change ... on the Townhall Agenda to read as follows.....see Tudy's notes
- II) Change ... on the Townhall Agenda to read as follows.....see Tudy's notess

A Hand raise vote on the above-described Motion was taken with..... Yays, ..... Nays and .... Abstain. The Motion passed

6. Adjourn: John Piper Motioned to adjourn at 7:40 pm and it was seconded by..... Voice vote taken and all approved adjournment.

Meeting ended at 7:40 pm.

Audio and video recordings of the meeting are available for review in the Church Office.

All Minutes, Motions and Votes Reflected above are hereby certified by:

Mathilde McCann, Recording Secretary

Date: January30, 2022

