

TL3 Meeting – April 27, 2026

Attendees: Fred Bailey, Tracey Briggs, Gary Brockway, Phil Crouch, Diane McEntire, Loring McIntyre, True Morse, Jennifer Prince, Jill Rhinehart, Pam Rogalski, John Smith. **Guest:** Will Troxell

Absent: None

All documents presented at the meeting can be found at this [link](#)

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.
3. **Growing the Family of God at Groce updates.** Jill touched on the recent confirmation and baptism Sunday, Lauren Rhein joining Groce and that Graduation Sunday for our high school seniors is June 7th and very important to support these youth.

LEARNING

1. 3/23/26 meeting notes were approved
2. **Technology** - Will Troxell. Details can be found in the presentation information Will used that is found in the meeting documents folder link above.
 - a. Phone system
 - b. Copier
 - c. Auto call system
 - d. Remote computer access for Gayle
 - e. Spreadsheet import system to PowerChurch for Monday Count Team work instead of manual input
 - f. Completely new IT network as a result of new phone system
 - g. New Spectrum internet line that increased speeds
 - h. Looking a central file server and file label system to make files more readily accessible by all staff
 - i. Shifting to role based email addresses instead of individuals' names so when staff members change there is no transition or access issues
 - j. Looking at additional security cameras to monitor upper and lower Epworth doors due to recent security concerns
 - k. Cross training with Angela Woehl and Fred Bailey to occur for Sanctuary AV operation. There is an existing procedure to run the system that is almost completely automated. Detailed documentation being prepared.
 - l. Sanctuary multi-media screen design, software and budget are being planned with input from Jill and others. Cost is about \$7,000. It will take about 3 months to implement from the time that funding is approved but discussion was to target October for completion, pending funding. The 75" display screens would go on either side of the front stained glass windows where the banners currently hang.
ACTION: After Will left John raised the question about what level of ongoing support would be required and the cost that would need to be included in future budgets. True discussed with Will after the meeting that there would be minimal ongoing operational expense to support the system.
3. **Finance** – Gary Brockway
 - a. Overall Groce is financially healthy but there are several items to be aware of.
 - i. **Apportionments.** Only \$3,620 was collected for payment towards the budgeted first quarter apportionments payment of \$7,907 towards the annual budget of \$31,627. To pay the apportionments in full will require higher contributions during the rest of the year.
 - ii. **Bus sale recorded as Miscellaneous Income.** The bus sale proceeds of \$10,000 was necessarily recorded as Miscellaneous Income but was used to pay off the loan, not for Operations expenses. Therefore, the actual Operations first quarter income is a \$642 loss once the bus sale income is removed.

- iii. **Fuel (natural gas).** Budget is over budget by \$3,242 for the first quarter but this is likely due to the high use of gas during the cold months for heating. Since the total gas budget is spread evenly over the whole 12 months there should be little use in the cooling months which will offset the high use in the heating months.
- iv. **Total cash balance.** Groce continues to hover in the mid-\$70k range in terms of total cash to cover the restricted funds less endowment and Epworth apartments plus routine Operations cash needs. The desired and healthier cash balance would be approximately \$111,000 based on the below calculation. This cash position continues to require Groce to carefully manage expenses. Discussion occurred around different ways to improve this situation. **ACTION:** Jennifer would investigate what it would take to do a large yard sale or auction like the former church members, the Pless family, led. Maximizing facility use income was discussed while striking the right balance between fees and community support in keeping with the new policy approved in 2025. True and Loring touched on the review done of all outside facility users and fees charged with Mariah and Gayle that would be discussed in more detail at the June meeting. Jill noted that a member approached Jim Ariail about donating towards Groce’s HVAC equipment replacement needs given the age and condition of these very expensive building elements. Gary said that while this cash balance situation is concerning and needs to be improved he feels we should proceed with the technology upgrades to the sanctuary. **ACTION:** After the meeting True & Jill agreed that an email should be sent to obtain TL3 formal approval for the approximate \$7,000 expenditure for the sanctuary multimedia features.

