

Church Council Meeting

4/14/26

Present: Candie Kingma (Chair); Bill Engle; Brenda Gross; Mike Oppy; Steve Lovern; Mike Craig; Carolyn Olivier; Jim Butts Tamara Dejak; Kay Twa; Beth Opell
Staff: Pastor Dave Buckner, Mark Montgomery; Mandy Hedges
Guest: Theresa Pettigrew

Action Items:

- There will be a Town Hall meeting on Sunday, May 3 immediately after service. It was suggested that it be recorded or available on Zoom.
- The Church Council agreed to give Christie permission to get more information about the matching grant through the Center for Congregations.
- Look at your group's information on the new website to see if everything is correct. Check the calendars to make sure all of our events are on there.
- When writing about events do not use abbreviations until they have been explained. Make it so anybody who is not familiar with us can understand.

Motions:

- ***Mike Oppy made a motion to accept the minutes from the March 10, 2026 Church Council meeting as submitted. Beth Opell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.***
- ***A motion was made by Mike Craig and seconded by Jim Butts to pay out the requests from the Endowment Fund as discussed - Ugly Quilts - \$1295; Alter Committee \$586; Happy Bottoms Diapers - \$2000; Community Breakfast - \$2000; and Communications - \$559.20. The motion passed unanimously.***

Candie Kingma opened the Church Council meeting with a prayer.

Minutes

- ***Mike Oppy made a motion to accept the minutes from the March 10, 2026 Church Council meeting as submitted. Beth Opell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.***

Staff and Ministry Reports

- Pastor Dave
 - Town Hall Meeting
 - There will be a Town Hall meeting on Sunday, May 3 immediately after service. We need to find a way to bring new people into the church. The church's survival depends on this. The discussion will focus on how to do that.
 - We need to create new tools to help us invite new people in and "share the story." We need to tell people why we do what we do.
 - We need to be more natural in the way we talk about Jesus.

- We need to start thinking about what we can do to remove “the barriers”, both in the ways we reach out to people and the barriers people have about joining a church community.
- We need to all be on the same page and moving forward in the same way.
- A suggestion was made to restart the pre-school, but with so many families working that would be difficult.
- We need to pray on how to do this.
- We also need to talk to other area churches to see what is working for them.
- How can we connect those who come to the story of faith?
- The park re-opening might allow us an opportunity to connect with our neighbors.
- Can we build relationships with people who use our building and parking lot? For instance, those people at the truck driving school.
- Gleaners says we can't put information about the church into the food pantry bags, but we do have it available on the registration table.
- It was suggested that the Town Hall be recorded or available on Zoom.
- Grants
 - Pastor Dave was awarded a \$2000 grant for the cycling group from the Bishop's Children's Fund.
 - The grant writer we are working with, Kristy, would like to pursue a matching grant (up to \$25,000) through the Center for Congregations (CFC). This grant would pay for her services. She is asking this group for permission to talk to CFC about what qualifies as Chapel Hill's “match”.
 - If Kristy was successful and Chapel Hill was awarded this CFC grant, then we would pay Kristy a higher amount than current (\$500 per month) and she would pursue more grant applications.
 - The return on investment for Kristy has been good, especially this year.
 - The purpose of the grant would help pay her salary and therefore increase our intent to do ministry.
 - The Church Council agreed to give Kristy permission to get more information about the matching grant through the Center for Congregations.

Endowment Fund Dispersment – Kay Twa

- The Endowment Fund had a balance of \$123,604 as of Dec. 31, 2025. The Fund has a disbursement rate of 7% annually. Therefore \$8,652.28 is currently available to be awarded for projects within the church.
- The Committee recommends to Council the approval of these grants:
 - Ugly Quilts - for batting to increase the warmth in their sleeping bags. They needed \$1295.00 to meet their goal this year. Awarded \$1295.00.
 - Alter Committee – for new Advent candles (\$412.00) and Christ candle (\$174.00). Awarded \$586.00.
 - Happy Bottoms Diapers – for 470 bundles of diapers (11,768) at 17 cents per diaper. Awarded \$2000.00.
 - Community Breakfast – needs funds to continue through 2026. Awarded \$2000.
 - Communications – HDMI switcher/mixer needs to be upgraded. Awarded \$559.20.

