

TL3 Meeting - March 23, 2026

1. **Attendees:** Tracey Briggs, Phil Crouch, Diane McEntire, Loring McIntyre, True Morse, Jennifer Prince, Jill Rhinehart, John Smith, **Guests:** Marge Ottofy, Judy Sexton
2. **Absent:** Fred Bailey, Gary Brockway, Pam Rogalski

LOVING

1. Jill opened the meeting with prayer
2. The group shared blessings and concerns about each other as well as other members of the Groce church family.

LEARNING

1. 2/17/26 meeting notes were approved
2. **Finance**
 - a. Church loan paid off with the bus sale proceeds.
 - b. **2025 Audit review.** Judy Sexton reviewed with the process and impressions from the Audit that she and Marge Ottofy conducted using the UMC audit guide for churches with a budget less than \$500,000. They met with Groce Administrator/Treasurer, Gayle Decker, and were extremely impressed with the organization, attention to the detail, clear processes and thorough documentation. They observed the Monday morning count team and were equally impressed with how that team assures contributions are accurately recorded. The 2025 audit report was approved based on a motion by Jill and second by John.
 - c. **“Unusual or non-recurring income”.** At the February meeting Gary explained how the 2025 year end Operations budget surplus was created by the Miscellaneous Income contributions for paying off the church loan, so the end of year results was actually a deficit once adjusted for this “unusual or non-recurring income” (accounting term). As noted at the meeting, Gary discussed this being noted in the 2025 audit report with Jim Ariail but after discussion it was agreed this was not an audit issue as the accounting approach was correct. Instead, budget reports going forward would note any “unusual or non-recurring income” and an adjusted surplus or deficit so Groce’s financial position is clear.
 - d. **Summary financial information.**
 - i. 3/23 Truist bank account balance was \$69,140 plus the 3/23 deposit of \$7,341 for a total of \$76,481. This deposit includes the \$2,995 collected 3/23 for apportionments so this was an extremely low Sunday collection.
 - ii. \$2,995 was collected through the 3/22 special offering towards Groce’s 2026 Apportionments budget of \$31,267. There are some additional apportionments contributions from earlier in the year so the total apportionments to-date amount will increase.
 - iii. Preliminary draft 3/23 Restricted Funds report was reviewed. Jill noted that the \$12,000 Reynolds Ministries and Programs Music Camps grant is not listed but is being tracked separately. Post meeting Jim Ariail explained that it is shown as a liability on Groce’s balance sheet since any unspent funds would have to be returned. The grant is not shown as Miscellaneous Income in the Operations budget/fund.
 - e. **Accounting firm change.** Effective 4/1 Groce will change from Crawley Lee to Accounting Specialties for accounting services. Crawley Lee notified Groce that they would be ending services for Groce effective 3/16, but Jim Ariail and Gayle were able to extend that to 3/31. Jill identified Accounting Specialties by contacting Central UMC and also spoke to Rev. Luke Christy at Mills River UMC who has used this firm for a number of years. Gary, Jim, Jill and Gayle met with Accounting Specialties and were very impressed. The firm is based in Fairview and is owned by Sharon Miller and her daughter, Rebecca Levi. The monthly fee will be \$950. Crawley Lee had requested an increase of for 2026 to \$1,000/mo from \$800. In addition, Crawley Lee would charge extra for certain things during the course of the year, so the new firm’s fee is overall a savings for Groce.

3. Trustees

- a. **Alternative income sources meeting follow up.** Loring noted that Denver UMC has provided him contact information to discuss the solar panels and EV charging stations that he will be contacting.
- b. **Carpet cleaning.** Good results from the recent carpet cleaning. The company is also working directly with Tammy providing her with their chemicals and techniques so she can address stains sooner to prevent them getting worse.
- c. **Cub Scout Pack 4 facilities use agreement.** The Pack wants to start meeting at Groce 4/2. UMC and Scouting America approved form of agreement was verified by Mark Ralls, Blue Ridge District Superintendent. True is working with the Pack leadership on finalizing agreements. The key element will be the certificate of insurance from the Pack as required by the agreement.
- d. **Music Camp grant and playground improvements.** Jill, Loring and True will discuss potentially using some of the grant funds for playground improvements since the playground is an integral part of the camp activities.

LEADING

1. **TL3 Messenger meeting notes.** All agreed for future Messenger TL3 meeting notes to be just bullets of topics discussed and decisions made with a link to the Groce website for the detailed notes so that the meeting notes do not take up so much space the Messenger, detracting from the focus on ministries.
2. 2026 goals, priorities, aspirations and challenges. This is a follow up to the discussion at the February TL3 meeting.
 - a. **External communications, social media.** Facebook account can still not be accessed. Will indicated to give him about 2 weeks from 3/7 and if we cannot solve it we would transition to a new page. Tracey shared a number of observations from her significant experience with social media communications including that we should link the new Groce Instagram page to any new Facebook page. **ACTIONS:** Tracey to take the lead working with Mariah and Jill on a plan and process around social media. Jill and True would follow up with Will on the existing Facebook account.
 - b. **Spring open house and picnic.** Group agreed that if practical and supported, a 250 year U.S. birthday celebration for July 4th would be appropriate but lots of details need to be ironed out including support and engagement with the various Groce internal groups. **ACTION:** True to follow up with the HCCA board president, Michelle Decker, who expressed this interest at the HCCA annual meeting, to learn more information.
 - c. **Multi-generational and cross-generational relationship emphasis.** This a challenging and multi-faceted endeavor that requires intentional thought and action to identify and incorporate elements into the various activities and ministries. Tracey suggested adding an insert into the Easter worship services bulletins listing the upcoming events at Groce. **ACTION:** Jill to incorporate these inserts into the bulletins.
 - d. **Financial stewardship.** The Finance Committee, financial leaders and others are continuing to pay close attention to this.
 - e. **Ministry team support.** Jill is continuing to watch for ways that TL3 can better support the ministry teams. Diane noted that food insecurity is a prominent need in our community and that food box distribution at other faith communities and organizations are a real need. Diane raised the idea that maybe Groce should consider this in addition to the Welcome Table.
3. **Technology.** Will will attend the April meeting to provide an update on technology initiatives. Several technology needs were noted; the automated calling system to replace the interim fee based system that Jill put in place, the flat screens in the sanctuary and the lack of training on the new phone system especially that staff do not know how to retrieve their voicemails.
4. **Growing the Family of God at Groce.** Jill touched on some church family members including a young couple, Lauren and Taylor, who have been visiting regularly. Leo Rhein is being baptized, and Lauren, Hanley and Leo are joining the church.

HOUSEKEEPING

1. Confidential topics - None
2. Future meeting topics or efforts – Technology report from Will, spending authority guidelines
3. Next meetings –
 - a. April – Monday, 4/27
 - b. May – Tuesday, 5/19
 - c. June – Tuesday, 6/16
 - d. June or July – Church Family meeting
 - e. July – NO MEETING