Charge/All Church Conference Agenda
Deer Park UMC - November 22, 2026

I. Welcome & Introductions - Rev. Megan Madsen

II. Opening Devotion/Prayer

III. Call to Order

IV. Pastor's Compensation Candidacy

V. Nominations/Lay Leadership Report

VI. Lay Ministry Annual Report and Renewal

- Lay Servant – Erik Strunk
- Lay Servant/Speaker – Mary Turney

VII. Business Items Pre-Approved Items

VIII. Closing Prayer

2026 CHARGE CONFERENCE



CHARGE CONFERENCE MATERIALS

Sunday, November 22, 2026 • 12:30 p.m.

Deer Park United Methodist Church
113 E. 2nd Avenue, Deer Park, WA 99006
Phone: 509.844.3343
www.deerparkumc.com

2026 Pastoral Reflection: A Year of Faith and Service

As we reflect upon 2026, I am reminded of the Apostle Paul's words: *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"* (Philippians 4:13). This has been a year of renewed purpose, faithful service, and meaningful spiritual growth. Through God's grace, our small congregation has demonstrated that the strength of a church is measured not by its size, but by its willingness to serve Christ and others.

At the heart of our ministry remains our commitment to worship, prayer, scripture, and Christian fellowship. Weekly worship services, Bible studies, pastoral counseling, and personal visits continue to strengthen our relationships with God and one another. Our new men's Bible study and quarterly women's gatherings have created additional opportunities for fellowship and discipleship. We also celebrated the certification of a new Lay Servant, with another working toward certification in 2027, reminding us that ministry belongs to the entire congregation.

Some of our most meaningful accomplishments occurred beyond the sanctuary. Jesus reminds us, *"To the extent that you did it to one of these brothers or sisters of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me"* (Matthew 25:40). These words embody our calling to serve those in need. When regional wildfires displaced families this summer, our church opened its doors to provide temporary shelter and compassion during uncertainty. Through partnerships with Second Harvest, Cub Scout Pack 202, and the Mary Walker School District, we expanded our outreach through school supplies, winter clothing, and Thanksgiving meal assistance. Our participation in the Settlers Day Parade, community barbecue, and Pumpkin Lane further demonstrated our desire to be an active and welcoming presence in Deer Park.

We have also been blessed by extraordinary generosity. Our new steeple, sanctuary improvements, and substantial grant toward replacing our aging heating system reflect faithful stewardship and a commitment to future generations. These improvements strengthen our ability to welcome everyone into God's house.

Our congregational survey and September leadership retreat encouraged us to listen, reflect, and prayerfully consider God's direction for our future. As we enter 2027, we must continue nurturing disciples, welcoming new families, strengthening lay leadership, and finding meaningful ways to serve our neighbors.

I am deeply grateful for the dedication, generosity, and faithfulness of this congregation. Every volunteer, prayer, gift, and act of kindness contributes to our shared ministry. May we never measure our success solely by attendance, finances, or buildings, but by the lives we touch and the love of Jesus Christ we share.

To God be the glory!

David Baird, Pastor

Administrative Council Report

2026 has been a wonderful year! I am grateful for the dedication, generosity, and shared commitment that have guided Deer Park United Methodist Church through a year of meaningful progress. Our accomplishments demonstrate what is possible when faithful leadership, responsible stewardship, and a common vision come together in service to Christ.

The Administrative Council's responsibility is to provide the organizational foundation that enables our congregation's ministries to flourish. Throughout this year, we have worked to strengthen church operations, improve our facilities, encourage greater congregational participation, and position our church for a sustainable future.

Several significant initiatives reflect this commitment. Improvements to our buildings and grounds, the completion of our new steeple, and securing substantial grant funding for our heating system demonstrate thoughtful stewardship of the resources entrusted to us. Equally important, we have taken steps to strengthen financial planning, clarify leadership responsibilities, and encourage greater participation in church governance.

Our congregational survey and September planning retreat provided opportunities to listen, evaluate our priorities, and begin developing a shared vision for the years ahead. These efforts remind us that effective church leadership requires not only managing today's responsibilities but also preparing faithfully for tomorrow's opportunities.

