



HILLSIDE CHURCH

Leadership Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 3, 2025

7:00-8:30 p.m.

Voting Members Present:

Amy Holt - Modern Worship
Blake Franklin - Production
Brett Helenga - Guest Services
Chris Philhower - Men's Ministry
Denise Roberts - Women's Ministry
Emily Pheifer - Youth Ministry
Greg Walker - Board of Trustees
Greg Faber - Staff Parish Relations/School
John Gerick - Youth Ministry
Julie Goodwin - Children's Ministry
Kim Hellenga - Missions
Melissa Bethune - Lay Lead
Nelson Farr - Finance
Sam Lewis - Traditional Worship
Tavia Lonsway - Communications
Zeke Hooper - Lay Lead

Absent:

Cindy Evans - Congregational Care
Stephanie Franklin - Spiritual Growth

Staff Present:

Andy Triplitt
David Watanabe
Pastor Herzen Andone
Jenny Hurt
Kerri Muffett
Lauren Cox
Pastor Michael Cromwell
Sarah Schuenemeyer
Steve Brooks
Tina Kirkland
Travis Jones

Absent:

Mary Elizabeth Kisula

- I. Welcome and devotion (5 minutes)

- II. Hillside Business Update (20 minutes)
 - a. Financial & Journey Forward Update - Andy Triplitt & Nelson Farr
 - i. September Financials and YTD financial information distributed (attached)
 - ii. Upwards of 50 more giving units YTD than last year
 - iii. Cash reserves still at \$230K
 - iv. Journey Forward balance - \$603.11
 - 1. Raised right at \$340K
 - a. \$100K went back into cash
 - b. \$80K went towards HVAC
 - c. Additional costs for signs, security systems, etc.
 - d. All funding was used to help propel us forward
 - e. Will be sunsetting the Journey Forward campaign
 - b. Board of Trustees Update - Greg Walker
 - i. 2025 was a difficult year for facilities in terms of big issues that came up during the course of the year, but we were able to really come through without a lot of financial strain on the church and have a comfortable, well running church
 - ii. Facility issues looking at in 2026
 - 1. Paint - \$200K estimate
 - 2. Additional HVAC renovations
 - 3. Parking lot update - $\frac{3}{4}$ repaved - \$400-\$500K estimate
 - 4. Permanent stage extension in the sanctuary (will happen, low cost)
 - 5. Dreams - continued building updates, increased functionality, floor plan changes, etc.
 - a. Removing the wall between fellowship hall and kitchen, to have an actual gathering and welcome space near the sanctuary
 - c. Staff Parish Relations - Greg Faber
 - i. Has been in a great place for the past few months, even years - some churches have been destroyed by what we've been through and we've been able to grow
 - ii. Not any foreseeable change that will require a lot of change
 - iii. Asked class that was supposed to roll off next year to stay on for one more year
 - iv. SPR Chair - bring on a co-chair and spend the next year of a gentle turnover of responsibilities

- III. Membership Update - Kerri Muffett (5 minutes)
 - a. Last year we did a membership cleanse (589 inactive people)
 - i. Emailed and sent letters again this year that we did not hear from (292)
 - ii. Current membership: 1414 - 37 new members and removed 12 by a normal process, 22 part of the membership cleanse

- IV. Community Resource update - Sarah Schuenemeyer (5 minutes)
 - a. SNAP stopped in November, unsure of what will really happen

- b. Call on Friday with lots of leaders in Cherokee County to collaborate on how to care for the community
 - i. Increase in Forever Fed numbers - averages 150/160 families, increased last week to 190 and planning for upwards of 300 families this week
 - ii. Supply at Forever Fed is good - ask people to donate financially to Forever Fed
 - iii. Wait and see what the turnout is this Wednesday to get a gauge on what the next month might look like
 - iv. First communication as a church will be to tell people to Forever Fed

- V. Charge Conference Approvals (20 minutes)
 - a. Clergy Compensation/Housing Resolution - 5% salary increase for Pastors, housing allowance same as last year
 - i. Greg Faber - Motion
 - ii. Amy Holt - Second
 - iii. All in favor
 - b. Church Leaders/Nominations
 - i. Nelson Farr - Motion
 - ii. Sam Lewis - Second
 - iii. All in favor
 - c. Certified Lay Minister
 - i. Explanation of a Certified Lay Leader - nomination and first level of examination happens at the local church - same process for a Certified Lay Leader who can be called on to preach locally at various churches and home church
 - ii. Denise Roberts has already been through training so she can be on a list so that the Charge Conference can approve her and an elder can appoint her to cover a pulpit at a given church in the North Georgia Conference. Can preach in other churches and at Hillside
 - iii. Rachel Blend - Motion
 - iv. Greg Faber - Second
 - v. All in favor
 - d. Connectional Funding
 - i. North Georgia Conference - were paying 1% of operating revenue, 1.5% in operating revenue \$17,700 to \$28,100 for connectional funding to North Georgia Conference, 1% still remaining to Global Methodist Church
 - 1. Whatever we've paid in connectional funding we've tried to match in our funding to missions board
 - ii. Zeke - had an opportunity see how the GMC is operating and how its being built over the past year, is very thankful for the denomination and the solid foundation that it is being created

- VI. 2025 Impact Report & Renewal Sunday (10 minutes)
 - a. Reviewed report
 - b. Discussed 7% towards missions accompanied by the facilities that have been provided pro-bono

- c. People who are ready to serve can respond immediately
 - d. January 4th "due date" for the renewal
 - e. Michael - ready to serve part of it
 - f. Herzen - financial piece
- VII. Created Love Called reflection (15 minutes)
- a. Review 2025 goals - what do you see your focus being for 2026?
- VIII. Small Group Prayer (15 minutes)
- IX. Close