

**First Methodist Church Morehead City**  
**Church Council Minutes**  
**May 27, 2026**

The Church Council of the First Methodist Church met on May 27, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. Members in attendance were: Fletcher Poulk, John Civils, Joe Kirk, Linwood Brown, Jennifer Hill, Larry Hughes, Dykeman Baily, Loretta Baily, Mary Day, Alan Leary, Kim McCoury, Mitch Gay, Claudia Beamon, Randy Hardee, Abby Townsend, Pastor Patrick, Pastor Sarah, and Laura Sullivan.

Pastor Sarah opened the meeting in prayer and Jennifer Hill presented a devotion. The April Minutes had been previously approved by email. The Council recited the Mission Statement of Global Methodist Church and First Methodist Church.

**Finance Report: Mitch Gay**

Mitch Gay reviewed the Finance Report with the Council. He reported the church's cash balance was healthy and we had a healthy growth in April compared to April 2025. He continued to review the Statement of Activity and Restricted Funds.

**Trustees: Dykeman Baily**

Dykeman Baily reported the HVAC upgrade in the Sanctuary was completed. The inspection was May 27, 2026, and it had passed. The final bill for the upgrade was \$124,854 and was under the quote we had been given.

The Emergency Preparedness Team continues to meet, Dykeman reported. They will be having CPR classes for ushers and others in the future.

Dykeman advised there are no prospects currently to rent the former attorney's office on Arendell Street.

The Trustees are waiting to receive the door switch for the Atrium and hoping it will take place in June.

He reported our church had received a request from the Morehead Marlins about using our Food Truck because their concession area is having work done.

The Loss Prevention Representative visited our campus recently and walked the entire campus. The representative suggested a few improvements but overall impressed with how well we are taking care of our buildings. It was recommended to add fire alarms and smoke detectors in the Sanctuary.

A Sound Evaluation was done in the Sanctuary and we may be adding speakers in the Choir Loft so they are able to hear other speakers in the congregation.

The floor system coating in the Fellowship Hall has a few spots that need to be recoated.

There is a leak in the steeple and the roof company will be coming soon to check this out. It was discovered during the HVAC upgrade.

### **Ministry Teams:**

Jennifer Hil said a few weeks out for Project MHC, June 21-24. The Costa Rica trip is scheduled for July 18-25. Personal Care items have been collected in April and May. The Extended Table Ministry has had a busy spring: teachers at West Carteret High School were fed on Teacher Appreciation Week; sub sandwiches were provided at a swim meet on May 15; West Carteret High School Soccer team banquet on May 20; and Morehead City Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> grade lunch at Freedom Park on May 29. Jennifer reported her parents church in the mountains have been able to move to a new location with help from our church's donation.

Larry Hughes reported the Worship Committee met on May 14, 2026. The Worship Committee is proposing to the Church Council to present a special gift to Felicia Sink for her work with the Merry-Time Community Orchestra. They are proposing the \$3000 gift would come from the Rachel Mundine Fund on June 1 and December 1 as a thanks for Felicia's ongoing weekly offering of her time and efforts both in our church and the community. The Worship Committee believes Rachel Mundine's legacy will be honored in the continued growth of the Arts in Carteret County through her First Methodist Family. The Council discussed this proposal. There was a voice vote and it passed, none opposed. Larry commented he wants to make sure everyone knows how the Old Rugged Cross is used on Holy Week. Fletcher questioned if there were any comments on the new hymnals and there was some discussion. Pastor Sarah informed the Council the Sermon Series for June will be "Sing your heart out".

Abbey Townsend reported the Children's Committee had met recently. There was a very good turnout for the first Family Movie Night earlier in May. Vacation Bible School is June 15-19 and Shanna still needs volunteers. May 31<sup>st</sup> is Senior Sunday and the Children's Choir will be singing on May 31<sup>st</sup> in the 9:45 RISE. The Children's Committee has made plans for several events through the summer.

Fletcher questioned about Vespers by the Water for this summer. Pastor Sarah explained the church calendar for June was full but will wait for Pastor Earl to arrive and discuss with him.

Claudia Beamon reported the Waverunners had their last trip for the year. It has been a fun year and they will pick back up in September. They had a good meeting in May and have events planned for the upcoming year.

### **Words from our Lay Leaders:**

John Civils commented the sermons from those filling in have been great.

Alan Leary agreed with John Civils' comments on the great sermons. He reported attendance at the RISE 8:30 was almost 100.

Loretta Baily said the attendance at the 11:00 service is well attended with continued new members and new visitors.

#### **Staff Updates:**

Kim McCoury reported she will be getting Pastor Earl all set up with technology when he arrives. She said the equipment in the RISE should be working now, we have had a couple of Sundays where the equipment was not cooperative.

Pastor Patrick reported all the groups he is working with are going well; Grief support, Bible studies, etc.

Fletcher welcomed Jake Knight, our intern for the summer. Jake is following Pastor Sarah around and introducing Jake to many of the happenings at our church. Jake has written the devotions for Project MHC. Fletcher updated the Council on Waylon Bell. He advised to prayerfully consider how we might help Waylon. The Council discussed options to help Waylon and to determine the amount and how long. Dykeman Baily made a motion to support Waylon with his living expenses for up to 3 months and not to exceed \$6000 total, contingent upon receiving proper documentation. Jennifer Hill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Pastor Sarah reported the Youth Ministry had wrapped up for the year. Senior Sunday is May 31<sup>st</sup> and there will be 9 Senior Graduates. Scholarships will also be given out on May 31<sup>st</sup>. Those who applied will receive \$1200. Pastor Sarah reported there are 58 kids registered for Project MHC and two more homes are needed for kids to go and shower. On June 7 there will be a Missional Partnerships presentation from 4:00-5:00; Rev. Greg Jenks will be presenting. For VBS week, there will be VBS Sunday like we had last year. She said we are getting ready for Pastor Earl and how we can make sure he is welcomed when he arrives.

#### **Other Business:**

Fletcher asked the staff and pastors to please leave. The Council discussed how we might show the staff and pastors our appreciation for all they have done since Pastor Powell had retired. Mitch Gay made a motion to designate an amount of money to Staff Parish Relations Committee to do something for Staff and Pastors. Larry Hughes seconded the motion and the motion passed.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Sullivan