

Church Council Meeting

5/12/26

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

Staff: Pastor Dave Buckner, Mark Montgomery; Mandy Hedges

Guest: Theresa Pettigrew

Action Items:

- Plans will be made for the church to celebrate the 250th birthday of the USA on June 26 after service. There will be hot dogs and apple pie.
- We will process and present a "Mission Reach" plan after reviewing the comments from the Town Hall held on May 3. The plan will show ways individuals can create a strategy to get out and introduce our church to the public. There will be training classes after Pastor Dave returns from his surgery.
- Tamara Dejak will adjust the COO database with the changes decided tonight.
- Pastor Dave and the trustees will talk to the pastors of the other congregations that use our building about cleaning up after themselves. Their children are leaving the nursery a mess and going around the building and opening all of the drawers and doors. This situation is creating more work for Amy. We may have to charge more rent if this behavior continues.
- Mandy and Mike Oppy *has added* a third "Prayer Request" link on the church website for easier access.

Motions:

- ***Bill Engle made a motion to accept the minutes from the April 4, 2026 Church Council meeting as submitted. Jim Butts seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.***

Candie Kingma opened the Church Council meeting with a prayer.

Minutes

- ***Bill Engle made a motion to accept the minutes from the April 4, 2026 Church Council meeting as submitted. Jim Butts seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.***

Staff and Ministry Reports

- Pastor Dave
 - Town Hall Meeting
 - We want to create an invitation to come to something bigger than yourself and to be in a relationship with God. That is what we believe will bring people back to church. This is not our strength as Methodists. We all need to be more comfortable with sharing with others about our faith and our beliefs.

- Norma McKim has suggested and offered her help to celebrate the 250th birthday of the USA. We will do that after church services on June 28th and celebrate and be thankful for what we have. We will have hot dogs and apple pie after service. Let Norma know if you are willing to help.
- FYI – the Eritrean church has applied for a loan so that they can purchase their own church building. They have communicated they will know more this summer.–They currently pay \$1250 a month for building use. If they leave our building, we will consider recruiting another congregation to take their place-
- Mark Montgomery
 - We will process and present a plan called “Mission Reach” after reviewing the comments from the Town Hall. It will show ways individuals can create a plan to get out and introduce our church to the public. There will be training classes in 2 to 3 weeks after Pastor Dave returns from his surgery.

Database Purge – Tamara Dejak

- The current Church Office Online (COO) database list was reviewed and the names of people who have passed away, moved, or have not attended since 2024 were color-coded for Council to review whether they should be retained in COO. It was noted that COO bills us based on the number of names in the database. This is a house-keeping process that we conduct prior to our annual billing from COO. Tamara will make-deletions in COO, based on the following decisions by Council.
- The following ~~names~~ of people who have died were removed: Marjilee Anderson; Edwin Cecil; Walker Johnson; Larry Kahl; Leonard Outcalt; Marcia Routh; Cheryl Ruckman; Phil Stewart; Jane Trowbridge; Phyllis Tyner; Gordon Ayer; and Edward Vennon.
- These members who have not attended or gave since 2024 were removed: Queen Asante; Mary Asante; Seline Asante; Lawrence Asante; Margaret Ann Hill; Teresa Johnson; Barbara Johns; Don Johns; Sung Kim; Ruby Mitchell; Keith Nelson; Destiny Piper; and Laura Tudor.
- These non-members who have not attended or gave since 2024 were removed: Naz Berhe; Jesse Berhe; Terrell Billups; Carla Boyce; Julie Brewer; Linda Clark; Stephanie Christopher; Rich Corbin; Susan Cooper; Jan Dobbs; Stefan Griffith; Patty Hildebrand; Jacob Hildebrand; Alexis Hildebrand; Curtis Hildebrand; Kevin Hatcher (2); Allen Jones; Wayne Kauffman; Karen Kauffman; Barb Krieger; Paul Krieger; Michele LaCrossse; David LaCrosse; Brittany Jean Louis; Linda Maston; Linda McCready; Carrie Mitchell; Richard Morris; Jerry Myers; Mark Najmon; Kathy Najmon; Debbie Nelson; Tina Nelson; Olugbenga Opadotun; Ricardo Patterson; Shari Ping; Steve Ping; Dwayna Scule; Patricia Speicher; Elaine Sullender; Joyce Taylor; Keith Tracey; Alexander Turner; Bill Wade; Marilyn Wade; Diane Walton; July Weimer; Carol Weatherford; Jo Lee Coleman; Hayleab Teare; shalon trans LLC; Heather Curfman; Shirley Deal; Kathleen Deal; Kevin Quiggle; Tracy Riester; Debbie Beauchamp; Kris Beauchamp; Autin Beauchamp; Allison Beauchamp; Jeff Mosier; Kala Pederson; Kentrell Bent; Bridget Millar; Kathleen Swayze; Richard Parker; Heather Maloney; Ashley Wyatt; Bob Stevens; Nathaniel Etter; Emme Barnett Kayleighann Etter; Scott Sweeney; Nicholas Etter; Patricia Grinder; Nocholas Thompson; Dwayne Etter; Judy Cole; Polly Padgette; Michelle Mates;

