



Mission - Love God and Neighbor, Build Community - - No Limits

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: July 29, 2025

Meeting Place: In Person, Wesley Hall

1. Opening Devotion & Prayer: Jeff Hayes

The meeting began with a reflection and devotion led by Jeff, who shared experiences from a recent trip to Alaska. He encouraged everyone to take time to appreciate God's creation and embrace wisdom and guidance. The devotion was followed by a prayer seeking clarity, discernment, and unity in church decisions.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

- The minutes from the May 2025 meeting were approved without changes.
 - Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
-

3. Charge Conference Business

Britt opened the Charge Conference to address a clergy compensation proposal from the Staff Parish Relations (SPR) Committee.

Clergy Compensation Proposal

- **Linda Hurley (SPR)** presented a proposal for pastoral salary increases (retroactive to March 1, 2025) for Pastors Kevin and Missy.
- Britt declined a personal raise due to the church's current deficit.
- Discussion included:
 - Accountability reimbursements
 - Conference average salary comparisons (not completed this year)
- The proposal was approved unanimously by hand vote.

The Charge Conference was then closed, and the regular Church Council meeting resumed.

4. Trustees Report — Andrea Wheeler

- **Flooring Project:**
 - New polished concrete floors (walnut color) to be installed Aug 7–13.
 - Safety, durability, and aesthetics were the focus.
 - **Projector Replacement Discussion:**
 - Options include replacing the existing projector vs. installing two large monitors.
 - Cost comparisons:
 - Projector replacement: ~\$15,000–\$16,000 (includes rewiring)
 - Monitors: ~\$15,000 (possibly more depending on placement)
 - \$8,000 pledged so far; \$7,000 additional needed.
 - No decision yet; more discussion planned at the August 12 trustees meeting.
 - **Ice Maker Replacement:**
 - Old unit failed.
 - New refurbished unit purchased for \$2,400 (vs. \$4,000 new).
 - **Learning Ladders Fence & Keypad:**
 - Installation nearly complete; training to follow.
 - **Scouting Partnership:**
 - Exploring a renewed relationship with Scouting America.
 - Seeking leaders from the congregation to support.
-

5. Generosity Report — Jeff Hayes

- **Contributions through June 30, 2025:**
 - Pledged: \$114,588 | Actual: \$113,908 (short by \$680 for June)
 - Year-to-date: \$659,525 received (short by \$49,000 vs. budget)
 - **Communications & Outreach:**
 - Slides shown in Sunday services
 - August newsletter to include stewardship messaging
 - **Calling Team Initiative:**
 - Exploring a pastoral care outreach team to check in with church members.
 - **QCD Discussion:**
 - Discussion about Qualified Charitable Distributions for retirees
 - Will research tax rules further and share clarity later
-

6. Finance Update — Alex

- **Financial Health Snapshot:**

- Income falling short of expenses
- Working capital decreasing slowly, buffered by temporary grants and investments
- Core giving (tithing) has declined from \$1.75M in 2017 to ~\$1.25M in 2024
- **Deficit Projection:**
 - Expected ~\$107,000 deficit by year-end unless giving increases
- **Dependency on External Grants:**
 - ~\$200K from conference grants annually; future is uncertain
- **Mortgage Update:**
 - ~5 years remaining
 - ~\$211,000 principal remaining
 - ~\$250,000 annual impact on the budget

Suggestions:

- Create visible goals (e.g., “thermometer” graphic) for funding specific needs like the mortgage
 - Clarify use of funds and communicate tangible impact
 - Consider a new campaign to pay off the remaining mortgage
-

7. Missions & Go Team Report — Gabrielle & Britt

- **Focus Area:** “Going in God’s Love” — missions of mercy and justice
 - **Highlights:**
 - Rise Against Hunger: goal met
 - Visit from missionaries John and Florence
 - Cup of Love service continued to grow
 - Hearts for Housing initiative began
 - **Feedback & Participation:**
 - Surveys distributed for feedback on recent initiatives
 - Encouragement for leadership participation in missions
 - **Upcoming Events:**
 - Aug 23: Workday with St. Johns Homeless Coalition
 - Downtown Ecumenical Services tour
 - Sponsorship for homeless students via Assist Program
 - Possible re-engagement with ICARE
-

8. Upcoming Dates



- **District Leadership Event:** Sept 14 at First UMC Ocala
 - **Cluster Charge Conference:** Oct 19, 2025
 - **Next Council Meetings:**
 - **September 30, 2025**
 - **December 2, 2025**
-

9. Joys and Concerns

- No additional items were brought forward for discussion.
 - Gratitude was expressed for leadership engagement and service.
-

Adjournment:

The meeting closed in prayer and appreciation for all attendees' participation.

Let me know if you'd like this exported back into a Word document or customized for printing, emailing, or archiving.