As we enter 2027, our priorities include strengthening lay leadership, supporting pastoral ministry, expanding community engagement, and ensuring that our financial and physical resources serve our spiritual mission. We have also budgeted for youth programing and look forward to implementing a program to educate our youth on

I extend my sincere appreciation to our pastor, fellow council members, ministry leaders, volunteers, and congregation for their commitment and willingness to serve. Our progress reflects a collective effort grounded in faith, cooperation, and mutual respect.

May we continue to lead with humility, serve with compassion, and make decisions guided by God's wisdom and purpose.

Many Blessings,

Erik Strunk,
Administrative Council President

Staff-Parish Relations Committee

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC), also known as the Pastor's Cabinet, worked throughout 2026 to strengthen communication, support pastoral leadership, and foster a welcoming and respectful environment for our congregation.

Following a leadership transition in April, the committee renewed its commitment to serving as a trusted connection between our pastor, congregation, and district leadership. Our responsibility has been to listen thoughtfully, address concerns constructively, and encourage relationships grounded in Christian understanding and mutual respect.

One significant initiative involved reviewing our longstanding closing worship tradition. Recognizing the importance of both cherished customs and the comfort of visitors, the committee recommended adjustments that preserved meaningful fellowship while allowing greater individual choice. The resulting changes have been positively received and have provided additional opportunities for pastoral connection following worship.

The committee also reviewed compensation for visiting clergy and substitute musicians. Following consultation with district leadership, updated compensation recommendations were presented and approved, recognizing the preparation, responsibilities, and service these individuals provide. More significantly, the SPRC recommended and approved an increase from a .25-time pastor position to a .5-time pastor position and revised the compensation package accordingly, effective January 1, 2027. The SPRC has also developed a performance evaluation instrument to aid and justify compensation this decision.

Additional responsibilities included a review of the housing allowance designation, supporting discussions regarding sanctuary accessibility, and contributing to leadership succession planning.

As we look toward 2027, our priorities remain supporting Pastor Baird, strengthening open communication, encouraging healthy congregational relationships, and ensuring that our church remains a welcoming place for all.

I am grateful for the trust placed in this committee and for the opportunity to serve alongside individuals dedicated to Christ's ministry.

Let our decisions always reflect grace, fairness, compassion, and a shared commitment to serving God faithfully.

Yours in Christ,

Mark Anderson,
Staff-Parish Relations Committee Chairperson

Deer Park UMC Nominations Report for 2027*

Church Council:

Licensed Local Pastor:	David Baird
Church Council Chair:	Erik Strunk
Staff Parish Relations:	Mark Anderson
Finance/Treasurer:	Mary Turney
Board of Trustees:	Rick Luiten
Recording Secretary:	TBD
Hospitality Committee:	Kiki Welfel
Associate Trustee:	Perry Stevens
Annual Conference Attendee:	Gene Peterson

Required Church Administrative Committees:

Board of Trustees:	Rick Luiten
Staff Parish Relations:	Mark Anderson
Nominations & Leadership	David Baird
Finance Committee	Mary Turney

Additional Church Committees, Teams, and Work Areas (As fits the church's needs):

Website & Communications:	Marcheta Strunk
Financial Secretary:	Marcheta Strunk
Hospitality Committee:	Kiki Welfel
Parsonage Property Mngmt:	Windermere

Lay Servant Certification

Certified Lay Servant	Erik Strunk
Certified Lay Speaker	Mary Turney

*Unanimously approved at the 10.25.26 Administrative Meeting

Board of Trustees Report

Your Board of Trustees is focused on maintaining, improving, and protecting the physical resources entrusted to Deer Park United Methodist Church. Our efforts reflected a commitment to responsible stewardship, congregational safety, accessibility, and preserving our facilities for future generations.

One of our most significant accomplishments was the exterior painting and maintenance of the sanctuary and parsonage. These improvements addressed deterioration, protected our buildings, and enhanced the appearance of our church property. We also completed the construction and installation of a new steeple, made possible through the extraordinary generosity of anonymous donors.