Herbert Hummer; Hermi Tesfaldet; Pam Majors; Lovely Stdor; Theresa Richter; and Shirley Bengé.

Old Business

Missions – Carolyn Olivier

- No report. Things are going well.

United Women of Faith – Kay Twa

- The May UWF meeting took place today. More enthusiasm and effort are going into the Ugly Quilts lately. Fleece blankets are going well. Norma McKim wants us to do more to support homeless veterans. Let her know if you want to help.
- May 15 is the United Women of Faith Assembly at the Convention Center in Indianapolis. It is a 3-day gathering of 4,000 women from around the world that takes place every four years to put love into action. Kay is excited to attend.
- The locks have been installed on the UWF cabinets so the Library door will be unlocked from now on.

New Business

Finance – Beth Opell

- Church financials are positive so far in 2026.
- Building use revenue helps to balance the budget. If we lose the Eritreans we may want to consider recruiting another congregation to fill in the lost revenue.
- The entire \$100,000 Duncan gift that was earmarked for Outreach salary and efforts will be fully spent by the end of June. The Outreach Director's salary for July to December is covered in the 2026 budget.
- Earlier in the year, Council made the decision to reduce our apportionment payments by 50%, noting that this savings will help with continuing to fund our Outreach efforts.
- Expenses are tracking close to budget in 2026 to-date. Beth noted that we recently received had three HVAC units fail and reminded Council that our budget does not support replacing capital items (like HVAC).

Trustees – Mike Spence

- Mike is gathering quotes from contractors crack-sealing in the parking lot. One company will just fill the cracks. The other one wants to repave the whole lot. Mike noted that he will ask the contractor if they would like to take our unused parking curbs.
- Busses are being repaired.
- Trustees are suggesting that we sell the van for \$1 to someone who needs it. This would allow us to remove it from our insurance and save costs.
- The company that sold us the fire and entry system several years ago is no longer in business and we have not been successful in finding a company to work on it.
- Mike noted that he is looking into changing from AT&T to Verizon to save expenses. He notes that we are required to continue to host a hard-wired line (state requirement). This relates to monitoring of entry and fire alarm as well.

- The new deck ramp replacement was delayed while they worked with “811” to mark utilities. This marking recently occurred and the company has been cleared to dig by 811. The ramp will be torn out after the May 23 food pantry.
- We are still waiting for the power supply for the handicapped door. He will complete the wiring when the part arrives.
- Lights on the exterior of the building will be replaced soon as many are currently not working.
- Classroom lights need to be replaced as soon as funds are released.
- Roof shingles on the covered entrance to the narthex will be replaced as a temporary measure and hopefully that roof will be replaced next year. The roof on the parsonage will be replaced next year also.
- We have a bid for \$1200 for stripping and polishing the cross-aisle floor. Mike hopes to schedule that for minimal disruption to church activities. This deep clean should assist our custodian, Amy.
- There are three HVAC units in the Sanctuary and Narthex that need a new compressor or to be replaced. Mike has an estimate for \$19,000.
- When the parking is re-striped, a request was made to make the parking spots a little wider.
- Mike and Dave will talk to the pastors of the other churches using the building about cleaning up after themselves. They are leaving the nursery a mess and their kids are going around and opening all of the drawers and doors in the church when they are there. It is creating more work for Amy. We may have to charge the congregations more if this continues.

Mike Oppy said a prayer to end the meeting.