



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

Church Council Meeting Minutes
Meeting Date: September 30th, 2025
Meeting Place: FLC 854

Opening

The meeting was opened with a devotional led by Mike Overton, highlighting the Appalachian Trail Chaplain ministry. Scripture and reflections emphasized faith, perseverance, and sharing God's love. A prayer was offered for the congregation and community.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the July meeting were reviewed. No corrections were made. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

Reports

Grow Team

Missy and Andrea reported on the Grow Team's focus to build community within the church. Highlights included:

- Events such as the Filipino Festival (~250 attendees), quarterly brunches, Wednesday night dinners (100+), and summer socials.
- Classes: Six active Sunday school classes (~70 participants weekly), Wednesday night classes (35–46 participants), and plans to expand weekday classes.
- Small Groups: Ongoing men's and women's groups, choirs, and book clubs. Groups encouraged to include devotion and prayer.
- Future plans include retreats, expanded weekday classes, and small group development.

Generosity Committee

Jennifer Holmes shared that giving exceeded budget expectations in August (+\$7,000) and September (+\$2,000). The deficit has been reduced from \$60,000 to \$50,000. The 2025 stewardship campaign will run Oct. 5–26 under the theme 'Every Gift Tells a Story.' Members are encouraged to share testimonies of giving.



Finance Report

Alex reported that working capital decreased by \$60,000 over the past 12 months, now at \$226,000. Year-to-date operating deficit stands at \$126,000. One-time gifts and grants helped offset the shortfall. Planning for the 2026 budget is underway with a goal of sustainability while maintaining programming.

Trustees Report

Andrew Wheeler reported on facility updates:

- AC compressor repair completed (\$8,755).
- Irrigation pump replaced (\$7,192).
- Flooring project near completion under budget.
- Handrails being installed in Worship Center and choir loft.
- Partnership established with Scouting America; informational meeting planned for October.

Charge Conference Preparations

Pastor Britt reviewed preparations for the Oct. 19 cluster charge conference at Riverside Park UMC. Items to be voted on include:

- 2026 leadership nominations.
- Inactive member list.
- Clergy compensation (no changes for 2026).
- Linda Hurley reported on MUMC Candidates for Ministry: Grace Rogers (seminary student from congregation), Daniel Weikert and Emily Lorenzen have changed candidacies to other Congregations.

New Business

The council was updated on a Jacksonville Public Service Grant application that could provide camp scholarships beginning July 2026. The next council meeting is scheduled for December 2.

Joys and Concerns

- Gratitude expressed for the visible vitality of the church campus (pumpkin patch, children's activities, upcoming Christmas tree sales).

Closing

The meeting concluded with prayer, giving thanks for God's guidance and asking for His blessing over the congregation, its leaders, and ongoing ministries.