- Total awarded is \$6440.20 with \$2212.08 to remain invested.
- ***A motion was made by Mike Craig and seconded by Jim Butts to approve recommended grants from the Endowment Fund as discussed - Ugly Quilts - \$1295; Alter Committee \$586; Happy Bottoms Diapers - \$2000; Community Breakfast - \$2000; and Communications - \$559.20. The motion passed unanimously.***

New Website – Mike Oppy

- Look at your group's information on the new website to see if everything is correct. Also check the calendars to make sure all of our events are on there.
- Go to the Google App Store or the Apple Store to find the app and download it.
- *Slice of Sunday* will be available on Mondays after service. The purpose is to tie everything together so we can live it out for the community.
- The website is written to attract new people.
- Suggestions:
 - Put an announcement about the *Slice of Sunday* first.
 - The Directory needs to be secure. We don't want people who have not been approved to have access.
- The Sunday Livestream is available in a variety of formats including the website, app, Apple TV, Google TV, Roku and soon Fire Stick apps.
- The Journey Through Jerusalem was a success. The website events page has been updated from a pre-event to a post-event page highlighting photos from this year's event.
- We invested only \$49 to buy a targeted Facebook ad to a certain demographic group in the community. We reached 3769 individuals with 4000 views and 85 people responded. Contact Mike Oppy if you would like more details. Mike will look into if we can send those that clicked more information.
- Thank you to Mike Oppy and Mandy Hedges for all of their hard work.

Old Business

Missions – Carolyn Olivier

- Thank you to the Endowment Committee for the funds for Happy Bottoms Diapers.
- We also received a \$3000 grant from Metro Ministries for Happy Bottoms Diapers.
- Thank you for the Guys Pies and More promotions. Over 60 people have purchased tickets.
- The Midwest Mission signup is going on the next two weeks. Help with promotion is needed.
- We are gearing up for the Backpacks in June.

United Women of Faith – Kay Twa

- The Westside Women of Faith garage sale is this weekend at Sy. Andrews Lutheran Church in Speedway. Proceeds go to Chapelwood Elementary's food pantry and a group called Sparkies in Speedway.
- May 7 is the United Women of Faith Assembly at the Convention Center in Indianapolis. It is a 3-day gathering of women that takes place every four years to put love into action.

New Business

Finance – Beth Opell

- Thank you to the Endowment Committee for their hard work; to Mike and Mandy for all of their hard work on the new website; and to Tamara for all of her hard work with financial operations.
- Year-to-date giving is on pace with budgeted revenue. However, it should be noted that year-to-date includes some annual gifts from church members.
- Total assets' balance is improved over March 31, 2025 balance.
- We continue to keep cash invested as much as possible.
- There are no red flags in spending areas at this time.

Trustees – Jim Butts

- The summer furnace work has been completed. However, during those inspections it was discovered that one furnace needs to be replaced in the sanctuary basement. Freon needs to be charged on four of the air conditioning units. The new furnace will cost \$11,000.
- The new security system has been installed. It will improve overall security.
- The cross-aisle doors have been installed. It needs to be connected to the security service. Go to the sanctuary doors to use key cards.
- We are waiting for the final City approval of the ramp. They will start working on it as soon as that approval is received. Handicapped buttons will be available.
- Tamara is getting an estimate on stripping and waxing the floors.

Other

- Staff evaluations have been completed and are positive so far.
- When writing about events do not use abbreviations until they have been explained. Make it so anybody who is not familiar with us can understand.
- We have received \$11,440.20 in grants the last two weeks.

Steve Lovern said a prayer to end the meeting.