

# Church Council Meeting

## 1/13/26

Present: Candie Kingma (Chair); Bill Engle; Brenda Gross; Mike Oppy; Steve Lovern; Mike Craig; Carolyn Olivier; Beth Opell; Mike Oppy; Mike Spence; Tamara Dejak; Kay Twa

Staff: Pastor Dave Buckner, Mark Montgomery

### Action Items:

- Pastor Dave will talk to Heartland Methodist Foundation that awarded a grant in the amount of \$9,050 to be used towards the construction of an ADA ramp to the kitchen. Dave will determine if we need to return these funds or if they could be used for another building project, since we have been awarded a separate grant that will fully cover the construction of the ramp. This second grant came from MHS Insurance.
- Mark Montgomery requested that everyone please review the new security plan that he sent out and send comments to Mark or Eric Walker.
- Carolyn shared that pre-orders for Souper Bowl Sunday will be taken on Feb. 1 and soups will be delivered after service on Feb. 8. Four soups will be available. This is a fund-raiser for the purchase of a box truck to support the food pantry and other missions.
- Kay Twa shared that the chili cookoff will take place on February 21 and this is a fund-raiser for UWF.
- Trustees could use more help with projects around the church. They generally work on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. Please join them.

### Motions:

- ***Bill Engle made a motion to accept the minutes from the November 11, 2025 Church Council meeting as submitted. Beth Opell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.***
- ***Candie Kingma made a motion to approve the 2026 budget as submitted. Tamara Dejak seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.***
- ***Carolyn Olivier made a motion to use funds up to \$15,000 from the \$100,000 2024 Building Funds to help fund the box truck for food pantry. Candie Kingma seconded the motion. The motion passed but did have one abstention.***

Candie Kingma opened the Church Council meeting with a prayer.

### *Minutes*

- ***Bill Engle made a motion to accept the minutes from the November 11, 2025 Church Council meeting as submitted. Beth Opell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.***

### *Staff and Ministry Reports*

- Pastor Dave's Report

- Managed Health Services Insurance has awarded the church a new ramp for the kitchen door. They will tear down and rebuild the ramp for free. Mike Spence will meet with them next week to discuss the project. We had previously received a grant for \$9,050 to help cover the costs of rebuilding the ramp. Pastor Dave will talk to the group that awarded the grant (Heartland Methodist Foundation) and find out what we need to do with the money they provided.
  - The theme for 2026 is - "What's in it for me?" Pastor Dave will talk about the reward for following Jesus Christ. Mark is working on advertising.
  - Pastor Dave notified the Conference that we will cut our apportionment to ½ of normal for the next 18 months so we can cover our Community Goods outreach efforts. We need to figure out how to sustain the outreach after the 18-month period when we plan to resume our full apportionment payments.
- Outreach Director – Mark Montgomery
    - Security Plan
      - A safety/security plan was distributed to the Council members prior to the meeting. It has lots of facets including weather, medical emergencies, trauma, etc.
      - It will be presented to the congregation at a later date because it is still in the development process.
      - Eric Walker is leading the process.
      - Training of Church volunteers will be done after it is finalized.
      - Everyone was asked to review it and send comments to Mark or Eric.

### **Memorial and Endowment Fund Update**

- We currently have \$83,000 in the Memorial Fund and \$123,643 in the Endowment Fund.
- A percentage of those funds will be available for use by church groups. The amounts awarded to groups within the church will be announced soon.
- Groups should make their requests for funds prior to March 31.

### **Old Business**

#### *Missions – Carolyn Olivier*

- Kid's Clothing Corner was blessed this month with a gift of two carloads of clothes donated by people who have been coming and helping there.
- We will no longer receive the free diapers from the Diaper Bank. We can purchase diapers from the Bank for \$0.17 per diaper.
- Metro Ministries has lifted their training requirement for grants. Their process has changed since they are now statewide. We may be able to receive one final grant from them this year, noting we will not be eligible for 2026 while we let others make their requests. Applications for this year are due in April.
- Souper Bowl will be a joint effort of Missions and Food Pantry. On January 25 they will register people to help with taking orders and passing out the soups. Pre-orders will be taken on Feb. 1 and soups will be delivered after service on Feb. 8. Extra soups will be available for people who don't make a pre-order. There will be four types of soup available. The fund-raising goal is to purchase a box truck with a

power lift (\$15,000). Missions hopes that people will make significant donations (beyond the purchase of soup). FYI – volunteers now pick up from Gleaners three times a week using the church van and church members' private vehicles. With the new truck we should be able to get more product, and it will save a lot of time and fuel.

#### *United Women of Faith – Kay Twa*

- 2025 was a very good year for UWF. They had tea events in the Fall and in December.
- The Craft Show was very successful. The proceeds will go to the Women's and Children's Home, the Lucille Raines Residence, and Metro Ministries.
- The chili cookoff will take place on February 21.
- UWF received a donation in honor of Jane Trowbridge. It will be used to buy paper goods for our kitchen.

#### **New Business**

##### *Finance – Beth Opell*

- 2025 ended with a surplus thanks to the Building Use revenue.
- Beth presented the 2026 budget of \$529,000 in revenue and \$536,000 in expenses for approval, noting that it was similar to the budget shown to the Council in November. Beth noted the budget is supported by a reduction in apportionment payments in 2026, as approved in November.
  - Pastor Dave shared that he notified the Conference that we plan to reduce our apportionment payments by 50% over the next 18-months. This action will allow us to continue with current outreach efforts for this length of time.
  - The Duncan and Vennon memorial gifts have been vital in helping us to fund our outreach efforts.
- Thank you to Beth and Tamara for all their hard work in putting the budget together.
- Beth reminded the group that 2026 parsonage repairs will be funded from the Building Fund and are not included in the operating budget.
- ***Candie Kingma made a motion to approve the 2026 budget as submitted. Tamara Dejak seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.***
- ***Carolyn Olivier made a motion to use funds up to \$15,000 from the \$100,000 2024 Building Funds to help fund the box truck for food pantry. Candie Kingma seconded the motion. The motion passed but did have one abstention.***
- As a reminder these \$100,000 funds were originally set aside for a list of needed building repairs, that included a dewatering project in the basement. Water has not been an issue lately, so we are going to redistribute the money that was set aside for the dewatering to other projects.
- Thanks to a generous donation, the diaper wipes for Happy Bottoms Diapers have been funded in full for 2026.

##### *Trustees – Mike Spence*

- The church van currently being used to transport food for the food pantry will be offered up for sale when we get the new truck.

- The door lock system needs to be upgraded. The current system runs on a Windows 7 computer, and it cannot be updated. Mike Spence will be talking to a vendor on Thursday about needed changes. Timers will be automated.
- The video surveillance system will be changed. We want to be able to monitor it in-house instead of paying fees to an outside company.
- Work continues to organize and purge Trustee files.
- After an inspection of the parsonage roof, it was discovered it did not have any ventilation. Bids for the work are now being taken to add vents and a new roof.
- The lights in the education basement need to be replaced. All supplies have been purchased, and work is being done as time allows.
- Trustees could use more help with projects around the church. They generally work on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays if anyone has time.
- If we cannot get more people to help, we will have to hire out more projects to get the maintenance done at the church. It was asked if we could revisit using the BD construction students or Ivy Tech students who need experience?

Carolyn Olivier reminded us that we should be very proud of being part of a church that is taking care of and sharing with our community. She closed the meeting with a prayer.