

First Methodist Church Morehead City
Church Council Minutes
April 22, 2026

The Church Council of the First Methodist Church met on April 22, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. Members in attendance were: Fletcher Poulk, John Civils, Joe Kirk, Linwood Brown, Jennifer Hill, Larry Hughes, Travis Day, Dykeman Baily, Mary Day, Alan Leary, Sabrina Juarez, Pastor Patrick, Pastor Sarah, and Laura Sullivan.

Pastor Patrick opened the meeting in prayer and Fletcher Poulk presented a devotion. The Council reviewed the minutes. Dykeman Baily proposed a correction and Laura Sullivan said she would make the correction and forward to Stefany Boyd. Larry Hughes made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections. Dykeman Baily seconded the motion and the motion passed. The Council recited the Mission Statement of Global Methodist Church and First Methodist Church.

Finance Report: Linwood Brown

Linwood Brown reviewed the Statement of Assets and Statement of Activity with the Council. He reported our expenses were down and our finances look very good from a financial perspective. He reviewed the remainder of the reports and there was some discussion. Linwood presented the Building and Endowment and Reserve Fund Policy. This policy establishes the framework by which First Methodist Church manages its financial reserves and investable assets. He explained that the Church's financial reserves shall be organized into three distinct tiers, each with a defined purpose, target balance, permissible instruments, and governance structure. The Council discussed the policy. The Council voted to accept the proposal from Finance for the Building and Endowment and Reserve Fund Policy.

Trustees: Dykeman Baily

Dykeman Baily updated the Council on the HVAC repairs. All of the HVAC units have been installed, electrical connections are completed, ductwork completed, insulation in the attic is almost complete, and in the process of finishing controls, wiring, and thermostats. A factory startup is scheduled for April 27 to make sure it is functioning properly. The chandelier lifts have also been installed.

Dykeman advised concerned members had come to the Trustees wanting to know how money is spent at the church and what things are being done. Dykeman went back six months and composed a list of the projects, repairs, and updates that have happened at our church. These

will be posted on the church website and the app. He intends to publish this information quarterly.

There have been several possible renters for the Arendell Street property and the Trustees refused a couple of those.

The engineer has acquired more information about the parking lots and finalizing a plan. Dykeman hopes to have a finalized plan for the May meeting with several bids.

Dykeman reported the Security committee continues to meet and develop plans for our church campus. There is a shortage of police officers to help on Sunday morning but the committee will be reaching out to the Sheriff's Office for assistance.

The cross will be replaced on the elevator shaft exterior wall.

Dykeman advised exterior double doors will change from the handicap door being the primary door to open to the left side becoming the primary door. This will take effect soon. The handicap door stays open longer and lets in warm or cool air for a longer time.

The Sunday School room wall has been removed and the work is complete. There is a little touch up painting that needs to be finished.

Once the HVAC work is complete, the attic stairs will be replaced. They are currently wooden stairs and they will be replaced with metal.

Dykeman advised he has an upcoming meeting with Insurance loss control. He will show them around the church and they will make any possible recommendations. There have been no problems in the past.

Staff Parish: Travis Day

Travis Day advised Staff Parish does not have a chair to replace Matt Ritchie.

He reported a Church Clergy contract has been signed with the new pastor, Earl Bradshaw.

Staff Parish is still looking for a Youth Minister. Pastor Sarah advised the advertisement for this position is still posted.

John Civils asked about the process regarding appointment of a chair for Staff Parish. Pastor Sarah explained the process.

Ministry Teams:

Jennifer Hill reported the Missions Committee had met April 20, 2026. Operation Christmas Child coordinators are looking for a way to introduce crafts into the boxes. The goal for 2026 is 600 boxes. Jennifer said she has a full calendar of Habitat for Humanity volunteers. She

reported Extended Table will provide lunch on May 7 for the West Carteret High School teachers. We will also be feeding the announcers at a large swim meet. Jennifer said Project MHC has 7 different job sites this year and many ways to get involved. There will be a Costa Rica mission trip meeting on May 11; there are 17 people signed up to go. The Backpack Blessings we are feeding are Morehead Elementary, Morehead Primary, and Tiller School. She reported Family Promise was doing well and has found a climate-controlled storage for furniture that is donated. The Missions Committee's next meeting is August 10. Jennifer is working with Kim McCoury to make the congregation more aware of the mission opportunities.

Larry Hughes reported the next Worship Committee meeting will be May 14. He advised on April 28 the new hymnals will be placed in the Sanctuary. He said the Lenten and Easter services were very successful; there were approximately 1300 attendees for the services. He said the feedback for the Maundy Thursday and Tenebrae services were very well attended.

Pastor Sarah reported for Shanna du Mont. The first Family movie night will be on May 1. Shanna has established Saturdays in the Park for Preschool families and this is the first Saturday of every month at Shevans Park. Pastor Sarah said Shanna still needs volunteers for VBS.

Per Pastor Sarah, she advised discipleship for Youth is wrapping up for the year. There has been a good group of High School kids this year. There will be some pop-up events during the summer because many of the kids have summer jobs. Weekly programs will resume in the Fall. There are still many volunteer opportunities for Project MHC. Fletcher Poulk commented the new Men's Bible Study has been good.

Other Business:

Fletcher Poulk advised the Council, with our discipleship growing in bringing new people to Church and Christ, we should help to grow one of our own, Phil Routszong. Phil is taking classes to become ordained and there is a cost involved. Fletcher feels our church should help with this. Pastor Sarah explained the process and the benefits for our church. Dykeman Baily made a motion to approve the funds to help Phil with these classes. Linwood Brown seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Fletcher also brought another concern to the Council about helping Waylon Bell. The Council discussed the matter and decided to pursue ways to help Waylon during his difficult time. Fletcher will meet with Waylon and report back to the Council.

Words from Lay Leaders:

John Civils thanked everyone for putting together the blended services during the HVAC repairs.

Alan Leary commented the blended services are working well. The numbers look good, 15%-20% are under the age of 15. There have been greeters helping with these services.

Staff Updates:

Pastor Patrick advised all was going well. There are people moving between facilities and he is keeping up with that. Bible Study groups are going well in addition to a Women's Grief group. He is organizing Homebound members packets.

Sabrina Juarez advised if committee members do not have a fob to get into the buildings, please let her know.

Pastor Sarah brought a couple of concerns to the Council. She asked for prayers that the Spirit would touch younger persons for the ministry. Another concern is for a young member, Amelia Waine. Amelia has been diagnosed with bone cancer and goes back and forth to Greenville every other week. Pastor Sarah is working with the family to see how we might help them. She reported that ELC has 56 kids with 124 on the waiting list. What a blessing this daycare is for our community. The ELC has been able to steadily increase tuition and pay for the teachers. It is a smaller daycare but very popular for that reason.

The Council prayed the Lord's Prayer to close the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Sullivan