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

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: April 28th, 2026

Meeting Place: In Person FLC Room 852

I. Opening

- Meeting called to order
- Devotion based on Acts 2:42–47
  - Theme: Embracing change in the church
  - Early church model:
    - Devotion to teaching, fellowship, prayer
    - Unity, generosity, growth
  - Application:
    - Church must adapt while staying rooted in mission
    - Emphasis on spiritual discernment in leadership

II. Approval of Previous Minutes

- No corrections or additions
- Minutes approved unanimously

III. Committee Reports

A. Staff-Parish Relations

- No April meeting held
- Ongoing seasonal conversations with Clergy to be submitted to FL Conference in May
- Announcement Summary Update: All clergy returning for Appointment year July 2026-June 2027

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B. Trustees Report

- Facility status:
  - No major expenses currently
  - Recent repairs (lighting system) completed cost-effectively
- Gym improvement project:
  - Funds raised: ~$16,368
  - Work includes:
    - Floor refinishing
    - Wall padding repair
    - Painting
- Ongoing concerns:
  - 30+ HVAC units (many aging ~17 years)
- Campus maintenance:
  - Need for volunteer support (beautification, upkeep)
  - Recommendation to better organize and communicate opportunities

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C. Finance Report

1. Giving & Campaigns

- Pledge receipts (through March): ~$270,000
- Increase: +$34,000 year-over-year
- "Balance the Budget" campaign:
  - Goal: $85,000 (met)
  - Matching gift: $50,000 (met)
  - Total impact: ~$117,000+
  - Surplus allocated to gym improvements

2. Q1 Financial Overview

- Contributions: +$28,000 over budget
- Total revenue: +$44,000 over budget
- Expenses: ~$6,000 under budget
- Net result:
  - Slight positive (~$4,000)

3. Key Trends

- Strong upward movement:
    - Working capital increased by ~$57,000
    - Highest Q1 giving since ~2018
- Mortgage:
    - Now below $1 million
    - Approximately 4 years remaining

IV. New Business

A. Longleaf Campus Update

- Grant funding:
    - Current: $185,000 (through June 2026)
    - New grant: $175,000 (July 2026–June 2027)
    - Future expectation: ~$75,000

Key Goals

1. Pathway to Charter (Independent Church Status)
    - Requires:
        - Worship space
        - Attendance growth (target: 125 avg.)
        - Volunteer base
        - Financial sustainability
2. Facility Needs
    - Current limitation: School space only 4 hours/week
    - Exploring:
        - Commercial spaces
        - Shared partnerships
        - Creative solutions (e.g., multi-use or warehouse-style space)
3. Growth Targets
    - Attendance: +22%
    - Online engagement: +25%
    - Volunteers: 35% participation
    - Giving increase:
        - From ~$158,000 → $200,000

B. Summer Camp Update

- Staffing:
  - All leadership roles filled (mostly returning staff)
  - Strong referrals and candidate quality
- Enrollment:
  - Higher than previous years at this stage
  - Goal: 40–50 kids per week
- Marketing efforts:
  - School outreach and flyers
- Strength:
  - Low student-to-leader ratio (1:8 vs. state 1:24)

C. Focus Groups Initiative

Purpose

- Strengthen unity and discipleship
- Engage both new and existing members

Plan

1. Conduct additional focus groups (May)
2. Gather congregational input during worship
3. Share results and guide ministry direction

Key Insight

- Participation (small groups, volunteering) increases commitment

Proposed Ministry Focus

- Food & Nutrition
  - Connects fellowship, outreach, and worship
  - Examples:
    - Meals, potlucks, food drives
    - Community outreach
    - Fellowship gatherings

V. Closing Items

Next Meeting

- July 28, 2026 at 6:30 PM

Prayer Requests & Celebrations

- College students returning home
- Confirmation class (19 confirmands and baptisms)
- New families joining
- Strong generosity and engagement

Meeting Adjourned

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Key Action Items

Administration & Communication

- Improve communication of volunteer opportunities
- Include endowment updates in financial reporting
- Ensure follow-up and reporting from focus groups

Facilities & Trustees

- Continue gym renovation project
- Develop long-term HVAC replacement plan
- Organize structured volunteer maintenance program

Finance

- Monitor summer giving trends
- Track impact of special campaigns on regular giving

Longleaf Campus

- Advance pathway to charter planning
- Identify and secure long-term facility
- Increase attendance, volunteers, and giving
- Develop cooperative parish agreement

Ministry & Programs

- Expand summer camp enrollment
- Strengthen school partnerships
- Continue leadership development for camp staff

Congregational Engagement

- Launch and promote focus groups
- Compile and share results with congregation
- Develop food-based ministry initiative
- Encourage broader participation across groups