Improving accessibility and safety remained important priorities. The replacement of traditional sanctuary pews with chairs provided greater flexibility and improved accommodations for individuals with mobility challenges. Parking lot restriping, fire safety inspections, replacement of outdated extinguishers, and improvements to exterior security lighting further strengthened our facilities.

Our attention also turned toward long-term sustainability. Through collaborative efforts, the church secured a $75,000 grant toward replacing its aging heating system, representing a significant investment in energy efficiency and future operating stability.

Throughout the year, we evaluated landscaping needs, irrigation concerns, building repairs, and additional accessibility improvements. These efforts helped establish priorities for future maintenance and capital investments.

Looking toward 2027, our responsibilities include addressing remaining accessibility concerns, completing necessary repairs, and developing a more proactive approach to facility maintenance.

I sincerely appreciate the volunteers, contractors, donors, and church leadership whose contributions made these accomplishments possible.

May we continue to care faithfully for God's house, ensuring it remains a safe, welcoming, and enduring place of worship and community service.

Sincerely,

Rick Luiten, Head Trustee

Finance Committee Report

Over the past year, the Finance Committee remained committed to responsible stewardship, financial accountability, and ensuring that Deer Park United Methodist Church has the resources necessary to fulfill its mission.

Our congregation continued to demonstrate remarkable generosity and faithful giving. Despite our relatively small membership, the church maintained a healthy financial position while supporting ongoing ministries, community outreach, and significant property improvements. We project approximately $98,352 in general church revenue, which is a 16.8% increase over 2025. At the same time, our church operating expenses increased by almost the same amount in 2025 – from $68,878 to $73,340.07, which should leave us with a carry-over of funds into the new 2027 budget year.

An important focus this year was strengthening financial oversight and transparency. We implemented quarterly financial reporting, improved budget-to-actual comparisons, and established additional safeguards for handling contributions. These measures included greater separation of financial responsibilities, improved documentation, and clearer procedures for managing designated donations.

We also strengthened oversight of our Financial Assistance Ministry, ensuring that contributions intended to help individuals and families experiencing hardship are managed responsibly and distributed according to established guidelines.

The generosity of our congregation and anonymous benefactors made several significant improvements possible, including the completion of our new steeple (we received $34,250 in anonymous donations for this project). We also benefited from securing a $75,000 grant toward replacing our aging heating system, helping reduce future financial burdens. We have also been able to set aside $12,647.37 in longer term mutual fund.

As we prepare for 2027, our priorities include maintaining financial stability, improving long-term budget planning, supporting pastoral ministry, and ensuring that available resources align with our congregation's spiritual and community service objectives.

May we always remember that faithful stewardship is not just simply about managing money but about using God's blessings wisely to serve others and advance His kingdom.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Turney,
Finance Committee Chairperson