Desired Cash Position Analysis Using 4/21/26 Data and 2026 Budget	
4/22/2026	
Approach is from an expense/outflow and restricted funds perspective	
2026 Expense Budget	459,844
LESS Apportionments	(31,627)
	428,217
Average Monthly Budgeted Expenses	35,685
Restricted Funds Total	135,300
LESS Endowment	(37,080)
LESS Epworth Apartments	(4,755)
Adjusted Restricted Funds Total	93,465
Desired Average Cash Position	
50% of Average Monthly Budgeted Expenses*	17,842
Adjusted Restricted Funds Total	93,465
	111,307
*Logic is that since that that majority of the income comes in each Sunday and expenses are distributed over the month, a full month of expense funds are not needed at any given point of time	

4. **Trustees – Loring & True**

- a. **Epworth security incidents & rekeying.** True and Loring reviewed the incidents of someone letting themselves into various Epworth rooms. There has not been any damage or theft, just mischievous acts. In consultation with Jill, Will, Loring, Gary, Mariah and Gayle, it was agreed we should consider rekeying all exterior doors. 3 proposals were obtained and we are likely proceeding with rekeying at a cost of \$1,278.
- b. **Space use agreements.** True and Loring touched on a review done with Mariah and Gayle of all outsider users of Groce space with respect to what they are being charged and status of a current use agreement. There are some aspects that will need Trustee input at the June meeting since who to charge and how much to charge is not completely black and white despite the well thought out policy now in place.
- c. **Alternative income sources.** Loring is working on getting in touch with the resource provided through Denver UMC from Phil’s information. Fred shared that his investigation of Tesla charging stations is that it requires Groce to fund \$5,000 for the station installation but then Groce would be paid a share of any charging electrical consumption done by users.

- d. **Parsonage.** Jill noted that Sandra Justus coordinated some window screens being fixed and work on 3 leaking faucets. The first floor shower faucet will require access through the adjoining wall and full replacement so will be more costly.
- 5. **Youth Director hiring & Youth Group.** Jill shared that Kelley's last day would likely be in the 2nd half of June given her appointment as an associate pastor at a church in Asheboro. Jill has discussed still trying to share a person with Mills River UMC with their pastor but that was a pretty unique arrangement given Kelley's willingness to travel that distance. The position has not yet been posted on Indeed (\$250). It is a challenging position to fill given the limited hours and need to have someone who has a sufficient Methodist theology foundation. The youth will likely keep meeting in the summer for activities, but no Sunday meals will be needed. No mission trip has been set given the cost (\$500-600 each) and only one solid youth commitment. Jill is discussing the possibility of renting an Airbnb in the Asheville area and doing local mission work through the disaster relief of the WNCCUMC – Maggie Armstrong.

LEADING

- 1. 2026 goals, priorities, aspirations and challenges. This is a follow up to the discussion at the February and March TL3 meeting. Do to time constraints only social media was discussed.
 - a. **External communications, social media.** Will solved the Facebook page access. Tracey shared that Mariah is doing a fantastic job with the Facebook page and she has linked the Instagram page. Everyone is encouraged to "like" the posts to feed the FB algorithm to promote the content as well as sharing the post from our personal Facebook use. Tracey is meeting with Mariah on 4/29 to further develop the use of social media content and impact.
 - b. **Spring open house and picnic**
 - c. **Multi-generational and cross-generational relationship emphasis**
 - d. **Financial stewardship**
 - e. **Ministry team support**

HOUSEKEEPING

- 1. **Confidential topics - None**
- 2. Future meeting topics or efforts – outside facility users and rates charged
- 3. Next meetings –
 - a. May – Monday, 5/18
 - b. June – Sunday, 6/14 – Church Family meeting
 - c. June – Tuesday, 6/16
 - d. July – NO MEETING