



Purpose: Before the Town Hall, a newsletter was sent with updates on everything from the pastoral transition, to worship updates, to finance. It also included an announcement about the recent Church Council decision to shift or adapt its leadership structure to a single-board structure beginning July 1. The purpose of the Town Hall Q&A is for Grace Leaders to answer questions and listen to comments from the church on these subjects or others.

Town Hall Q&A Agenda & Notes:

- Opening Hymn and Prayer - **Rev. Milton Rodgers**
- Review of Purpose of Town Hall - **Pastor Drew**
 - Answer your questions
 - Hear your comments
 - Become aware of your concerns or celebrations
 - Agenda based on questions we received through registrations.
- Finance Updates
 - How is this year going? - **Sandy Risko**
 - ❖ Sandy reported that we are up to date on all bills and payroll. We did end the month of April with a \$5,000 deficit but have reserves in our checking account.
 - ❖ We applied for and got a \$200,000 PPP loan to be used for payroll, benefits and utilities. If used within the loan guidelines, we will not have to repay the loan.

- Do you have a year-end outlook given the state of our reserve and anticipated expenses? - **Sandy Risko**

- ❖ Sandy reported that monthly giving has been all over the map and she is not seeing month to month trends like in previous years. It is very hard to predict a year-end outlook at this time.
- ❖ Someone asked if we are applying “belt tightening” techniques and the answer is yes. Ministry leaders are spending minimally. We are not buying frivolously and we are finding/securing funds before embarking on projects (such as building repairs, office supplies, etc)

- **Worship Questions**

- What other changes or additions can we anticipate for worship at Grace? - **Pastor Drew**

- ❖ The Healthy Church Team is working on lifting restrictions that were put in place during the pandemic.
 - Our soonest goal is to remove worship registration and the check-in process.
 - The next goal would be to lessen social distancing guidelines
 - After that, to have masks optional for outdoor gatherings and for indoor gatherings of 25 or less people.
 - Our end goal is to have masks optional throughout the Grace UMC campus.
- ❖ Pastor Drew mentioned that as far as worship services go, our first goal is to create a hybrid worship service at 9:30am, by inviting people to worship in the sanctuary while we also live stream that service.
- ❖ The HCT is working on how to safely get the nursery open again.
- ❖ Someone asked about a 3rd worship service and we are waiting to see what the needs of the church are. Once the 9:30 and 11am services are regularly full to capacity, we will explore adding a third worship service.

- **Building Concerns**

- Is there a plan for the HVAC units and the Good Shepherd

Window? - **Howard Goodie**

- ❖ We are close to signing a contract to have the glass structure around the Good Shepherd Window replaced. The water issue has already been addressed.
- ❖ The HVAC units have life left in them, but costs to replace the aging units (designed for 20 years, but we've had them for 27) are rising about 1% each month for the current units. Teams are discussing how and when to replace the 3 units, using a phased approach.
- ❖ We are proud to report that after consultation with an engineer who created a list of building repairs needed, most of those items were already on the radar of the Trustees. All in all, a recent assessment shows one million dollars worth of improvements and replacements needed in the building in the next 5-10 years. We are mapping out a timeline and prioritizing this list of repairs.

● New Associate

- How is Jessica's role going to be similar or different from Pastor Janet's? - **Pastor Drew**

- ❖ Rev. Jessica will oversee discipleship, congregational care and community care. Pastor Drew will oversee worship, administration and strategic evangelism. These are not meant to be silos of oversight; they will have overlap and continue to work collaboratively.
 - Pastor Drew would love to talk more about this in person, if you have questions! dcolby@umcgrace.org

● Single Board Leadership Structure

- What is the latest update on this change? - **Jen Woolard & Jonathan Bukva**

- ❖ Our Nominations and Lay Leadership Team met this week with our coach Rev. Dr. Michelle Holmes Chaney (Rev. Dr. Holmes Chaney is our coach because she was certified to be a coach through her position on the

Alexandria District Staff. She is coaching us at no extra charge because her position is supported by our Annual Apportionment giving toward the work of the District. This is our “Apportionment dollars at work.”). She helped us reach some clarity on exactly what needs to happen so that we can move forward with a Single Board by July 1. At the end of our time together the committee voiced our appreciation and our sense of confidence.

- ❖ We are working to write a position description and synopsis of the Board’s responsibilities so that when we make phone calls we can give an accurate depiction of how significant this responsibility is. Again, we are feeling confident and hopeful.
- ❖ A major priority is making sure leaders who are not among the nine elected to the Leadership Board can still use their gifts for ministry. Current members of Trustees, Finance, SPRC, and Church Council can expect one of four things to result from the structural change.
 1. You may be asked to serve on the Leadership Board. If not this year, the potential is high that leaders of your caliber will be invited to serve at some time as the Board’s members rotate on a 3-year cycle.
 2. You may be asked to serve on a new Ministry Team. Some of the work of Trustees, Finance, and SPRC will be carried out by a Ministry Team (see details below). Your gifts may be needed on one of these teams.
 3. You may be asked to continue to serve on the team you already lead. For example, the chair of Memorials will likely be asked to continue to lead that ministry team, but may no longer be a member of Church Council (soon to be Grace Leadership Board)
 4. You may be freed from formal leadership altogether. If so, you will be thanked for your service, and blessed to serve the Lord in other ways at Grace UMC and beyond.
- ❖ The Nominations Committee will be working to clarify exactly which Ministry Teams we will need to carry on the work of ministry after the new board is in place.

- Are you seeking congregational input? - **MaryLu Hertz**
 - There will be a vote at Charge Conference on June 7.
 - At a charge conference members of Church Council get a vote, but all members have voice.
 - This Town Hall is one way we are seeking input, so do you have input that you would like to share?
- A note on transparency and openness to comments and questions - **Pastor Drew**
- ❖ Pastor Drew mentioned that we are doing our best to be transparent and provide updates and that we really need to hear from you if you feel otherwise. He is happy to add you to email updates or have conversations if you have questions - please reach out any time.
- Ways to Serve
 - ❖ Pastor Janet affirmed that so many of you are involved and at the ready to be involved when opportunities arise. Thank you! If you have a gift or talent that “gives you life” - something you are passionate about, and are eager to put that gift or talent to use in the church, reach out to us! Email office@umcgrace.org and let us know. The more we know, the more we can do ministry as needs in our church and community arise.
 - Are there ways for seniors to be involved right now? - **Pastor Janet**
 - Are there volunteer opportunities coming up? - **Pastor Janet**
 - Additional Questions?
- UMC Denomination, LGBTQ inclusion, and Grace UMC
 - Not much to report right now. The denominational decisions on LGBTQ inclusion have been delayed by the pandemic. In the meantime all are welcome at Grace. -**Pastor Drew**
- Closing Prayer - **Pastor Janet**