Deer Park United Methodist Church			
Draft 2027 Operating Budget			
* - Reviewed and Approved on 10.25.26		Annualized	Approved
Item	2025	2026	2027
Unrestricted Income			
Loose Plate Offering	$8,598.31	$8,056.00	$8,000.00
Online/Subsplash Giving	$420.00	$2,501.99	$2,500.00
Parsonage Rent	$10,715.00	$19,306.97	$19,306.97
Tithes/Offering	$61,946.66	$66,587.07	$65,000.00
TOPS Donation	$100.00	$100.00	$100.00
WIC	$2,400.00	$1,800.00	$2,400.00
Total Unrestricted Income	$84,179.97	$98,352.03	$97,306.97
Restricted Income			
Betty Thomas Memorial	$0.00	$100.00	$100.00
Education Offering	NA	$700.00	$1,000.00
Gifts and Special Offerings	NA	$1,014.67	$1,200.00
Helping Haitians	NA	$353.33	$400.00
Miscellaneous Income	NA	NA	$750.00
Noisy Offering (Benevelence Fund)	NA	$2,500.00	$2,000.00
Offerings for Building Expenses	NA	$6,666.67	$5,000.00
Steeple Project	NA	$34,250.00	$0.00
Upper Room	$2.00	$21.33	$50.00
Total Restricted Income	NA	$43,906.00	$10,500.00
General Expenses			
Accounting Fees	$560.00	$2,030.00	$2,100.00
Administration/Office	$1,815.00	$2,546.91	$2,500.00
Annual Conference	$300.00	$0.00	$750.00
Apportionments & Liability Insurance	$14,454.24	$10,366.00	$12,500.00
Bank Service Charges	$17.07	$0.00	$0.00
Benevelence Fund	$13.00	$1,221.76	$1,500.00
Building Repairs & Maintenance	$1,149.00	$15,655.41	$2,500.00
Custodial Services	$3,040.00	$3,040.00	$3,250.00
Education/Professional Development	$120.00	$0.00	$1,200.00
Evangelism/Worship/Pulpit Supplies	$2,442.04	$2,259.41	$2,400.00
Lawn Care/Snowplowing	$1,362.00	$2,153.36	$2,500.00
L&I Insurance (for Pastor only)	$172.92	$232.88	$250.00
Licenses	$26.67	$26.67	$50.00
Marketing	NA	NA	$5,000.00
Pastor Salary/Housing Allowance/Payroll Expense	$24,084.35	$25,720.03	$31,659.00
Property Tax	$2,142.00	$1,804.68	$2,000.00
Youth Programmming	NA	NA	$7,500.00
Utilities			
Sanitation	$704.29	$757.24	$775.00
Internet/Phone	$2,780.29	$1,864.55	$2,350.00
Power	$4,593.16	$2,772.75	$3,750.00
Water/Sewer	$3,102.74	$888.42	$2,000.00
Total for Expenses	$62,878.77	$73,340.07	$86,534.00

Hospitality Committee Report

Throughout 2026, the Hospitality Committee worked to strengthen fellowship, welcome visitors, and create meaningful connections within our congregation and the surrounding community.

Our activities reflected the belief that Christian hospitality extends beyond Sunday worship. Through shared meals, seasonal celebrations, and community gatherings, we sought to create an atmosphere where everyone feels welcomed, valued, and included.

Highlights included our Easter celebration, Mother's Day breakfast, Father's Day luncheon, July patriotic barbecue, annual church picnic, and September Hoedown Potluck. These gatherings encouraged fellowship and strengthened relationships among members and guests. In addition, we continue to send out birthday and anniversary cards, as well as sympathy or get-well cards as occasions arise. More importantly, we also send “reach-out” cards and call and/or visit with members who are physically unable to attend services due to age or infirmity.

One particularly meaningful expression of Christian hospitality occurred in August, when our church opened its doors to individuals and families displaced by regional wildfires. Providing temporary shelter and a welcoming environment during a time of uncertainty demonstrated that hospitality is not simply about fellowship, but also about compassion, generosity, and responding to neighbors in need.

Looking toward 2027, we hope to strengthen our welcome to new families, expand community connections, and continue demonstrating Christ's love through practical acts of kindness.

I sincerely appreciate everyone who contributed their time, talents, and generosity. Please always know that our hospitality will always reflect Christ's invitation to love and serve our neighbors.

Respectfully submitted,

Kiki Welfel
Hospitality Committee Chairperson

Marketing Committee Report

This year, the Church made significant progress in strengthening communications, increasing community visibility, and sharing our message of Christian faith, fellowship, and service.

One important accomplishment was adding the weekly sermon videos to our church website, allowing members, visitors, and those unable to attend worship to remain connected with Pastor Baird's messages and our congregation.

We also established a new Facebook site to provide timely information about worship services, special events, videos of the sermons, ministry opportunities, and community activities. This improved digital presence helps us reach individuals and families who may be unfamiliar with our church.

Another significant achievement was developing a new marketing plan following our September leadership retreat. The plan emphasizes consistent messaging, improved public awareness, stronger relationships with community organizations, and more effective promotion of church activities.

Looking toward 2027, our priorities include expanding digital outreach, strengthening community partnerships, and creating additional opportunities to introduce our congregation to the greater Deer Park community and surrounding areas.

Our mission remains to make the Deer Park UMC more visible, accessible, and welcoming while sharing Christ's love with our neighbors.

Sincerely,

Marcheta Strunk
Marketing and Public Information